

MINUTES

WATER MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

APRIL 29, 2015

The Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group met at the Kentucky Farm Bureau State Office in Louisville, Kentucky on Wednesday, April 29, 2015.

Working Group members present were: Steve Coleman, Chair; Warren Beeler; Tyler Campbell; Todd Clark; Dr. Nancy Cox; Sharon Furches; Pete Goodmann; Pat Henderson; Gary Larimore; and David Rowlett. Working Group members absent were: Terry Gilbert; Kenny Imel; Kevin Jeffries; Larry Thomas; and Roger Thomas. Ex-officio members present were: Michael Griffin, State Director, U.S. Geological Survey. Ex-officio members absent were: Tom Fern, State Director, USDA Rural Development; John McCauley, State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency; Kim Richardson, Director, Kentucky Division of Conservation; and Karen Woodrich, State Conservationist, NRCS. Others in attendance were: Biff Baker, representing Roger Thomas; Johnna McHugh, representing Kimberly Richardson; Dawn Riley; Charles Taylor; Bill Caldwell; Matt Dixon; Stuart Foster; Chip Zimmer; Rezaul Mahmood; Jacob Kuhn; Steve Kull; Mark Haney, President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Eddie Melton, First Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; David Beck, Executive Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Ed McQueen, Market Information; Carilynn Coombs, Social Media Specialist; Katie Spradlin, Administrative Assistant. The meeting was staffed by Joe Cain.

This meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., EST by Chairman Steve Coleman, who welcomed and reviewed the purpose of the meeting. Introductions were made.

Chairman Coleman asked the Working Group to consider the minutes of the March 25, 2015 meeting. It was requested that the remarks about Mr. Charles J. Taylor be corrected to reflect the KGS Well Sample and Core Library not the Kentucky Data Repository. A motion was made by Mr. Warren Beeler, and seconded by Mr. Todd Clark second that:

“We approve the minutes of the March 25, 2015 meeting.”

Motion carried.

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Mr. Mark Haney, President, Kentucky Farm Bureau, thanked the group for their knowledge and dedication to the working group. Mr. David Beck, Executive Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau, spoke to the Working Group about how he recently heard a summary report on the work the group has accomplished and commended the group for their efforts.

Chairman Coleman reminded the Working Group that a depository of meeting information (presentations, useful links, supporting literature and minutes) is located on the Kentucky Farm Bureau's Newsroom website at www.kyfb.com/water.

Matt Dixon, Meteorologist, UK Ag Weather Center, provided a presentation to the committee on the information and data that the UK Ag Weather Center produces and reports. The UK Ag Weather Center summarizes weekly and monthly weather information for the USDA Kentucky Crop Progress and Condition Report and it also issues livestock stress warnings and drought reviews. The UK Ag Weather Center website calculates the new Point Ag Forecast, which allows you to zero in on location and get a more accurate forecast and numerical rainfall. Mr. Dixon spoke of the Evapotranspiration Calculation on the website which estimates how much moisture or water your farm is losing on a daily basis. The program was developed to aid the farmer in the aspect of farm management and maximizing production, while at the same time, saving money. Full presentation can be found on the Water Management website.

Stuart Foster, Director, State Climatologist, Kentucky Climate Center, and Rezaul Mahmood, Associate Director, Kentucky Climate Center, presented to the committee on the overview assets of the Kentucky Climate Center. The Kentucky Climate Center conducts research and distributes information of climatic variability and change, influences of the natural environment upon human activity, and impacts of human activity upon the natural environment. In 2002, the Kentucky Climate Center was recognized as the State Climate Office for Kentucky by the American Association of State Climatologists as part of the National Climate Services Partnership, while it is recognized as the state's it does not receive any state funding. Mr. Foster and Mr. Mahmood stated that Kentucky has only 65 mesonet stations and needs more to have one in every county and on the variety of terrains. They also recommended adding soil monitoring sensors to the mesonet stations, which were built to easily add sensors onto without additional costs. Only 5 mesonet stations are equipped with soil sensors at 5 depths. Full presentation can be found on the Water Management website.

The Ag Drought Mitigation Subcommittee chairman Warren Beeler reported to the Working Group on the brief initial meeting of the subcommittee. The subcommittee has chosen its members and is making a plan of action to achieve

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their objects. The subcommittee will meet again following the conclusion of the Water Management Working Group meeting for a more in-depth discussion.

Chairman Coleman opened the floor for additional comments or suggestion the Work Group or public might have, there was none.

Chairman Coleman created the Information Subcommittee which will be chaired by Pat Henderson. The Information Subcommittee will identify information that producers use and need. As well as how organizations can distribute their knowledge and create a user friendly site. More information about this subcommittee will be provided at the next Water Management Working Group meeting.

Chairman Coleman asked the NRCS and UKCES to organize a subcommittee that would deal with evaluating practices that could be recommended for water management, efficiency in irrigation systems, identify technical and financial assistance available to provide water resource development, etc. More information about this subcommittee will be provided at the next Water Management Working Group meeting.

Chairman Coleman suggested that the Water Management Working Group try to get on the July agenda at the legislative meeting in Frankfort to explain the focus and goals of the Working Group. He then suggested following up at the October legislative meeting with recommendations from the Working Group on how we can improve the water issues in the state.

Mr. Joe Cain, Director, Commodity Division, Kentucky Farm Bureau, met with the University of Kentucky College of Law's Kentucky Journal of Equine, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Law in April to present on the Water Management Working Group goals and objectives. Mr. Cain asked the Journal to help the Working Group by providing the laws and rights concerning water in Kentucky.

Chairman Coleman requested that as the Working Group goes forward that committee members keep a running log of the recommendations and factional support of why and how the recommendation could make a difference to the state of Kentucky.

Chairman Coleman announced the next Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group meeting will be held Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at the Hardin County Farm Bureau office in Elizabethtown and a farm tour will follow the meeting. The May 20, 2015 meeting has been cancelled. Dates for upcoming Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group meetings were also set

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for Wednesday, July 29, 2015 at a tentative off-site location; will be discussed further at the June meeting.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned. The Ag Drought Mitigation met following the conclusion of the Water Management Working Group meeting.

**Recorded by: Katie Spradlin
Administrative Assistant**

**Approved by: L. Joe Cain, Director
Commodity Division**