

MINUTES

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT WORK GROUP

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

JANUARY 28, 2015

The Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Resources Management Work Group met at the Kentucky Farm Bureau State Office in Louisville, Kentucky on Wednesday, January 28, 2015.

Work Group members present were: Steve Coleman, Chair; Warren Beeler; Tyler Campbell; Todd Clark; Dr. Nancy Cox; Sharon Furches; Terry Gilbert; Pete Goodmann; Pat Henderson; Kenneth Imel; Kevin Jeffries; Gary Larimore; David Rowlett and Larry Thomas. Working Group members absent were: Roger Thomas. Ex-officio members present were: Michael Griffin, State Director, U.S. Geological Survey; Kim Richardson, Director, Kentucky Division of Conservation; and Karen Woodrich, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service. Ex-officio members absent were: Tom Fern, State Director, USDA Rural Development; and John McCauley, State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency. Others in attendance were: Biff Baker, representing Roger Thomas; Pete Cinotto; Gary Crenshaw; Mark Ferguson; Jacob Kuhn; Coleman Gusler; Bill Caldwell; Dawn Riley; David Chinn; Mark Haney, President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Eddie Melton, First Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Fritz Giesecke, Second Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; David Beck, Executive Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Carilynn Coombs, Social Media Specialist; Roger Nesbitt, Editor, KFB News; Bob Shrader, Video Production Coordinator; Fran McCall, Commodity Specialist; and 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 committee to consider the minutes of the December 10, 2014 meeting. It was requested that the time zone be corrected. Minutes were approved by the Chairman.

Mr. Mark Haney, President, Kentucky Farm Bureau, spoke to the Work Group about how he is convinced that the group is working on the right project to better help Kentucky. Mr. Eddie Melton, First Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Mr. Fritz Giesecke, Second Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; and Mr. David Beck,

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Executive Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau, each welcomed and thanked the Work Group members for their willingness to participate.

Mr. Joe Cain, Director, Commodity Division, Kentucky Farm Bureau, gave a brief overview of Water Management Working Group binder protocol, which will be updated before each meeting with new handouts. He also 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.

Mr. Bill Caldwell, Watershed Management, Kentucky Division of Water, presented statistics showing that only a small percentage of Kentucky's cropland is irrigated, and that less than 10 percent of Kentucky's public water supply is utilized for agricultural purposes. He noted that although there is a drought mitigation plan for Kentucky that was developed in 2008, there is no specific plan for agriculture. To reach that objective, he recommended the expansion of data collection monitoring, an inventory of water resources, identification of drought vulnerabilities, the pursuit of opportunities to expand water supplies and a public education initiative. Mr. Caldwell and several group members lamented the fact that Kentucky is one of the few states that do not have a groundwater monitoring system to track declining water tables. Full presentation can be found on the Water Management website.

Officials from the Natural Resources and Conservation Service provided a three part presentation. Mr. Coleman Gusler, State Conservation Engineer, gave a report on developing ponds and wells in Kentucky. Mr. Jacob Kuhn, Assistant State Conservationist, provided an update on the PL-5 66 flood control structures in Kentucky. Mr. Mark Ferguson, State Resource Conservationist, explained the 3 phase, 9 step conservation planning process to help clients plan and apply conservation treatments. Full presentations can be found on the Water Management website. Ms. Karen Woodrich, State Conservationist, followed with a discussion on the Conservation Innovation Grants application process.

Working Group member, Ms. Sharon Furches, attended the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting in California where she attended a workshop on "Managing Water Availability for the Future." Ms. Furches gave a summary of the workshop where they discussed how desperate the water situation is in California and reported to the working group that they need to be proactive and not wait for the crisis to occur. Written report can be located on the Water Management website.

Chairman Coleman opened the floor for additional comments or suggestions the Work Group might have. Bill Caldwell, Watershed Management, KY Division of Water, provided the Work Group with a copy of Kentucky Agriculture Science and

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Monitoring Committee's (KASMC) 3 year plan, which describes the on-going activities and proprieties of the committee. The document is available on the Water Management website.

The Work Group discussed possible speakers for upcoming meetings including possibly inviting legislative members of Kentucky Farm Bureau, farmers who have faced challenges utilizing irrigation on their land, and well drillers to discuss the development of groundwater wells.

Chairman Coleman announced the next Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Resources Management Work Group meeting will be held Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at the Kentucky Farm Bureau State Office in Louisville, Kentucky, starting at 10:00 am eastern time. Dates for upcoming Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Resources Management Work Group meetings were also set for March 25, 2015 at the Kentucky Farm Bureau State Office and April 29, 2015 at a tentative off-site location.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned.

**Recorded by: Katie Spradlin
Administrative Assistant**

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