

MINUTES

WATER MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

February 17, 2016

The Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group met at the Kentucky Farm Bureau State Office in Louisville, Kentucky on Wednesday, February 17, 2016.

Working Group members present were: Steve Coleman, Chair; Warren Beeler; Pat Henderson; Kenny Imel; Kevin Jeffries; David Rowlett; and Larry Thomas. Working Group members absent were: Todd Clark; Nancy Cox; Sharon Furches; Terry Gilbert; Pete Goodman; and Gary Larimore. Ex-officio members absent were: Tom Fern, State Director, USDA Rural Development; Michael Griffin, State Director, U.S. Geological Survey; John W. 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, GOAP; Reed Cripps representing Karen Woodrich; Joanna McHugh representing Kim Richardson; Bill Caldwell, KDOW; Pete Cinotto, USGS; Dale Barnett, TN Poultry Association; Jamie Guffey, KY Poultry Federation; Herb Loyd, HL Tree Farm; Eddie Melton, First Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Fritz Giesecke, Second Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; David S. Beck, Executive Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Fran McCall, Commodity Specialist, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Katie Weatherholt, Kentucky Farm Bureau. This meeting was staffed by Joe Cain.

This meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., EDT by Chairman Steve Coleman, who welcomed and reviewed the purpose of the meeting. Introductions were made. Mr. David S. Beck, Executive Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, spoke to the Working Group on their dedication, research and how their work is gaining recognition on both the state and national levels. Mr. Eddie Melton, First Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau and Mr. Fritz Giesecke, Second Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau, each thanked the Working Group for their efforts. Mr. Melton commented on the policy recommendations that were submitted and passed and how those recommendations are now part of the Kentucky Farm Bureau policy book for 2016 and some of the recommendations even made it into the 2016 American Farm Bureau Federation policy book.

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Chairman Coleman asked the Working Group to consider the minutes of the January 28, 2016 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Larry Thomas, and seconded by Mr. Kenny Imel second that:

“We approve the minutes of the January 28, 2016 meeting.”

Motion passed.

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.

Mr. Herb Loyd, HL Tree Farm in Fleming County, presented on the preliminary plan for gravity driven field irrigation system based on collected run-off rain water with significant add on features. He advocated for using more gravity fed systems in Kentucky and indicated that this system has a wide value to certain areas/regions. Gravity feeding attributes include free, effortless, reliable, permanent, renewable power. The costs of a system installation and operational maintenance are up front. With this gravity driven system add ons can be uses to alternative uses such as a small scale hydroelectric, aquaculture ponds, to grow vegetable crops, hydroponics for seasonal crops, fire hydrants, and non-potable drought mitigation. Full presentation can be found on the Water Management website.

Mr. Jamie Guffey, Kentucky Poultry Federation, reported to the Working Group on the state of the poultry industry in Kentucky and their water use practices. Poultry is the number one commodity in Kentucky, with over 850 family farms in 43 counties and growing. Most Broiler houses will use 1100 -1200 gallons of water per day and water is used by the cool cells 4 to 5 months a year. Mr. Guffey commented on the Kentucky Energy Efficiency Project that is ongoing in the poultry industry. He noted their 5 year plan and where they needed assistance, including university research that focuses on Kentucky poultry farms’ water usage and storage. Full presentation can be found on the Water Management website.

Mr. Dale Barnett, Tennessee Poultry Association, reported on the poultry industry in Tennessee and how in Bedford County, where there are 225 poultry houses, there are underperforming wells and BCUD water storage issues of being at capacity. He noted that new poultry growers have to sign a letter of agreement to have their service cut off first in the event of a drought or shortage. Mr. Barnett discussed two ongoing rainwater harvesting projects in Alabama; one Auburn NPTC has a CIG project on a broiler farm near Snead and the other is a Cullman project funded by WQIP and NPTC. He stressed that water needs to be a resource concern

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before current sources are depleted. Full presentation can be found on the Water Management website.

Mr. Pat Henderson, Chair of the Information Subcommittee, reported on the Water Survey results. 176 surveys were completed, representing 80 counties, providing data concerning farmer demographics, sources of water utilized, types of production, weather data needed and weather data being utilized. Full presentation can be found on the Water Management website.

Mr. Jeff Harper, Director of Public Affairs, Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, via conference call updated the Working Group on legislative efforts being made in Frankfort during the 2016 Kentucky General Assembly. Mr. Harper commented that we are passed the halfway point of this session, Kentucky Farm Bureau has continued dialogues with the Energy and Environment Cabinet in an attempt to get a final bill draft that would establish a water resource management program. The House Appropriations and Revenue Committee continue to work on the state budget. He noted important days coming up: February 19 is the last day for bill requests, March 1 is the last day for new House bills and March 3 is the last day for new Senate bills to be introduced.

Mr. Pete Cinotto, USGS, provided a report on Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group recommendations for fiscal years 2016-2018. Based on input from the members he created a prioritized list of needs to adequately address the water management concerns of Kentucky agriculture. The underlying conceptual framework of this plan is to address the basic components of a standard water budget in our agriculture areas, create a data-driven picture of current conditions as they relate to agriculture, and enable Kentucky's agricultural community to make informed, defensible decisions regarding their water resources. Mr. Cinotto noted that where possible, and practicable, local partnerships will be developed to offset the individual costs presented herein; however, at this time of writing, these cost represent the actual outstanding liabilities required to bring the system to a reasonably sound state of operation. Full presentation can be found on the Water Management website.

Chairman Coleman asked subcommittee chairmen if they had any reports. The Information Subcommittee, chaired by Mr. Pat Henderson, reported that the next step is using the summary data to design an app with a dashboard main page which give a quick summary (basic information), but you are able to click on each subject and it will take you to a more in-depth report (advance information). The key to this app is to have all the information on one site instead of having to go to multiple webpages and some of the information that is out there people do not even knows exists. The Policy Subcommittee, chaired by Mr. Kevin Jeffries, reported that the next two weeks of the General Assembly are critical to getting support for the Water Management Working Groups recommendations and budget

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to complete needs to address the water management concerns in Kentucky. Mr. Jeffries recommended that people contact their legislators to encourage them support Kentucky Farm Bureau's efforts on water resource management. The Ag Drought Subcommittee, Mr. Bill Caldwell, reported the Kentucky Drought Mitigation Committee is meeting next month to discuss agriculture with representatives from the agriculture community and then develop a plan for Kentucky Ag Drought Mitigation.

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

Chairman Coleman announced the next Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group meeting will be held Tuesday, March 29, 2016 in the afternoon in Murray, Kentucky and will continue till Wednesday, March 30, 2016 in Princeton, Kentucky. More details for this trip, including rooming recommendations, will be sent out at a later date. Dates for upcoming Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group meeting were set tentatively for Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at the Kentucky Farm Bureau State Office in Louisville.

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

**Recorded by: Katie Weatherholt
Administrative Assistant**

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