

## MINUTES

### WATER MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

### KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

October 26, 2016

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The Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group met at the Kentucky Farm Bureau State Office in Louisville, Kentucky on Wednesday, October 26, 2016.

Working Group members present were: Steve Coleman, Chair; Terry Gilbert; Pat Henderson; Kenneth Imel; Kevin Jeffries; and David Rowlett. Working Group members absent were: Warren Beeler; Todd Clark; Nancy Cox; Rusty Cress; Sharon Furches; Pete Goodmann; Gary Larimore; and Larry Thomas. Ex-officio members present were: Kim Richardson, Director, Kentucky Division of Conservation; and Karen Woodrich, State Conservationist, NRCS. Ex-officio members absent were: Tom Fern, State Director, USDA Rural Development; Michael Griffin, State Director, U.S. Geological Survey; and John W. McCauley, State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency. Others in attendance were: Bill Caldwell, KDOW; Steve Higgins, UK; Janelle Gardner-Cox, KCARD; Biff Baker, GOAP; Brent Burchett, KDA; David Chinn, Monty's Plant Food Company; Tom Ruby, USGS; Robert Augustine, Senator Rand Paul Regional Field Representative; and Katie Weatherholt, KFB. This meeting was staffed by Ed McQueen.

This meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m., EDT 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 September 28, 2016 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Pat Henderson, and seconded by Mr. Kevin Jeffries second that:

**"We approve the minutes of the September 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](http://www.kyfb.com/water).

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Chairman Coleman led a discussion on finalizing the Water Management Working Group's recommendations. Working Group members reviewed and edited the recommendations and discussed what they hope these recommendations will accomplish for agriculture. It was requested for the document to be changed to a different format (bullet point to numbering) so it would be easier to discuss what line people are talking about in a group setting. Please see attached for an updated draft of the recommendations.

A motion was made by Mr. Kevin Jeffries, seconded by Mr. Pat Henderson, to recommend the following policy recommendations to the Kentucky Farm Bureau Resolutions Committee for consideration:

**Water Research**

Page 38, Line 18, EDIT:

"Classifications of the surface and ground waters of the Commonwealth should be based on documented water quality **AND QUANTITY** data."

Page 38, Line 26, EDIT:

"We support the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act **AND THE KENTUCKY WATER RESOURCES BOARD.**"

**Water Districts/Associations**

Page 39, Line 37, ADD:

**"COMMUNITIES SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO CORP'S LAKES AT A REASONABLE COST, EXCLUDING CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION COST AT TODAY'S DOLLAR VALUES, BUT INCLUDING REOCCURRING OPERATIONAL COST."**

**Water Resource Management**

Page 40, Line 34, EDIT:

"We support the ~~creation of a Kentucky Water Resource Management commission~~ **KENTUCKY WATER RESOURCES BOARD** to support a coordinated effort to manage water resource projects and programs."

Motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Kevin Jeffries, seconded by Mr. Pat Henderson, to add the following policies to the 2017 American Farm Bureau policy book:

**National Farm Policy**

Page 77, Line 7.1.40, ADD:

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We support:

**“ALLOWING NRCS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH EQIP FOR THE “BEST” ALTERNATIVE (VS. LEAST-COST) WATER SUPPLY FOR THE IDENTIFIED RESOURCE CONCERN AND FOR NEW IRRIGATION SYSTEMS, PROVIDING THAT PARAMETERS ARE DEVELOPED TO AVOID AQUIFER DRAWDOWN OR DEPLETION.”**

Motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Kevin Jeffries, seconded by Mr. Pat Henderson, to add the following recommendation to the 2017 Kentucky Farm Bureau policy book:

**Water Resources**

**“Support the ~~creation of a Kentucky water resource management program~~ KENTUCKY WATER RESOURCES BOARD that will create, support, and advocate a coordinated effort to manage water resource projects across the Commonwealth.”**

Motion passed.

Mr. Bill Caldwell, KY DOW, reported on the Kentucky Water Resources Board’s progress, stating that their fourth meeting will be on October 31<sup>st</sup> and they will be reviewing project profiles related to monitoring related needs. Mr. Caldwell also presented a snapshot of the information he has been gathering with Mr. Gary Larimore to explore the connections between municipal water sources and agriculture. He is continuing to identify poultry and dairy operations. He explained that the Water System Survey Matrix includes data that describes the capacity of a water system, reliability of supply and physical availability of raw water, and policies or ordinances that might limit or interrupt service to an animal producer or facility. Others in the audience were impressed with the charts and stated this information is a very useful resource.

Chairman Coleman suggested that Water Management Working Group members attending the Annual Meeting participate in the various commodity sessions and provide a brief update of the Water Management Working Group to those in attendance. The Kentucky Farm Bureau Annual Meeting will be held November 30 - December 3, 2016 in Louisville Kentucky, with Special Commodity Conferences on Thursday, December 1.

Chairman Coleman opened the floor for additional comments or suggestions the Work Group or public might have. No comments were made.

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Chairman Coleman announced the next Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group meeting will be held Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 10:00 AM at Kentucky Farm Bureau State Office in Louisville, KY. Other meeting dates tentatively scheduled are Wednesday, January 25, 2016 at a location to be determined.

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**