

MINUTES

WATER MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

April 26, 2017

The Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group (WMWG) met in a joint meeting with the Kentucky Water Resources Board (KWRB) at Eden Shale Farm near Owenton, Kentucky on Wednesday, April 26, 2017.

Working Group members present were: Steve Coleman, Chair; Warren Beeler; Todd Clark; Pat Henderson; Kevin Jeffries; and David Rowlett. Working Group members absent were: Nancy Cox; Rusty Cress; Sharon Furches; Terry Gilbert; Pete Goodman; Kenneth Imel; Gary Larimore; Keith Rogers; and Larry Thomas. Ex-officio members present were: Michael Griffin, State Director, U.S. Geological Survey; and Kim Richardson, Director, Kentucky Division of Conservation. Ex-officio members absent were: Tom Fern, State Director, USDA Rural Development; and Karen Woodrich, State Conservationist, NRCS. Others in attendance were: Bill Caldwell, KDOW; Biff Baker, GOAP; Brent Burchett, KDA; Steve Higgins, UK; Becky Thompson, KBN; Dan Miller, KBN; Keith Reed, NRCS; Steve Blandford, NRCS; Rob Blair, KDOW; David Chappell, President, KFB Owen County; Casey Ellis, Owen Country Judge Executive; Mark Haney, President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; and Fritz Giesecke, Second Vice President, 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. Chairman Coleman thanked the Kentucky Beef Network (KBN) for hosting the WMWG meeting. KFB President Mark Haney was introduced and welcomed the group to the joint meeting and noted he was looking forward to the farm tour of water-related BMPs. KFB Second Vice President Fritz Giesecke was also introduced.

Chairman Coleman introduced Becky Thompson, KBN, for comments. Ms. Thompson welcomed the group to the Eden Shale Farm and provided a quick overview of the KBN and then introduced Dan Miller, KBN, who oversees the Eden Shale Farm who provided an overview of the history of the farm as well as the purpose of the farm. He noted Eden Shale Farm was established in 1955 as a research farm for the University of Kentucky. Thirty-three counties raised between \$500 and \$1000 while farmers in those counties also put in one cent per acre of Eden Shale soil type on their farm to help acquire the land. Five farms were

**Water Management Working Group
April 26, 2017**

purchased in August 1955 and combined to form one farm consisting of 950 acres at a cost of \$67.04 per acre for a total cost of \$63,000. Research centered on pasture improvement, management, and livestock grazing and some of the early research on Kentucky 31 fescue was completed at Eden Shale. Mr. Miller noted the KBN took over management of the farm in the spring of 2013 to operate the farm as a demonstration farm rather than a research farm. The goal was to keep the farm as a true representation of Kentucky farms and implement practices that are economically feasible that average cattle producers would be able to replicate on their farms. He noted the KBN started with 120 head of cattle and now tries to maintain a herd of around 100 cows.

Chairman Coleman asked the Working Group to consider the minutes of the March 29, 2017 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. David Rowlett, and seconded by Mr. Kevin Jeffries second that:

“We approve the minutes of the March 29, 2017 meeting.”

Motion passed.

The joint group was treated to a tour of water-related best management practices (BMPs) that have been installed on the farm. Dr. Stephen Higgins, UK, led the tour and explained the various BMPs that were viewed. The BMP's included a field area that had been ripped to improve water infiltration to enhance forage vegetative growth for cattle grazing, two water capture demonstrations where rainwater was captured from building roofs and stored either in above surface or subsurface storage tanks then piped into water tanks for cattle, and, a farm spring that had been boxed to capture water that was then piped into water tanks for cattle use.

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

Chairman Coleman introduced David Chappell, President of Owen County Farm Bureau, who briefly discussed Owen County agriculture. Mr. Chappell then introduced Owen County Judge Executive Casey Ellis who welcomed the group to Owen County and provided a brief overview of the area and relationship with the Eden Shale Farm.

Mr. Rob Blair, Kentucky Division of Water, provided an overview of the steps needed to develop an effective source water plan for drinking water resources. He noted numerous collaboration efforts are underway that are looking at grant

**Water Management Working Group
April 26, 2017**

opportunities, monitoring, water resource development and technical assistance, assessments of current drinking water resources and an analysis of current water use relative to developing an effective water plan. He noted that to be successful, water plans must involve all stakeholders in the community.

Mr. Bill Caldwell, Kentucky Division of Water, discussed the role of the Kentucky Water Resources Board and how it is working to address future water needs in Kentucky. He said there is a need to anticipate future water needs and be able to react to problems. He reviewed the recent KWRB planning committee meeting results and proposed direction the KWRB should move in the near future. He noted that the Board will continue to look at existing gaps and assess possible solutions or direction at future meetings.

Chairman Coleman opened the floor for additional discussion and comments. None were made. Chairman Coleman thanked the KWRB for having a joint meeting and noted that he hopes the two groups can come together again in the future to discuss the future of water needs in Kentucky. He also mentioned that he would like the two groups to support each other in finding funding and projects that would make a better Commonwealth.

Chairman Coleman announced the next Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group meeting would likely be held sometime mid-June, and possibly at Kenny Imel's Greenhouse operation near Greenup, Kentucky. More details will be announced when confirmed.

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**