

MINUTES

WATER MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

JULY 29, 2015

The Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group met at the Louisville Water Tower Park in Louisville, Kentucky on Wednesday, July 29, 2015.

Working Group members present were: Steve Coleman, Chair; Warren Beeler; Todd Clark; Pat Henderson; Kevin Jeffries; Gary Larimore; and David Rowlett. Working Group members absent were: Sharon Furches; Terry Gilbert; Pete Goodmann; Kenneth Imel; Larry Thomas; and Roger Thomas. Ex-officio members present were: 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; John W. McCauley, State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency; and Kim Richardson, Director, Kentucky Division of Conservation. Others in attendance were: Drew Graham representing Dr. Nancy Cox; Janelle Gardner representing John W. McCauley; Dawn Riley; David Chinn; Bill Caldwell; Steve Higgins; Pete Cinotto; Chuck Taylor; Lindsey Ratliff; David S. Beck, Executive President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Katie Spradlin, Kentucky Farm Bureau. The meeting was staffed by Joe Cain.

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 June 3, 2015 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Kevin Jeffries, and seconded by Mr. Todd Clark second that:

“We approve the minutes of the June 3, 2015 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.

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Mr. David S. Beck, Executive President, Kentucky Farm Bureau, thanked the working group for their service and knowledge. He stated that we value their opinions and look forward to the recommendations and progress the group makes. He also noted the regrets and warm regards from the other executive staff members who were unable to attend the meeting.

Chairman Coleman informed the Working Group that he spoke at the interim legislative meeting in Frankfort to explain the focus and goals of the Working Group. He stated that people are waiting to hear recommendations from the group and hopefully will have an update to the legislators in the October legislative meeting.

Mr. Joe Cain, Kentucky Farm Bureau, noted the Water Management Working Group would soon be reviewing the Kentucky Farm Bureau policy on water resources as we move forward with making recommendations. Mr. Cain reported that the Water Data Surveys have been handed out at Kentucky Farm Bureau Policy Meetings around the state and we have received over 150 completed surveys. The survey is now available on the Water Management Working Group website for people to complete. The data is being compiled right now and he hopes to have a rough summary by the August meeting.

The Working Group was giving an overview of the history of Louisville Water Company's (LWC) facilities and then a guided tour of the Water Tower and the Steam Engine Room in Pumping Station 3. Mr. Jay Ferguson, Education Program Specialist for LWC noted Louisville Water began as Kentucky's first public water provider in 1860. Louisville Water's original Pumping Station and Water Tower have stood on the banks of the Ohio River for 150 years, serving as a visual landmark for the city of Louisville and the water utility that bears its name. Designed by Theodore Scowden and his assistant Charles Hermany, the Pumping Station housed the Cornish steam engines that were part of the water company's operations when it began in October, 1860 until 1912. He noted in 1971 the U.S. Government designated the Pumping Station and Water Tower National Historic Landmarks. The Secretary of the Interior at the time called the tower "one of the finest examples of industrial architecture in the world."

Mr. Jim Smith, Director of Regional Development noted the facilities are home to the WaterWorks Museum, an interpretive experience that explores water's connection to the community and Louisville Water's innovations in drinking water. He noted Louisville Water provides an abundant, safe supply of drinking water to over 850,000 people in Louisville Metro and surrounding counties. On average, the company produces 120 million gallons of Louisville pure tap each day through more than 4,100 miles of LWC-managed pipes. Mr. Smith noted the company recently completed the Riverbank Filtration Project in 2010. The project is unique because LWC is the first water utility in the world to combine a gravity tunnel with wells as

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a source for drinking water. LWC designed and constructed the completely new innovative mile-and-half-long tunnel developed 150 feet below the ground surface that includes a system of wells to collect ground water as a source for drinking water.

Mr. Gary Larimore, Executive Director, Kentucky Rural Water Association, provided a history and overview of the Kentucky Rural Water Association and the partners they work with. Mr. Larimore noted that Louisville Water Company has helped Kentucky Rural Water with regulations and legislation and he hopes that partnership will continue for years to come. He suggested some recommendations for the Working Group to consider include helping utilities understand what the farmers need and want, how to protect watershed from contamination from spills or algae, and developing process by which people will report water withdrawals and amounts.

Mr. Warren Beeler, Chairman of the Ag Drought Mitigation Subcommittee, reported that there is construction going on in Murraysville to add another underground monitoring well and sites to possibly add three more underground wells across Kentucky. The Working Group will need to make some recommendations to the Kentucky Drought Mitigation Plan to address agricultural needs.

Mr. Pat Henderson, Chairman of the Information Subcommittee, provided a brief report of the subcommittee's meetings and progress made. Mr. Henderson stated that the Weather Data survey has been distributed to the counties through various means and the survey is now available to complete online. Mr. Henderson noted that the group might consider sending the survey to executives of other agriculture organizations so their members could fill out the information for a more well-rounded response.

Chairman Coleman asked the Working Group to look over the recommendations and action items and provide feedback on those items, feeling free to add any additional recommendations or action items that should be considered by the Working Group. The Water Management Working Group is at a stage now where hopefully we can begin development of concise recommendations. The Working Group is encouraged to send their thoughts and suggestions to Mr. Joe Cain so the staff can compile everything into one document to be reviewed at a later Water Management meeting.

Chairman Coleman announced the next Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group meeting will be held Wednesday, August 19, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. EDT at Monty's Research Plots in Shelby County. Dates for upcoming Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group meetings were also set for Wednesday, September 30, 2015 scheduled at the Kentucky Farm Bureau State Office in Louisville.

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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**