

## MINUTES

### WATER MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

### KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Septemeber 28, 2016

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The Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group met at the Kentucky Energy and Enviroment office in Frankfort, Kentucky on Wendesday, September 28, 2016.

Working Group members present were: Steve Coleman, Chair; Warren Beeler; Todd Clark; Rusty Cress; Sharon Furches; Pete Goodmann; Pat Henderson; and Larry Thomas. Working Group members absent were: Nancy Cox; Terry Gilbert; Kenneth Imel; Kevin Jeffries; Gary Larimore; and David Rowlett. Ex-officio members present were: Kim Richardson, Director, Kentucky Division of Conservation. 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 Karen Woodrich, State Conservationist, NRCS. Others in attendance were: Bill Caldwell, KDOW; Pete Cinotto, USGS; Jacob Bowman, USDA FSA; Steve Blanford, USDA NRCS; Gary Martin, USGS; Steve Higgins, UK; Michael Smith, Farm Credit; Chad Lee, UK; Brad Lee, UK; Kayla Matola, KY Office of Homeland Security; and Robert Augustine, Senator Rand Paul Regional Field Representative. 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 asked the Working Group to consider the minutes of the July 28, 2016 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Pat Henderson, and seconded by Mr. Todd Clark second that:

**“We approve the minutes of the July 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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Mr. Peter Cinotto, USGS, reported on updates made to the irrigation resource sheet that has been developed and how it has been formatted to be electronically available on mobile devices. He also reported on progress being made to develop an app that will make weather and water data more readily available. Mr. Cinotto discussed how development of a water budget will allow further development of a real time monitoring network similar to the program he worked with in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Bill Caldwell, KY DOW, reported he is working with Mr. Gary Larimore to explore connections between municipal water sources and agriculture. He said they continue to identify municipal capacities and are working to locate agricultural use on those sources.

Dr. Steve Higgins, UK, reported on the recent Ag Water Quality Authority tour of water best management practices at Eden Shale and invited the Working Group for a similar tour. He reported on water harvesting technologies.

Mr. Steve Blandford, KY NRCS, provided an overview of state and national Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG). He reported the two state topics for CIG were soil health and water quality. Mr. Blandford noted possible CIG projects could deal with water efficiencies, alternative water sources and storage for various animal agriculture sectors. The national CIG included water quantity as a topic. Kentucky had \$225,000 allocated to CIG in 2016. He noted that national CIGs are more appealable if they involve a conglomerate of states working on a common project. He noted deadlines were roughly the same in 2016 with application deadlines in May and awarding of CIGs on September 30, 2016.

Dr. Chad Lee, the recently appointed director of the UK Grain and Forage Center, discussed some of the research emphasis that will be conducted at Princeton on irrigation technologies and hybrid drought tolerance. He invited the Working Group to hold a future meeting at Princeton for a discussion on irrigation research. This could also include a site visit to view irrigation work being coordinated with NRCS in the area.

Mr. Peter Goodmann, KDOW, reported on the most recent meeting of the Kentucky Water Resources Board and discussions as to how the board will function, efforts to educate the board on the issues, and how the board can coordinate efforts with other groups such as the Working Group. He noted the Board would meet the following day.

Mr. Joe Cain, KFB, provided a federal issues update on beginning farm bill discussions and the Midwest Drought Workshop that will be held December 7 & 8, 2016 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

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Chairman Coleman led a discussion on program and project recommendations for the Water Management Working Group to focus on. Draft recommendations are developed to be considered for finalization at the October meeting. It was requested to look at including easy to use “pie charts” that could visually tell the story of what the Water Management Working Group wants to educate producers and consumers about concerning water resources. It was felt this would be a more effective way to tell the story. It was also requested that a future meeting be scheduled to discuss water jurisdiction looking at “waters of the Commonwealth”, potential impacts of the Waters of the US (WOTUS) rule, and how groundwater and wells are regulated. He also noted several positive developments that have resulted directly from Water Management Working Group’s work including the establishment of the KY Water Resources Board, expansion of Mesonet sites and a two-fold increase in soil probe installations, development of an irrigation resource guide and significant expansion of Kentucky’s groundwater monitoring network.

Committee members asked that an Executive Summary be developed listing the Water Management Working Group goals & objectives along with a summary of accomplishments to date. It was noted this would be helpful to distribute at meetings Water Management Working Group members were asked to participate in, and would be useful to distribute during commodity sessions at the upcoming Kentucky Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. 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.

The group discussed asking Kentucky Farm Bureau President Mark Haney, and/or Executive Vice President David S. Beck to speak to the group at a future meeting to encourage and provide a new “charge” to the group. It was noted attendance at recent Water Management Working Group meetings had been lagging.

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

Chairman Coleman announced the next Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group meeting will be held Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at 1:00 PM at Kentucky Farm Bureau State Office in Louisville, KY to review and finalize the Working Group’s recommendations and objectives. Other meeting dates tentatively scheduled are Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 10:00 AM at the Kentucky Farm Bureau State Office in Louisville, KY and Wednesday, March 29,

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2017 at the Princeton Grain and Forage Center and a tour of the Milton Cook farming operation and irrigation systems, times to be announced at a later meeting.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned for a tour of the new offices facilities led by Kentucky Division of Conservation Director Kimberly Richardson.

**Recorded by: Katie Weatherholt  
Administrative Assistant**

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