

## MINUTES

### WATER MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

### KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

September 27, 2017

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The Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group (WMWG) met at the Kentucky Farm Bureau State Office in Louisville, Kentucky on Wednesday, September 27, 2017.

Working Group members present were: Steve Coleman, Chair; Warren Beeler; Brent Burchett; Todd Clark; Sharon Furches; Pat Henderson; Kenny Imel; Kevin Jeffries; David Rowlett; and Larry Thomas. Working Group members absent were: Nancy Cox; Rusty Cress; Terry Gilbert; Pete Goodmann; Gary Larimore; and John McCauley. Ex-officio members present were: Michael Griffin, State Director, U.S. Geological Survey. Ex-officio members absent were: Tom Fern, State Director, USDA Rural Development; Kim Richardson, Director, Kentucky Division of Conservation; and Karen Woodrich, State Conservationist, NRCS. Others in attendance were: Bill Caldwell, KDOW; Pete Cinotto, USGS; Drew Graham, UK; Troy Williams, NRCS; Casey Shrader, NRCS; Stuart Foster, KY Climate Center; Stefaine Osterman, GOAP; Johnna McHugh, KDOC; Stacie Rockaway, Field Representative for Congressman Thomas Massie; David Chinn, Monty's Plant Food Co.; Mark Haney, President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Eddie Melton, First Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Fritz Giesecke, Second Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Ed McQueen, Kentucky Farm Bureau; and 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.

Chairman Coleman asked the Working Group to consider the minutes of the June 14, 2017 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Pat Henderson, and seconded by Mr. Kenny Imel second that:

**"We approve the minutes of the June 14, 2017 meeting."**

Motion passed.

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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](http://www.kyfb.com/water).

Mr. Casey Shrader, NRCS, and Mr. Troy Williams, NRCS, reported that Ms. Karen Woodrich is currently working as a temporary advisor to the USDA NRCS undersecretary. Mr. Shrader reviewed the technical standards for water management practices noting seven of the eleven identified BMPs have developed standards and are ready for inclusion in Kentucky NRCS programs. Dr. Steve Higgins, UK, continues to work with NRCS on a comprehensive BMP list of water management and development practices for use by producers to address water resource concerns on their own farms. NRCS currently does not have an expert in irrigation design and there is only 3 TSPs in the state that can write irrigation plans. Mr. Williams noted he is working on getting people trained across the state.

Mr. Pete Goodman, KDOW, via conference call, provided the Working Group with a Kentucky Water Resource Board (WRB) update. He reported that there has been limited progress made and no demo projects have been started, primarily due to a lack of available funding for projects. The goal of the WRB is to have one demo project in each congressional district. Mr. Goodman discussed the possibility of installing purple pipes (treated waste water) for Kentucky's agriculture. Mr. Bill Caldwell, KDOW, provided an overview of the federal funding request from the Energy and Environment Cabinet. KDOW prepared their own letter to request increased funding above base levels for three specific funding items in the Kentucky USGS budget.

Mr. Mike Griffin, USGS, and Mr. Pete Cinotto, USGS, reported the gages on the Ohio River will be discontinued and removed in April 2018, unless funding is found to keep them operational. Mr. Griffin noted how valuable the continuous monitoring information gathered from these gages are. He explained it will cost more to put the gages back in, due to the sites having to be returned to their original state.

Dr. Stuart Foster, KY Climate Center, provided the Working Group with a demonstration of the new Kentucky Mesonet App. The app will have current conditions for your location, forecast options of 24, 48 or 72 hours, and radar maps. He noted they are looking to add an alert function that will notify if there are high winds and extreme heat or cold. The Android version will be available to the public in October, while the Apple version should be available by January 2018.

Mr. Warren Beeler noted it is important to have water management and development projects for the Ag Development Board to consider. These projects should emphasize or demonstrate their benefit to agriculture in the Commonwealth.

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He noted GOAP continues to review the CAIP program and look to add water management practices in the coming year.

Mr. Joe Cain, KYFB, provided an update on KFB's recent visits with the Kentucky congressional delegation. All Members are supportive of improving and developing Kentucky's water resources, but the problem is identifying funds for demonstration projects. He noted Mr. Haney testified before the Senate Agriculture Committee this summer.

The working group considered the **KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU POLICY** and made the following recommendations.

A motion was made by Mr. Kevin Jeffries, seconded by Mr. Todd Clark, to add the following language pertaining to Water Resource Management.

Water Resource Management

Page 40, Line 50, **ADD:**

**"WE SUPPORT MAKING WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT A PRIORITY CONCERN WITH NRCS PROGRAMS."**

Motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Pat Henderson, seconded by Mr. Kevin Jefferies, to add the following language pertaining to Water Resource Management.

Water Resource Management

Page 41, Line 12, **ADD:**

**"WE ENCOURAGE THE KENTUCKY WATER RESOURCES BOARD TO MEET AT LEAST QUARTERLY."**

Motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Pat Henderson, seconded Mr. David Rowlett, to add the following language pertaining to Conservation Program.

Conservation Program

Page 41, Line 45, **ADD:**

**"WE SUPPORT INCREASE FUNDING FOR PROFESSIONAL NRCS STAFF AT THE STATE LEVEL."**

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Motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Kevin Jeffries, seconded by Mr. Larry Thomas, to add the following language pertaining to Water Districts/Associations.

Water Districts/Associations

Page 39, Line 56, **ADD:**

**“WE SUPPORT EXPLORING THE OPPORTUNITIES OF PURPLE PIPE WATER  
(TREATED WASTE WATER) USE IN KENTUCKY.”**

Motion passed.

Chairman Coleman opened the floor for additional discussion and comments. None were made.

Chairman Coleman announced the next Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group meeting will be held Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Farm Credit Office in Elizabethtown.

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**