

MINUTES
WATER MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP
KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
AUGUST 19, 2020

The Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group (WMWG) met on August 19, 2020 via Zoom video app.

Working Group members present were: Steve Coleman, Chair; Warren Beeler; Pat Henderson; and Larry Thomas. Working Group members absent were: Todd Clark; Dr. Nancy Cox; Rusty Cress; Terry Gilbert; Kenny Imel; Kevin Jeffries; Gary Larimore; and Shane Wells. Ex-officio members present were: Paulette Akers, Director, KY Division of Conservation. Ex-officio members absent were: Michael Griffin, Director, USGS OH, KY, IN Water Science Center; Brian Lacefield, State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency; Hilda Legg, State Director, USDA Rural Development Office; and Greg Stone, State Conservationist, NRCS. Others present were: Glynn Beck, Geologist, University of Kentucky; Brandon Brummett, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Bill Caldwell, KY Division of Water; Renee Carrico, Governor's Office of Ag Policy; David Chinn, Monty's Plant Food Co.; Pete Cinotto, Deputy Director, USGS; Dr. Stuart Foster, KY Climate Center; Dr. Steve Higgins, University of Kentucky; Anthony Hollingsworth, USDA; Steve Kull; Rhonda Lamb, Coordinator, Four Rivers Basin Project; Brad Lee, University of Kentucky; Dr. Chad Lee, University of Kentucky; Stacie Rockaway; Chuck Taylor, KY Geological Survey; and Dr. Cynthia West, Director, Office of Sustainability and Climate, U.S. Forest Service. The meeting was staffed by Ed McQueen, Joe Cain, and Tiara Carter.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., by Chairman Steve Coleman, who expressed his appreciation for group members' participation. Chairman Coleman also relayed to the group the appreciation from the Kentucky Farm Bureau's Board of Directors for their work.

Chairman Coleman asked the group to consider the minutes of the June 24, 2020 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Pat Henderson, seconded by Mr. Larry Thomas that:

“We approve the minutes of the June 24, 2020 meeting as emailed.”

Motion passed.

Dr. Cynthia West, Director, Office of Sustainability and Climate, U.S. Forest Service, gave the group a brief overview of her background and the services the U.S. Forest Service provides. She noted that in all the lands the forest service manages- whether public, private, or recreational, they all have water in common. Dr. West reported that more frequent extreme weather events have impacted the

water systems on forest lands and on farms. She gave the example of the 2016 Gatlinburg, TN fires that started as a flash drought and ended up devastating the forest lands and the community. She noted that lack of awareness of the drought conditions hindered the community from being prepared for the wildfires. She drew the connection between the U.S. Forest Service and the soil moisture research being conducted by Dr. Stuart Foster and the Kentucky Mesonet. Dr. West expressed her excitement for the expansion of soil moisture research into forests and rangelands and hopes to be able to collaborate with other organizations represented in the working group.

Dr. Chad Lee, University of Kentucky, reported that the University of Kentucky's Grain and Forage Center of Excellence has been built. The Center opened March 1st and reservations for its meeting spaces were in high demand but was impacted by COVID-19. Dr. Lee also reported that Dr. John Grove, the Center's former director, decided to resign to focus on research and Extension Services. He announced that he and Dr. Lloyd Murdock are acting as interim co-directors until a new one is appointed. The Center has now reopened to the public. Dr. Lee also gave the group an overview of the soil and cover crop research the University of Kentucky is conducting. Dr. Lee reported on the Irrigation Workshop held at Princeton that was sponsored by Kentucky Farm Bureau. He reported that the meeting was well attended, and there was great discussion. He is hopeful to be able to continue offering the workshop in the future.

Ms. Renee Carrico, Governor's Office of Ag Policy (GOAP), discussed the Governor's AgriTech Program and encouraged farmers in the group to participate. She reported the GOAP is still heavily focused on the meat processing industry and providing relief since COVID-19. She encouraged the group to spread the word on the GOAP's Meat Processing Investment Program that provides funds for equipment to meat processors. Ms. Carrico also gave the group an update on the on-farm water projects. She reported that 2 of the 5 small scale project applications submitted this month were approved. She noted that large scale projects have slowed down due to travel restrictions.

Mr. Bill Caldwell, KY Division of Water (KDOW), expressed his excitement and appreciation for the group's work. He also reported that KDOW is operating successfully through COVID-19. Mr. Caldwell expressed his concern for the lack of agricultural input into plans for public water supply and hopes to find avenues to educate the public on the importance of agriculture.

Mr. Joe Cain, Director, KFB Commodity Division, thanked group members for their efforts in pushing agriculture forward and noted the importance of continuing to educate the public. Mr. Cain expressed the importance of the working group in making policy revisions to Kentucky Farm Bureau.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Pat Henderson, seconded by Mr. Larry Thomas to edit the language on water research.

Water Research

Page 35, Lines 23 - 25, **EDIT:**

“We encourage adequate **SUSTAINABLE** funding be allocated to continue maintenance and operation of USGS super gages.”

Motion carried.

Dr. Steve Higgins made a suggestion to the committee to edit the language on water resource management. All members agreed to the suggestion by consensus.

Water Resource Management

Page 36, Lines 26 – 31, **EDIT:**

“We urge the Governor and the Energy & Environment Cabinet to continue the development and implementation of a comprehensive water resource development plan while giving due consideration to land **AND WATER** use planning efforts and future water needs of the state and to assist local government in implementing a water and sewer resource plan in their own community.”

Motion carried.

The working group then reviewed **AMERICAN FARM BUREAU POLICY** and made no policy recommendations.

Chairman Coleman then reminded the working group of the upcoming KFB Annual Meeting in Louisville at the Galt House on December 2- December 5. The next meeting of the Water Management Working Group will be held on December 9th.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.