

## MINUTES

### WATER MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

### KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

May 30, 2018

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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, May 30, 2018.

Working Group members present were: Steve Coleman, Chair; Sharon Furches; Pat Henderson; Kenny Imel; Gary Larimore; David Rowlett; and Larry Thomas. Working Group members absent were: Warren Beeler; Todd Clark; Nancy Cox; Rusty Cress; Terry Gilbert; Pete Goodmann; Kevin Jeffries; and Keith Rodgers. Ex-officio members present were: Karen Woodrich, State Conservationist, NRCS. Ex-officio members absent were: Paulette Akers, Director, Kentucky Division of Conservation; Michael Griffin, State Director, U.S. Geological Survey; Brian Lacefield, State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency; and Hilda Legg, State Director, USDA Rural Development. Others in attendance were: Biff Baker, GOAP; Brent Burchett, KDA; Bill Caldwell, KDOW; Pete Cinotto, USGS; Chuck Taylor, KGS; Johnna McHugh, KY Division of Conservation; Steve Higgins, UK; Chad Lee, UK; Dan Miller, KY Beef Network; Bonnie Jolly, KY Pork Producers; Brandon Gilles, Farm Credit Mid-America; Judy Look, representative for Congressman John Yarmuth; Mark Haney, President, KFB; Eddie Melton, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, KFB; David S. Beck, Executive Vice President, KFB; and Katie Weatherholt, KFB. 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 March 28, 2018 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Pat Henderson, and seconded by Ms. Sharon Furches second that:

**“We approve the minutes of the March 28, 2018 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. Mark Haney, President, Kentucky Farm Bureau, welcomed and thanked the WMWG members for their dedicated service and noted it is great to see the Working Group growing and getting goals accomplished. Mr. David S. Beck, Executive Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau, thanked the Working Group and noted people make things happen and there is still a lot of work to be done to help Kentucky's water issues. Mr. Eddie Melton, First Vice President, Kentucky Farm Bureau, thanked the Working Group and encouraged the Working Group to keep moving forward. Chairman Coleman wished Mr. David S. Beck a happy retirement from the Working Group and thanked him for his leadership throughout the years.

Mr. Joe Cain, KFB, reported he attended the AFBF Environmental Issues Conference in Wyoming and there was a lot of discussion about water issues and noted that many commented on the WMWG and KYWRB as being pioneers in advocating for water. Mr. Cain provided an overview of the HR-2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018 (the Farm Bill), which failed on a vote of 198-213 on May 18. Immediately following the vote, House Speaker Paul Ryan moved to reconsider, but the vote to reconsider was delayed. The House Rules Committee reported a rule that would allow the vote to be reconsidered to be postponed through Friday, June 22, 2018. This means that the motion to reconsider the Farm Bill, and ultimately vote on final passage of the farm bill, could occur any time the House is in session through June 22. This delay gives House leadership time to work on bringing an immigration bill, or bills, to the Floor as members of the House Freedom Caucus had pressed as a prerequisite to gain their support on final passage of the Farm Bill. It is still unclear what immigration bills will be offered, but Speaker Ryan is working with House Judiciary Chair Goodlatte on bills, including his farm labor bill that would create a H-2C visa program for agriculture workers. Chairman Goodlatte has already announced a few revisions to his bill to address concerns from the agriculture community; this is a promising sign. However, it is also expected there will be a push for a vote on DACA reform that includes revisions to chain immigration rules, as well as, funding for a border wall. It is important to have the 2018 Farm Bill passed by expiration date of September 30 so that many producers could change their ARC/PLC enrollment decision under the 2014 Farm Bill.

Mr. Chuck Taylor, KGS, noted Mr. Glenn Beck is working with UK on a multiyear effort to document aquifers. He provided an update on the groundwater observation network, stating they are putting in a new well in Knox county near the Cumberland River this month, a new well at Mammoth National Cave Park, and they are investigating putting a well in Taylor county. KGS is working to join the

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national network of groundwater observations. Working on a website to display data. KGS is working with other agencies to design a map of aquifers in Kentucky, more information will become available once the project has started.

Mr. Bill Caldwell, KDOW, provided an overview of the On-Farm Water Management Program (OFWMP) including Research, Development and Demonstration (RDD) farms and Practical Implementation Project (PIP) farms. RDDs are multiple projects in one location and PIPs are individuals or non-profits who want to implement projects on their own farms they have viewed on RDD farms. At the time of the WMWG meeting there has been one approved application (MSU Research Farm), 4 Potential RDD Sites over 3 Congressional Districts (Marker's Mark, Henderson Settlement, WKU Farm, and Imel's Greenhouse), and 7 Potential PIP Sites (4 have had initial site visits, 3 made contact, but had not scheduled a site visit yet). BMP's under considerations in the applications include rainwater harvesting from rooftops, solar pump systems, dual watering systems, and water source development. It will take approximately 3 months from when the application is turned in to it being approved and work can begin. It was noted more advertisement was needed for potential PIP sites and for RDD sites in Western Kentucky. Mr. Caldwell then discussed the Ag Drought Risk Assessment he has been working on developing with FEMA, he noted is due to FEMA in September. The full presentation and OFWMP flyer can be found on the Water Management's website.

Mr. Dan Miller, KY Beef Network (KBN), reported on the water project BMP's at Eden Shale Farm, which is now operated by the KBN. The KBN's goals for Eden Shale Farm include continuing to use it as a demonstration farm and learning center, utilizing BMPs with all farm enterprises, continue relationships with local community and UK, and to engage industry partners to bring demonstration to Eden Shale. When hosting farm activities KBN tries to keep the classes small for hands on training; so far 25 states and 109 out of the 120 counties in Kentucky have visited Eden Shale. Mr. Miller provided highlights of BMP's on the farm including in the bull barn, dairy barn, watering sites including collecting rainwater and a spring development project. Resources are available on their website at [www.edenshalefarm.com](http://www.edenshalefarm.com) and the full presentation can be found on the Water Management's website.

Dr. Steve Higgins, UK CAFE, discussed his published article "On-Farm Water Quantity Resources Guide." This article is to assist agricultural producers with a list of water and soil resource practices that have been compiled and categorized based on their primary purpose. The practices include protection of the topsoil, flow control to regulate stormwater runoff flow rates, retention and detention such as ponds and cisterns, filtration and treatment to reduce the off-farm export of critical resources and potential environmental contaminants, infiltration, conservation, and

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infrastructure development. The full article can be found on the Water Management's website.

Ms. Karen Woodrich, NRCS, reported they were hiring a state engineer, but noted a staff shortage was still on-going. NRCS has been working with Dr. Steve Higgins on the Morehead University project. Ms. Woodrich noted the need to get the NRCS technical assistants people more familiar with modern techniques so in turn they can help more with other projects across the state. NRCS was offered EQIP funding, but there are limits as to what that money can be used for. She reported Mr. Kenny Imel is the FY18 EQIP funded applicant for irrigation water management the year. Ms. Woodrich reported on the Edge-of-Field Monitoring in Kentucky, that enables agricultural producers and scientists to quantify the impacts of conservation work on water quality. She stated the first site is installed in Daviess County and hoping to get another site or two installed.

Ms. Johnna McHugh, KDC, noted there was a restructuring of the state's cost share program so it now will work better with the EQIP program. The proposed application cut off is June 30. KDC received \$3 million this year for the cost share program, and plans to do rank periods two times a year for left over money to be given out.

Chairman Coleman opened the floor for general discussion. Mr. David Rowlett, KACD, noted their annual 75<sup>th</sup> meeting will be taking place July 8-10 at the Owensboro Convention Center and invited everyone to come. Ms. Johnna McHugh, KDC, thanked KFB for their sponsorship of the Kentucky Envirothon Program and noted a team from Paul Dunbar High School will be competing in the North American Envirothon at the end of July in Idaho. Mr. Joe Cain, KFB, reported that the WMWG did not win the U.S. Water Prize awarded by the U.S. Water Alliance, but stated they will apply again next year and will have more accomplishments to note on the application; Mr. Cain also noted KASMC should apply next year as well. Dr. Steve Higgins, UK, and Mr. Dan Miller, KY Beef Network, noted they are invited to present at a National Beef Cattle Association Meeting in Louisiana in February on Eden Shale.

Chairman Coleman announced the next Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 29, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at the Kentucky Farm Bureau State Office in Louisville.

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**