

MINUTES

WATER MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

November 15, 2017

The Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group (WMWG) met at the Farm Credit Office in Elizabethtown, Kentucky on Wednesday, November 15, 2017.

Working Group members present were: Steve Coleman, Chair; Sharon Furches; Pete Goodmann; Pat Henderson; Kenny Imel; Kevin Jeffries; Gary Larimore; David Rowlett; and Larry Thomas. Working Group members absent were: Warren Beeler; Brent Burchett; Todd Clark; Nancy Cox; Rusty Cress; Terry Gilbert; and John McCauley. Ex-officio members absent were: Tom Fern, State Director, USDA Rural Development; Michael Griffin, State Director, U.S. Geological Survey; Kim Richardson, Director, Kentucky Division of Conservation; and Karen Woodrich, State Conservationist, NRCS. Others in attendance were: Bill Caldwell, KDOW; Pete Cinotto, USGS; Stuart Foster, WKU KY Climate Center; Biff Baker, GOAP; Rezaul Mahmood, WKU KY Climate Center & KY Mesonet; Chad Lee, UK; Brad Lee, UK; Steve Higgins, UK; Glynn Beck, KGS; Amanda Moore, NRCS; Bonnie Jolly, KPPA; Tim Hughes, KDA; Jade Sadler, Farm Credit; Lindsey Budes, Farm Credit; and Mark Lord, District Director for Congressman Brett Guthrie. 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 September 12, 2017 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Pat Henderson, and seconded by Mr. Kenny Imel second that:

“We approve the minutes of the September 12, 2017 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 Kentucky Farm Bureau’s website at www.kyfb.com/water.

**Water Management Working Group
November 15, 2017**

Mr. Joe Cain, Kentucky Farm Bureau, updated the Working Group on efforts to identify state and federal dollars the Kentucky Water Resources Board (KWRB) could apply for to conduct water research and demonstration projects across the Commonwealth. Mr. Cain noted the KWRB will meet soon to discuss projects and project funding and anticipates an application will be pursued with the Kentucky Ag Development Board for multi-year funding of various projects. He reported he and Peter Goodmann, Kentucky Division of Water, have been in contact with several federal agencies to identify potential funds. These agencies include EPA, FEMA and USDA. Efforts are ongoing, and once funds are identified, the objective is for the KWRB to submit an application to secure available funds.

Mr. Gary Larimore, KY Rural Water Association, updated the Working Group about a conference call he and Mr. Cain made with USDA Rural Development concerning potential purple pipe projects. Due to the relative newness of the technology and cost, it was determined purple pipe projects would probably not be feasible in the immediate future; however, Mr. Larimore suggested the Working Group as well as the KWRB may want to keep these projects for future consideration.

Dr. Steve Higgins, University of Kentucky, reviewed the latest water management best management practices and reviewed his efforts to develop one-page backgrounders on key projects; this is a project that will be ongoing. Dr. Higgins noted he has several demonstration and research projects in the works, pending funding, at various public and private locations.

Dr. Stuart Foster, Western Kentucky University and Kentucky Mesonet, provided an overview of current and projected weather conditions. He noted it appears a La Nina system was developing that should bring warmer temperatures with above average precipitation to Kentucky. He did note weather predictions are always somewhat fickle and tend to fluctuate, and commented that Kentucky really is right on the southern edge of the projected pattern.

Dr. Rezaul Mahmood, Western Kentucky University and Kentucky Mesonet, provided an overview of a water management project that he hopes will result in a useful water management tool that water managers and farmers can utilize.

Dr. Brad Lee, University of Kentucky, provided the Working Group an overview of a joint project he is working on with the Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board and USDA NRCS dealing with Kentucky Blue Water Farms. He noted this is primarily a water quality research project looking at movement of nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and water flow during precipitation events from production fields. He said the two main best management practices he is reviewing are animal

**Water Management Working Group
November 15, 2017**

waste injection systems and cover crop management. This is edge of field monitoring and is a \$6 million project over 12 years.

Mr. Biff Baker, Kentucky Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy (GOAP), provided an update on changes being made to CAIP projects. He noted GOAP is looking at innovative agricultural systems that producers could implement. He noted there now is a separate category of CAIP projects that will allow better tracking of project success. Some of the practices qualifying for CAIP funding include water harvesting, fenceline feeders, solar powered watering systems, tire watering systems and water storage tanks.

Chairman Coleman opened the floor for general discussion. Members discussed when the next meeting might be held. It was suggested to look at trying to schedule the next meeting for Thursday, February 15, 2018 at the Kentucky Fair and Expo Center in Louisville to coincide with the National Farm Machinery Show.

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**