

**KENTUCKY WATER UTILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MARCH 6, 2026, 10:00 AM ET  
300 SOWER BLVD., FRANKFORT, KY 40601 HYBRID VIDEO  
TELECONFERENCE**

*The Kentucky Water Utilities Advisory Committee is an informal advisory work group of both public and non-public entities. Notice of meetings, published agendas, minutes or notes, links to virtual meetings, or videos of meetings are provided as a courtesy to the public.*

**Minutes**

**Present (In-person): KDOW Staff:** Director Sarah Marshall, Asst. Director John Webb, Asst. Director Joanna Ashford, Josiah Frey, Jory Becker, Hollie Delaney, Jason Hurt, Nick Reif, Michele Cook, Terry Humphries, Kevin Stewart, Elizabeth Dowling, Dale Booth, Eileen Miller, and Gabe Tanner, Heather Baker, Maggie Lee, Michele Howard, Stefanie Osterman

**Others (In-person):** Melanie Arnold (EEC DEP), Valerie Lucas (Clean Water Professionals, Chloe Brantley (KRWA), Roy Gray (RCAP), Peter Goodmann (Louisville Water), Nick Hart (KWA), John Moor (NKWD), Alicia Jacobs (KY American), Stephanie Laughlin (Louisville MSD), Valerie Lucas (CWP-KT), Donna McNeil (UK KWRI), Maggie Neal (RCAP – GLCAP), Russell Neal (EEC KIA), Russ Rose (Oldham Co. Water), Mark Sneeve (ACEC-KY), Scot Treece (La Grange Utilities), Scott Young (KRWA), Matt Curtis (Bluegrass Engineering), Doug Kimbler (BGMU), Joe Pavoni (BGMU) Kay Sanborn (AWWA), Marie Hall (City of Ashland), David Chappelle (City of Ashland), Barry Adkins (City of Ashland), Brad Montgomery (STV), Jacob Matson (GRADD), Bart Boles (HWU), Keven Roberts (Henderson Water), Will Willis, (Louisville Water), Todd Ritter (KRWA), Michael Galuroth (Prime AE), John Lyons (STRAND), Keving Howard (Berea Municipal)

**I. Welcome and Call to Order – Sarah Marshall, Director, KDOW**

Director Sarah Marshall called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 am ET and welcomed members and guests. She gave a brief overview of the agenda, topics to be discussed, and activities that will take place during the meeting. She thanked Valerie Lucas with Clean Water Professionals of Kentucky & Tennessee, who provided coffee and refreshments for the Coffee with the Regulator event prior to the meeting.

**II. DOW Updates**

**A. Staff Updates - Meet Assistant Director Joanna Ashford, Joanna came from the Watershed Management Branch where she had served as their Branch Manager.**

Director Marshall also introduced Matt Lipps as the new Drinking Water Branch Technical Assistance Supervisor.

**B. Regulation & Legislative Updates – John Webb, Assistant Director, [John.Webb@ky.gov](mailto:John.Webb@ky.gov).**

**House Joint Resolution (HJR) 81: Release of WWATERS Funds**

- Authorizes release of \$53M in funds to be used in accordance with the KIA 2025 submitted report
- Emergency bill to release funds on passage and approval
- KY Water and Wastewater Assistance for Troubled or Economically Restrained Systems

**House Bill (HB) 651: WWATERS Eligibility Criteria**

- Amends “eligible funding recipient” to meet three (3) or more criteria (from one or more criteria)
- Amends “eligible projects” to not include any project to expand the utility service area of a funding applicant

- Approved funding recipients shall adopt BMPs to address any deficiencies as established by board

**HB 85: Sanitation Districts**

- Could affect Sanitation District funding mechanisms
- Would entitle customers to a refund of service fees for service in a 5-year plan, when service is not provided within 5 years

**HB 196: Per- and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS)**

- Would establish (under KRS 211 –Cabinet for Health and Family Services) a PFAS Working Group
- Would establish reporting requirements for products manufactured with PFAS

**HB 552: Waters of the Commonwealth (WOTC)**

- Amends definition of WOTC in KRS 224.1-010 to include any and all rivers, streams, creeks, lakes, ponds, impounding reservoirs, springs, wells, marshes, and all other bodies of surface or underground water
- Deletes definitions added by 2025 Senate Bill 89

**HB 693: Extension of Water or Sewer Service**

- Amends KRS 96.150 to provide that when a city extends its water supply or sanitary sewer system into the service territory of another system, and fails to provide service to its new customers within the agreed upon time to do so, the affected customers may elect to receive their service from their previous provider for as long as the service is available

**HB 103/Senate Bill (SB) 55: Optional Fluoridation**

- Would make water fluoridation programs optional
- Determination made by governing bodies of water systems

**Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 62: Division of Water (DOW) Study – Debris Removal**

- Directs DOW to prepare a report providing recommendations and clear guidance on how local governments can more easily access jurisdictional streams and waterways for cleanup after a flood

**SB 52: Permit/License Timeframes**

- If a permit does not have state or federal regulatory timeframes, State agency shall approve or deny an application for a license or permit within 60 days
- If not approved or denied within this timeframe, the application shall be deemed approved
- If state agency issues written justification within 60 days for deficiencies, extension shall not exceed 30 days under any circumstance

**SB 178: Environmental Regulations**

- Create a new section of KRS Chapter 13A to define various terms
- Prohibit an administrative regulation setting an environmental requirement (under specific KRS) from being more stringent or extensive in scope than any federal law or regulation regarding the same or a similar topic
- Require any administrative regulation setting an environmental requirement to be based upon the best available science and the weight of scientific evidence as defined
- Best available science and the weight of scientific evidence shall establish a direct causal link between exposure at or above any standards set forth in the administrative regulation and manifest bodily harm in humans based on generally accepted scientific or technical practices

**C. SB89 Updates & Resources** – Director Marshall gave update on 2025’s SB89 with the following online resources:

Senate Bill 89 resources can be accessed through the Division of Water’s main webpage (<https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water/Pages/default.aspx>) via the ‘News’ panel on the right side of the screen.

The Senate Bill 89 webpage includes information about the Water Advisory Memos and are located on the main portion of the webpage (<https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/resources/Pages/KY-Senate-Bill-89.aspx>).

Director Marshall also highlighted the resourced developed by the Cabinet to highlight proposed WOTUS Impacts. More detailed information can be found linked below:

[Protecting Kentucky Waters Infographic](#)

[Protecting Kentucky Waters 2026](#)

[Kentucky Water Resources 2026](#)

Director Marshall also demonstrated where to locate comments the Cabinet has made on recent proposed Federal rules. From the main Division of Water page, interested individuals can select ‘Regulations and Standards’ located near the bottom of the website. From that webpage (<https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water/Regs/Pages/default.aspx>), interested individuals can select ‘View Comments on Federal Regulations’ located in the middle of the page. That header stores all comments the agency has submitted for federal regulations.

**A. Water Infrastructure Branch Updates** - Hollie Delaney, Branch Manager of Water Infrastructure Branch (WIB).

WIB currently has 435 total projects, 180 Clean Water and 255 Drinking Water. WIB needs to submit the lists to the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority by the end of March so that they can submit the Intended Use Plan (IUP) to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by their due date. The Kentucky SRF Program has their Annual EPA audit of the State Revolving Funds (SRF) program the week of Monday, March 9, 2026. The branch will be working on Drinking Water Infrastructure needs survey as soon as they are authorized by EPA to do so. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) will be ending in federal fiscal year (FY) 2027, and Hollie Delaney emphasized the importances for utilities to submit information for the Drinking Water and Clean Water Needs Surveys.

Assistant Director John Webb provided additional updates about SRF. On Thursday (1/15), the U.S. Senate passed [H.R.6938](#), moving forward the FY26 funding levels for the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF) at \$1,126,101,000 and Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) at \$1,638,861,000, identical to FY25 levels. Earmarks will take \$715,364,627 from that DWSRF amount and \$892,762,272 from that CWSRF amount. An additional \$13,300,000 will also be allocated for EPA salaries/expenses/administration tied to administering earmarks.

SRF Total After Earmarks:

DWSRF: \$410,736,373

CWSRF: \$746,098,728

**B. Priority Pipeline Update** – Assistant Director Joanna Ashford, provided updates on progress and changes for the KWUAC Meetings. Committees continue to be a focus, and the Division will work with co-chairs to identify goals and tasks for each committee. The Coffee with the Regulator was an idea proposed at the last meeting and the implementation seemed to be successful. The Division of Water will continue pre-meeting survey to better build the agenda for future meetings. Some future topics include wastewater, permitting,

and funding.

### **III. Committee/Workgroup Reports**

**Nutrients Subcommittee** – Josiah Frey, Environmental Scientist Consultant

The next meeting will be on March 16, 2026, at 10AM, with both in person and virtual option.

**Lead in Drinking Water Workgroup** – Elizabeth Dowling, Environmental Scientist Consultant

This committee will meet on June 10, 2026, 11AM, with both in person and virtual option.

### **IV. Comments and Announcements**

Eileen Miller, Environmental Scientist Advisor with DOW, gave updates on Lead in Schools and said there was funding available for remediation for the schools who need updates due to having lead in them.

Nick Hart with Kentucky Waterway Alliance – KWA is doing a waste Tire Survey in the rivers and streams. There will be signs posted in the Green River Watershed area, where individuals can scan a QR code and mark where they can show where they have found tire(s).

Dale Booth, Environmental Scientist Advisor with DOW, gave an update on debris removal in streams. She also discussed that letters of intent for the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant Program (OSG) grant are due in April 2026.

Chloe Brantley (KRWA) said they are starting a Pilot Program for a Source water Protection Fund that will have revolving funding for required implementation.

Valerie Lucas, Clean Water Professionals of Kentucky & Tennessee shared information about the upcoming Water Collaborative Delivery Conference on April 1-2 at the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, KY.

More Info:

Join us for a 2-day workshop focusing on the full range of design-build methods that have been proven to be most effective for the water sector. Education sessions are designed to empower owners, government officials, and practitioners with proven best practices for planning, procuring, delivering, and managing collaborative delivery projects in the water sector. Taught by one of the nation's leading water design-build and CMAR experts, this industry-aligned experiential workshop blends essential knowledge with practical application to ensure that attendees leave prepared to collaborate successfully, lead change, and achieve successful project outcomes.

Registration Link:

[https://www.memberleap.com/members/evr/reg\\_main.php?orgcode=KYTN&evid=48582733](https://www.memberleap.com/members/evr/reg_main.php?orgcode=KYTN&evid=48582733)

### **V. Future Meetings**

Director Marshall announced the 2026 Schedule of KWUAC meetings and asked if anyone had objections to the proposed dates. No objections were raised.

**C. Friday, June 26, 2026** at 10:00 am

**D. Friday, September 4, 2026** at 10:00 am

**E. Friday, December 11, 2026** at 10:00 am

### **VI. Adjournment**

Director Marshall adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:45 am.