

KENTUCKY WATER UTILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 5, 2025, 10:00 AM ET
300 SOWER BLVD., FRANKFORT, KY 40601
HYBRID VIDEO TELECONFERENCE

The Kentucky Water Utilities Advisory Committee is an informal advisory workgroup 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, John Carlton, Josiah Frey, Jory Becker, Hollie Delaney, Joanna Ashford, Jason Hurt, Nick Reif, Michele Cook, Terry Humphries, Kevin Stewart, Elizabeth Dowling, Ben Currens, Dale Booth, Eileen Miller, and Gabe Tanner. **Others:** Melanie Arnold (EEC DEP), Jason Baird (KLC), Chloe Brantley (KRWA), Holly Castlen (RWRA Owensboro), Roy Gray (RCAP), Peter Goodmann (Louisville Water), Nick Hart (KWA), Richard Harrison (NKWD), Alicia Jacobs (KY American), Carey Johnson (AECOM), Stephanie Laughlin (Louisville MSD), Valerie Lucas (CWP-KT), Donna McNeil (UK KWRI), Maggie Neal (RCAP – GLCAP), Russell Neal (EEC KIA), Terry Roach (Carrollton Utilities), Russ Rose (Oldham Co. Water), Kay Sanborn (KY/TN AWWA), Justin Sasabaugh (KY American), Mark Sneeve (ACEC-KY), Scot Treece (La Grange Utilities), Derrick Willis (Carrollton Utilities), Scott Young (KRWA),

Present via MS Teams: Paulette Akers (DOW), Joanna Ashford (DOW), Chris Bobay (Louisville Water), Corey Bond (Elizabethtown), Shannon Bryant (DOW), Marshall Carrier (Danville), Toby Church (CEI), Erin Donges (PSC), Sarah Gaddis (DOW), Dana Garrett (GRADD), Ethan Givan (DOW), Jim Gibson (SD1), Edward Grayson (BGMU), Sarah Griffith (SD1), Thalika Hollingsworth (KY American), Lisa Jones (DOW), Philip Kejzlar (EEC DENF), Shelby Lamar-Mills (EEC OLS), Jason Lambert (DOW), Jackie Logsdon (DOW), Sierra McComas (EEC), Ken Melton (DOW), Tiffany Messer (UK KWRI), James Noel (Princeton Water), Brendan O'Bryan (KY American), Ameerah Palacios (Stvinc), Joe Pavoni (BGMU), Todd Powers (EEC), Jacquelyn Quarles (Louisville MSD), Mindy Scott (SD1), Brooke Shireman (SD1), Skyler Stewart (GRADD), Shanna Stone (Oldham Co.), Damon Talley (Louisville MSD), Darren Thompson (Lebanon Water Works), Andy Tompkins (Danville), Sandy Williams (KIA), and Ty Wilson (HDR Inc.).

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

Director Sarah Marshall called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05 am ET and welcomed members and guests. Director Marshall introduced herself as the new director for the Division of Water and that she has been in the position for the last two months. She gave a brief overview of the agenda, topics to be discussed, and activities that will take place during the meeting.

II. DOW Updates

A. Meet Drinking Water Branch Manager and Water Infrastructure Branch Section Supervisors

Director Marshall explained that Kevin Stewart was the new branch manager for Drinking Water Branch (DWB) since May 2025, having previously been the section supervisor for the Laboratory Certification Section within DWB. She also explained that the Water Infrastructure Branch had recently undergone a branch-level reorganization and that the former Engineering Section had been divided into two sections. She also identified Ken Melton as the section supervisor of the new Clean Water Engineering Section. The section supervisor of the new Drinking Water Engineering Section is Terry Humphries.

B. Regulatory Revision Schedule – John Webb, Assistant Director

Assistant Director Webb discussed the regulatory recertification process that was established by the General Assembly in 2018, amending KRS Chapter 13A, and that DOW has been and is currently meeting the requirements of the process as regulations approach their seven-year expiration date. The process is intended to ensure compliance with updates to federal and state statutes and regulations as well as provide for a regular review schedule for any other necessary amendments or updates to the regulations, such as forms or other materials incorporated by reference. After review of the regulations in four chapters of Kentucky Administrative Regulations (“KAR”) Title 401, approximately twenty-one (21) regulations were identified as needing amendments for one reason or another. For those requiring amendment, a notice of intent to amend was filed with the Legislative Research Commission which provides an eighteen (18) month window for completing those amendments. Recertification letters were filed for all other regulations. Assistant Director Webb encouraged everyone to register for Kentucky RegWatch in order to keep informed of regulations entering a pre-vetting or public comment phase in order to ensure participation in the process. There is a four-year expiration on a RegWatch account, so some accounts may need to be reactivated. RegWatch may be subscribed to by visiting here: <https://secure.kentucky.gov/regwatch/>. He also suggested for those interested to contact him if interested in being included in the pre-vetting phase of regulations. His email is John.Webb@ky.gov.

He stated that the following regulation chapters in KAR Title 401 are approaching expiration and will have a set tentative pre-vetting schedule to consult with stakeholders prior to recertification. The following chapters and their anticipated pre-vetting window (subject to change) was mentioned:

- 401 KAR, Chapter 4 (Water Resources) – May through June 2026
- 401 KAR, Chapter 5 (Water Quality) – July through August 2026
- 401 KAR, Chapter 8 (Drinking Water Public Water Systems) – June through July 2026
- 401 KAR, Chapter 9 (Water Quality Certification) – May through June 2026

Chloe Brantley (KRWA) asked if major modifications were planned for any of the regulations. Assistant Director Webb stated that at least three regulations will undergo significant modifications due to changes in primacy. Those are regulations pertaining to Lead & Copper, PFAS, and Consumer Confidence Reports. The majority of expected amendments to regulations are to materials incorporated by reference.

Richard Harrison (NKWD) asked if there was intention for KWUAC to develop a subcommittee that participated in the regulations process. Assistant Director Webb stated it could be considered in the future.

C. Resource Monitoring, Data, and Source Water Protection Update – Ben Currens, Env. Scientist Consultant & Dale Booth, Env. Scientist Advisor

Environmental Scientist Consultant Ben Currens presented an overview on the history of water resources management in Kentucky; the influence of geology on water resources; how resources are characterized; the cooperation of the Division of Water, Kentucky Rural Water Association (KRWA), and Public Water Systems (PWS); as well as the importance of data: collection, maintenance, and exploration. Mr. Currens encouraged public water systems to be curious about their resources, add monitoring, review Wellhead Protection Plans (WhPPs) and Source Water Protection Plans (SWPPs), etc., and to contact him for more information.

Environmental Scientist Advisor Dale Booth presented an overview of Water Quality Protection (WQP) and data used for WQP. She explained that the purpose of WQP is to keep contamination out of drinking water sources. Monitoring is also important for resource management such as prevention, early detection, and mitigation. She explained the importance of SWPPs and reviewing those plans annually. She also explained the Safe Drinking Water Act requirements for Risk and Resilience Assessments and Emergency

Response Planning should include source water. PWSs are encouraged to identify best management strategies, partnerships for implementation, as well as potential funding sources, and to contact her with any questions.

III. Prioritization Pipeline Activity

Director Marshall initiated an interactive “Pipeline” activity in-person and online to receive input and feedback on KWUAC and its various subcommittees in order to gain insight from participants on how best to utilize and improve KWUAC's purpose, functionality, efficiency, and output.

The meeting was briefly suspended from approximately 11:00 am to 11:10 am for a break and to allow participants to complete the activity.

IV. Committee/Workgroup Reports

A. PFAS Subcommittee – Jackie Logsdon, Env. Scientist Consultant

Environmental Scientist Consultant Jackie Logsdon provided an update on the activities of the PFAS Subcommittee. She noted that the subcommittee last convened in August and subsequently decided to pause further meetings. This decision followed the EPA's May announcement of planned revisions to the current PFAS drinking water rule, which will maintain the 4 ppt (parts per trillion) maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFOA and PFOS while rescinding other PFAS maximum contaminant levels (NMCLs) and the Hazard Index, and extending the compliance deadline to 2031 to accommodate necessary infrastructure installations for water systems.

The EPA indicated that a revised rule proposal would appear in the fall, though recent state-EPA implementation discussions clarified that December still qualifies as fall, with unofficial indications suggesting a possible delay past January 1, 2026. A final rule is anticipated in spring 2026, potentially incorporating additional modifications as seen previously with the current rule.

EPA recently released an update to the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS) database, where compliance data is uploaded, to accommodate the PFAS rule. Once the database testing is complete, DOW will begin accepting initial monitoring data. Appropriate process adjustments are being made amid ongoing uncertainties. The subcommittee will reconvene after the proposed rule revisions have been released.

B. Nutrients Subcommittee – Josiah Frey, Env. Scientist Consultant

Environmental Scientist Consultant Josiah Frey provided an update on the activities of the Nutrients Subcommittee. The group met shortly after the last KWUAC session in May, including a tour of the Hite Creek facility. Frey presented key findings from a standardized survey conducted with subcommittee members—similar to an earlier online exercise—highlighting two priority areas to guide upcoming discussions: nutrient management successes and broader utility challenges.

Top successes identified include innovative operational approaches such as optimization and novel data management techniques, alongside procedural adjustments to meet existing or forthcoming permit requirements, such as investments in biological nutrient removal (BNR) or other technologies. Subcommittee members ranked challenges, with limited affordable funding sources, aging infrastructure, and operational management emerging as predominant concerns. Co-chairs Mark Sneeve and Damon Talley plan follow-up meetings in early 2026 to action these insights; a QR code was shared for complete survey responses.

C. Lead in Drinking Water Workgroup – Elizabeth Dowling, Env. Scientist Consultant

Environmental Scientist Consultant Elizabeth Dowling provided an update on the activities of the Lead in Drinking Water Workgroup. She outlined progress from the Workgroup, emphasizing compliance with the

Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). The service line inventory subgroup, in collaboration with the Division of Water, developed an updated template incorporating LCRR requirements, including replacement planning and tap sampling strategies. The funding and replacement subgroup identified gaps in information about resources on private-side replacement funding beyond the State Revolving Fund (SRF), expressing interest in regional or local options and potential Area Development District (ADD) involvement.

The Childcare and Schools Subgroup is developing three guidance documents and a data management system with the Division of Water, as sampling begins in 2028 for some facilities and is already underway in others, integrating with the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) program's voluntary lead testing in schools for lead and copper compliance. Materials like "Check Your Pipes" resources—covering lead service line identification for customers—have been refreshed, with promo and downloadable items available for members; the objective is consistent statewide messaging and support for small systems lacking administrative capacity. The workgroup is pursuing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with EPA to extend current primacy arrangements through 2021 LCRR, followed by an LCRR primacy application by December 2026.

Dowling announced a dedicated session at the upcoming Kentucky-Tennessee Water Professionals Conference (WPC) conference on lead and drinking water topics, inviting workgroup members and others to contribute presentations, and reiterated the need for greater small-system utility participation at quarterly one-hour meetings.

V. Comments and Announcements

Director Marshall announced the high-level general results of the "Pipeline" activity. Participants conducted the Pipeline Activity, categorizing inputs into "Flowing In" (useful elements to retain), "Draining Out" (ineffective elements to discard), and "Future Projects" (new initiatives to pursue). Results were captured on three boards in-person and via an online survey and reflect collective feedback from KWUAC members on meeting value, subcommittee effectiveness, and strategic priorities.

Flowing In: Participants identified multiple strengths to maintain, including active subcommittees such as Nutrient, PFAS, and Operator groups; "State of the State" updates; topical committee report-outs; Drinking Water Wednesday emails; and ready access to KDOW staff for questions and networking. Story maps and source water protection resources received praise for their utility, with calls to build on this foundation, alongside stakeholder engagement on rule changes, Water Loss accountability efforts, Lead in Drinking Water Workgroup activities, and hybrid in-person/virtual meeting formats. Additional valued elements encompass quarterly KWUAC updates, DOW presentations with staff updates and org charts, policy/legislation discussions, regulation updates, science explanations (e.g., monitoring), enhanced mapping, communication with attendees, infrastructure planning process focus, and putting faces to names through consistent DOW attendance.

Draining Out: The group identified several points for elimination, including subcommittees that are inactive or unproductive; presentations that dive too deeply into technical details without sufficient high-level overviews; meetings held without clear projects, priorities, or actionable agendas; and delivering non-essential information rather than focusing on critical topics. Suggestions included surveying attendees post-presentation for beneficial content and ensuring KDOW speakers provide context to bring all participants up to speed.

Future Projects: Priority initiatives to launch or enhance include increased legislative presence to showcase ongoing work; collaborative source water protection projects; stormwater updates (MS4 permits, regulations, innovations); MS4/CSO program updates; pre-circulated draft agendas for member input; pre-polling for topics of interest; exploring AI/databases/computing impacts in water; partner for safe water

expansion; an annual water summit; water supply planning refocus; rule change pre-review committees with more clean water focus; greater stakeholder interaction and direction for subcommittees; leveraging local utility expertise and optimization ideas; improved accessibility/recruitment/grant funding for small/tiny systems; affordability and workforce development efforts; utility service area mapping; pre-public comment collaboration; assigning specific tasks to committees; a Regulatory Update Stakeholder Advisory Committee; and funding advocacy.

VI. 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.

- A. Friday, March 6, 2026** at 10:00 am
- B. Friday, June 26, 2026** at 10:00 am
- C. Friday, September 4, 2026** at 10:00 am
- D. Friday, December 11, 2026** at 10:00 am

VII. Adjourn

Director Marshall adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:58 am.