

**Water Resources Board
Meeting Minutes
August 29, 2016**

Board Members in Attendance: Lowell Atchley (Proxy, LRC); Brent Burchett (Proxy, Dept. of Agriculture); Earl Bush (County Judge Executives); Steve Coleman (KY Farm Bureau); Dr. Nancy Cox (UK); Lloyd Cress, Jr. (KY League of Cities); John Dix (KRWA); Teresa Hill (Proxy, LRC); Kevin Jeffries (Soil and Water Conservation Districts); Kevin Rogers (KY Chamber of Commerce); Charles Snavelly (EEC Secretary);

Board Members Absent: Tom McKee (LRC); Ryan Quarles (Commissioner Dept. of Agriculture)

Others in Attendance: Paulette Akers (Acting Director, DCA); Bill Caldwell (KDOW); Pete Cinotto (USGS); Annette Dupoint-Ewing (KMUA); Stuart Foster (KCC); Peter Goodmann (Director KDOW); Samantha Kaiser (KDOW); Aaron Keatley (Commissioner DEP); Jim Kipp (KWRRRI); Gary Larimore (KRWA); Haley McCoy (EEC); Bruce Scott (Deputy Secretary EEC); Jeff Woods (USGS)

The meeting began at 1:05 p.m.

Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call of Board Members

EEC Secretary and Board Chair Charles Snavelly called the meeting to order and led the roll call of Board members.

Introduction of Guests

Guests introduced themselves.

Approve Minutes of July 27, 2016

Changes were made to the spelling of Brent Burchett's name. The Board approved the July Meeting Minutes by consensus.

Draft Ground Rules

Mr. Peter Goodmann discussed the draft ground rules. The Board agreed that a proxy may attend a meeting in the absences of a Board member. The ground rules will be updated with this change.

Presentation by Bill Caldwell, KDOW – *Water Use in Kentucky*

Mr. Caldwell gave a Power Point presentation regarding water use in Kentucky. Thermoelectric power generation is the largest contributor to water usage nationally and in Kentucky. Irrigation is the second largest contributor nationally to water usage. From 1964 to 2012, Kentucky increased the total number of irrigated acres by about 59,000 acres. Though future irrigation is difficult to project, increases are likely to occur in Kentucky. Monitoring and data collection should include assessments of water availability and demand on surface water, aquifers, springs, and lakes.

Presentation by Pete Cinotto, Assistant Director KY-IN Science Center, USGS – *Monitoring Kentucky's Water Resources*

Mr. Cinotto gave a Power Point presentation regarding monitoring Kentucky's water resources. As climate changes and growing seasons get longer, there will be a corresponding increase in demand for water. Irrigation will likely be of greater importance and the ability to quantify and manage local water resources will be more critical. Adequate data for Kentucky's waterbudget equation is necessary to manage Kentucky's water resources in critical areas. A notable gap exists in USGS's data in Western KY and the Cumberland River Basins. Kentucky Geological Survey is making progress towards improved statewide groundwater monitoring and research, but significant data gaps still exist. Real-time continuous data is critical to determining causes and effects of water quality issues. The USGS is using "Super Gages" to estimate nitrite plus nitrate annual loads of waters coming in and going out of Kentucky, but not all sites on all major river basins are being monitored.

Presentation by Dr. Stuart Foster, State Climatologist, Kentucky Climate Center WKU – *Monitoring Kentucky's Climate: The Kentucky Mesonet*

Dr. Foster gave a Power Point presentation regarding the use of the Mesonet system to monitor Kentucky's weather and climate. The most recent drought in Kentucky began in early 2012. Comparing historical drought data shows that every drought is different in terms of onset, duration, intensity, and geographical extent. Kentucky's climatological records have evolved from manual data collection to the Mesonet systems and the state's diverse terrain creates distinct local vulnerabilities to weather and climate. This makes site selection for the Mesonet system important because, quality data requires quality sites. WKU currently has about sixty-six Mesonet sites in Kentucky. One hundred sites would be adequate to decrease data gaps. Dr. Foster stressed the importance of partnering with local officials which is beneficial for site selection and maintenance.

Action Items and Reports

Mr. Steve Coleman distributed the Projects Subcommittee – Initial Concepts outline and briefly discussed it with the group. The next steps will be prioritizing listed items and add any additional items to the list.

Open Discussion for Board Members

The Board indicated interest in a presentation on funding sources, and to discuss the differences between State Cost Share Funds (SCS) and State Revolving Funds (SRF). Due to the increase in poultry farms, leveraging USDA dollars might be of interest to the Board. A member from the Army Corps of Engineers will be invited to a future meeting. The Board indicated interest in discussing Kentucky's Red Tape Reduction Initiative at the next meeting.

Public Comment Period

No public comments were made.

Next Meeting 1:00 PM - September 29, 2016

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.