**MEETING MINUTES**

**Agriculture Water Quality Authority**

**February 11, 2021 9:30 AM**

**Zoom Video Conference**

**Meeting ID: 836 4605 1552**

**Passcode: AWQA**

**Inattendance**: Mr. Larry Thomas, Chair, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Ms. Paulette Akers, Division of Conservation; Mr. Ron Brunty, Environmental Groups; Mr. Todd Clark, Member-at- large; Dr. Amanda Gumbert, UK College of Agriculture; Mr. Brandon Howard, Division of Forestry; Ms. Angela Billings, Department of Public Health; Mr. Mark Burnett, Member-at-large; Mr. Paul Miller, Division of Water; Mr. Greg Stone, Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Mr. Randy McCallon, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts.

**Also in attendance** : Ms. Johnna McHugh, Division of Conservation; Mr. Steve Coleman, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Mr. Joe Cain, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Mr. John Pitcock, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; Mr. Pete Cinotto, United States Geological Survey; Mr. Josiah Frey, Division of Water; Mr. John Webb, Division of Water; Mr. Abe Nielson, Division of Forestry; Mr. Michael Froelich, Division of Forestry; Mr. Steve Rogers, Division of Forestry; Mr. Gordon Slone, DNR, Commissioner; Mr. David Chinn, Monty’s Plant Food; Ms. Mahtaab Bagherzadeh, Division of Water; Ms. Kathleen Saunier, Office of Legal Services; Ms. Sonya Keith, Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Mr. Jim Roe, Division of Conservation.

**Meeting Called to Order** – 9:38 AM by Mr. Larry Thomas.

**Roll call of Authority members** – Quorum was met.

**Introduction of guests** – Introductions were made.

**Oath of office for new members** - Ms. Johnna McHugh began the swearing in process of Mr. Paul Miller and Mr. Brandon Howard. Ms. Johnna McHugh spoke the oath of office and both Mr. Paul Miller and Mr. Brandon Howard accepted.

**Approval of previous meeting minutes from November 12, 2020** – A motion to approve with correction was made by Mr. Todd Clark and was seconded by Dr. Amanda Gumbert. **Motion carried**.

**Old Business** –

* Election, subcommittee chairs, Streams and Other Water – Mr. Paul Miller stated that Ms. Sarah Gaddis will serve as the subcommittee Chair. Mr. Paul Miller along with Mr. John Webb will discuss other members’ additions and have them for the next AWQA meeting.
* Farmstead BMP #3 approval – Ms. Paulette Akers reported that the Division of Water approved the change in Farmstead BMP #3, moving Groundwater Protection Plans from a requirement to a recommendation. The Division of Water did not approve BMPs 2 and 4. This was due to BMPs 2 and 4 not meeting GPP requirements as an agriculture activity. GPPs will remain a requirement in BMPs 2 and 4.

**New Business** –

* **Subcommittee Reports**

**KASMC –** Mr. Pete Cinotto discussed the following with the Authority –

* Working on organizing a formal meeting in the near future.
* Ohio River water-quality super gages (sentry gages) are now a line item in the USGS budget. A new gage will soon be installed on the Salt River.
* Kentucky Drought Condition Monitor is operational and available for viewing.
	+ <https://va.water.usgs.gov/webmap/kentucky-drought/>
* Upcoming meeting with Mr. Steven Foster discussing the National Soil and Moisture Monitoring network expansion.

**Farmstead** – Dr. Steve Higgins - Not attended.

**Pesticides Fertilizers and other Agriculture Chemicals** – Mr. John Pitcock – No report given.

**Livestock and Poultry** – Mr. Keith Rogers discussed the following with the Authority –

* Currently no BMPs for the disposal of slop and silage leachate.
* No BMPs to address food waste from manufacturing facilities. This does not fall under the AWQA but does have DEP permit requirements.

**Crops** – Mr. Adam Andrews – Not attended.

**Silviculture** – Mr. Brandon Howard and Mr. Abe Nielson discussed the following with the Authority:

* Forestry board to hold meeting in the near future.
* Updating the inspector’s manual.
	+ Requesting administrative change to some of the BMPs.
* Changes to numerical order of BMP Logging field guide in order to coincide with the inspector’s manual.
* Update the electronic copy of the AWQP to match UK field guide.
	+ DOC approved and changes were made.

**Streams and Other Waters** – Not addressed.

**Education and Outreach** – Mr. Todd Clark, Mr. Josiah Frey and Mr. John Webb discussed the following with the Authority:

* AWQP E-Workbook
* Making progress on identifying additional bugs that need correcting.
* More training and possible public interface coming in March.

**Quarterly update of AWQA related violations –** Ms. Paulette Akers informed the Authority of 13 violations of the Ag Water Quality Act since the last meeting. Seven of the violations were from dairy operations, three from beef and three others from waste. Last year’s violations were 73 in total.

**Updates from members** –

* Dr. Amanda Gumbert discussed the following with the Authority:
* Virtual Farmers Shop Talks
	+ Link (<https://news.ca.uky.edu/article/virtual-shop-talks-farmers-focuses-stewarding-resources-hard-times>)
	+ Making Progress through On-Farm Trials March 3rd.
	+ Topic is Rethinking Nutrient Management to be held on Feb. 17th.
	+ Farmer-to-Farmer Perspectives to Help you Nail Down Your Next Steps is March 17th.

**Next Meeting** – Scheduled for April 8th @ 9:30 AM

Adjourn