**MEETING MINUTES**

**Agriculture Water Quality Authority**

**Thursday, February 13, 2020**

**300 Sower Blvd.**

**Frankfort, KY**

**Inattendance**: Mr. Larry Thomas, Chair, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Mr. Joseph Sisk, Vice Chair, Member-at-Large; Ms. Paulette Akers, Director, Division of Conservation; Mr. Allan Bryant, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Mr. James Wright, Director, Division of Forestry; Mr. Mark Burnett, Farmer, Member-at-Large; Mr. Todd Clark, Farmer, Member-at-Large; Mr. Brian Lacefield, Kentucky Farm Service Agency, USDA-FSA; Mr. Chuck Taylor, Kentucky Geological Survey; Mr. Ron Brunty, Environmental Groups; Mr. Keith Rogers, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; Mr. John Webb, Branch Manager, Division of Water; and Ms. Sonya Keith, Assistant State Conservationist, USDA-NRCS;

**Also in attendance**: Ms. Johnna McHugh, Assistant Director, Division of Conservation; Mr. Josiah Frey, Division of Water; Mr. John Webb, Branch Manager, Division of Water; Mr. Brandon Howard, Division of Forestry; Ms. Tammy Barnes, UK Cooperative Ext. Assistant; Dr. Steve Higgins, University of Kentucky; Mr. Joe Cain, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Mr. Josiah Frey, Division of Water; Mr. Brandon Howard, Division of Forestry; Mr. Abe Nielsen, Division of Forestry; Ms. Mahtaab Bagherzadeh, Division of Water; Ms. Laura Knoth, Kentucky Corn and Small Grain Growers; and Mr. Jeff Gravitt, Division of Conservation.

**Meeting Called to Order** – 1:04 PM by Mr. Larry Thomas.

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

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

**Approval of previous meeting minutes from November 13, 2019** – A motion to approve was made by Mr. Ron Brunty and was seconded by Mr. Allan Bryant. **Motion carried**.

**Old Business** – No old business discussed.

**New Business**

* **Subcommittee Reports**
* KASMC **–** Ms. Paulette Akers updated the Authority on the discussions of the last KASMC meeting.
* Farmstead – Dr. Steve Higgins – No report stated.
* Pesticides, Fertilizers and other Agriculture Chemicals – John Pitcock – Not attended
* Livestock and Poultry – Mr. Keith Rogers informed the board that the committee will be meeting soon and discussing the creation of a BMP for distillers operations.
* Crops – Mr. Larry Thomas and Ms. Paulette Akers discussed the February 6 conference call of the crops committee, chaired by Mr. Adam Andrews. Ms. Paulette Akers went over changes and updates to the BMP’s and EPA funding (available on Feb. 12).

Mr. Chuck Taylor discussed the removal of BMP #14. BMP #14 is a copy of BMP # 4. Mr. Keith Rogers made a motion to remove BMP #14 from the Best Management Practices for Crops. Mr. Todd Clark seconded the motion. **Motion carried**.

* Silviculture – James Wright – No report stated.
* Education and Outreach – Todd Clark – No update stated.

**Quarterly update of AWQA related violations –** Ms. Paulette Akers informed the board of 59 violations in 2019. The violations are as follows:

* + Crops – 2 violations
	+ Hog – 8 violations
	+ Poultry – 3 violations
	+ Beef – 20 violations
	+ Dairy – 23 violations
	+ Streambank – 1 violation
	+ Horse – 1 violation
	+ Dead Animal Removal – 1 violation

**Updates from members –**

Mr. Ron Brunty asked Mr. James Wright about the White Oak initiative. Mr. James Wright discussed current state quantities and concerns for upcoming 40 to 50 year quantities and how to educate landowners in the reseeding of the white oaks. The University of Kentucky is taking the lead in education and funding. Mr. James Wright asked the board to take part in the Division of Forestry’s survey.

Mr. Brandon Howard discussed the following with the board:

* Timber harvest program.
* New staff levels and staff training.
* Current procedural reviews ongoing.
* Ash wood removal and federal limits.

Mr. Allan Bryant thanked Ms. Sonya Keith (NRCS) for her help with the technical employee agreement between NRCS and KACD.

Mr. John Webb stated that Mr. Paul Miller would be taking the place of Mr. Peter Goodmann as the Director of the Division of Water.

Ms. Paulette Akers stated that Mr. Gordon Sloan is the new Commissioner for the Department of Natural Recourses and Ms. Rebecca Goodman has taken over as the new Secretary of the Energy and Environment Cabinet.

Ms. Paulette Akers asked the board for three nominees for Authority. Five members are due October 1.

Dr. Higgins discussed new projects at Eden Shale and new design projects.

**Next Meeting** – April 23, 2019 @ Eden Shale. Lunch will be provided at a cost of $10.00 per person.

Adjourn – 2:21 PM