**MEETING MINUTES**

**Agriculture Water Quality Authority**

**May 4, 2023, 9:30 AM**

**326 Tree Nursery Road, West Liberty, KY**

**Inattendance**: Mr. Larry Thomas, Chair, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Mr. Joseph Sisk, Vice Chair, Member-at-Large; Ms. Paulette Akers, Division of Conservation; Mr. Dean Schamore, US Farm Service Agency; Mr. Fred Sipes, Member-at-Large; Dr. Amanda Gumbert, UK College of Agriculture; Ms. Megan Komar, Member-at-Large; Mr. Josiah Frey, Division of Water (Proxy for Carey Johnson); and Ms. Beth Williams, Division of Forestry.

**Also in attendance:** Ms. Johnna McHugh, Division of Conservation; Mr. Charlie Saunders, Division of Forestry; Ms. Angie Crain, United States Geological Survey; Mr. Brian Lacefield, Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy; Ms. Rebecca Ramsey, Division of Forestry; Ms. Pam Williams, Division of Conservation; Mr. Steve Beam, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Mr. Brandon Howard, Division of Forestry; Mr. Abe Nielsen, Division of Forestry; Ms. Chloe Brantley, Kentucky Rural Water Association; Mr. Michael Froelich, Division of Forestry; Ms. Renee Carrico, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Ms. Bridget Abernathy, Division of Forestry; and Mr. Jeff Gravitt, Division of Conservation.

**Meeting Called to Order** – 9:44 am by Mr. Larry Thomas.

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

Mr. Brandon Howard gave a brief overview of the history and process of the Morgan County nursery. Mr. Charlie Saunders gave an overview of what will be discussed and viewed at the nursery today.

**Approval of previous meeting minutes from February 2, 2023** – A motion to approve the meeting minutes with updates was made by Mr. Fred Sipes and was seconded by Mr. Joseph Sisk. **Motion carried**.

**Old Business** – Nothing to report.

**New Business-**

* Committee chairs –
	+ Dr. Amanda Gumbert nominated Mr. Pete Cinotto for KASMC and Ms. Sarah Gaddis for SOW Chairperson. Mr. Dean Schamore seconded the motion. **Motion carried**.

Mr. Fred Sipes nominated Mr. Joseph Sisk to serve as the Authority’s Vice-Chair. The nomination was seconded by Ms. Megan Komar. Mr. Joseph Sisk is elected to serve per acclamation.

* Subcommittee Reports –
* KASMC – Ms. Angie Crain gave a brief update and stated that the committee will meet before the next Authority meeting.
* Farmstead – No report given.
* Pesticides, Fertilizers, and other Agriculture Chemicals – Ms. Paulette Akers informed the Authority that the subcommittee will be meeting late May to early June and gave an update about the seating of new members.
* Livestock and Poultry – No report given.
* Crops – Ms. Paulette Akers informed the Authority that the subcommittee will be meeting soon and gave an update about the seating of new members.
* Silviculture – Ms. Beth Williams stated that the committee will meet in the fall.
* Streams and Other Waters – No report given.
* Education and Outreach – Dr. Amanda Gumbert told the Authority about upcoming workshops for new landowners. Resource people from several agencies will be available.

**Quarterly update of AWQA related violations** - Ms. Paulette Akers informed the Authority

that since the last meeting there have been 12 total violations. Six related to beef, three pertaining to dairy, two for land clearing and one dealing with poultry. Ms. Paulette Akers explained the process and steps involved when an agriculture operation receives a letter of warning or notice of violation.

**Updates from members** –

* Ms. Paulette Akers informed the Authority that she would be stepping down as an Authority member and as the Director of the Division of Conservation.
* Mr. Dean Schamore discussed upcoming program signups with the Authority.
* Mr. Brian Lacefield discussed the following with the Authority -
* 2023 master settlement funds are being distributed.
	+ Funds coming from national cigarette sales.
	+ $42 million in total funds.
* Conservation meetings with 600 in attendance.
* Mr. Steve Beam discussed the following with the Authority-
* NRCS EQIP $26 million in total funds.
	+ Looking at acquiring more funds.
* National Water Quality Initiative and MRBI were fully funded.
* Mr. Dean Schamore discussed the following with the Authority-
* Grain Bins Storage Program.
	+ No new funding allocated.
* Tornado funding issues.
* Mr. Brandon Howard discussed infrastructure money going toward capacity building and equipment for nurseries.
* Ms. Renee Carrico discussed the following with the Authority –
* Changes in staffing.
* New livestock person, Mr. Donavan Pigg.
* Looking to hire a new marketing specialist.
* Ms. Renee Carrico is now Commodity Division Director.

**Next Meeting** – August 24th, 1:00 pm at the Kentucky State Fair and Expo Center.

**Adjourn** – 10:30 am