



Agriculture Water Quality Authority

Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2025 | 1:00 PM

Kentucky State Fair
Freedom Hall, Saddle & Sirloin Room
Louisville, KY

Members In Attendance: Mr. Larry Thomas, Chair, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Mr. Randy McCallon, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Ms. Megan Bailey-Komar, Member-at-Large; Mr. Fred Sipes, Member-at-Large; Mr. John Chism, Department of Agriculture; Dr. Amanda Gumbert, UK College of Agriculture; Mr. Joseph Sisk, Member-at-Large; Ms. Beth Williams, Kentucky Division of Forestry; Mr. Chuck Taylor, Kentucky Geological Survey; and Mr. Chris Howard, Environmental Groups.

Others in Attendance: Mr. Jay Nelson, Division of Conservation; Ms. Kathleen Saunier, Energy and Environment Cabinet; Ms. Shelby Lamar Mills, Energy and Environment Cabinet; Ms. Johnna McHugh, Division of Conservation; Ms. Kristine Whybark, Division of Conservation; Mr. Gordon Slone, Department for Natural Resources; Mr. David Wayne, Kentucky Farm Service Agency; Mr. Steve Beam, Kentucky Natural Resources Conservation Service; Mr. John Lyons, Office of Secretary EEC; Mr. Adam Andrews, Kentucky Corn Growers Association; Mr. Larry Taylor, Office of Secretary EEC; Mr. Eric Allness, United States Department of Agriculture; Mr. Pete Cinotto, Kentucky Agriculture Science and Monitoring Committee; Mr. Josiah Frey, Division of Water; Ms. Kim Barton, Division of Conservation; and Mr. Jeff Gravitt, Division of Conservation.

Roll Call of Authority Members: Quorum was met.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes from February 6, 2025 – A motion to approve was made by Dr. Amanda Gumbert and was seconded by Mr. Fred Sipes. ***Motion carried.***

Mr. Jay Nelson asked the Authority for a discussion at the next meeting on the draft operating guidelines. Ms. Johnna McHugh will incorporate the suggestions from the May meeting for review for the next Authority meeting.

New Business:

- Committee Reports:
 - *KASMC*: Mr. Pete Cinotto stated at the last meeting they discussed the Mesonet, sharing data and archives with all partners, new technology, and updating the membership list. Mr. Larry Thomas indicated that Mr. Pete Cinotto was willing to serve another term as KASMC chair, so Mr. Larry Thomas nominated Mr. Pete Cinotto to serve.
 - *Farmstead*: Ms. Kim Barton – No report given.
 - *Pesticides & Fertilizers*: Mr. Adam Andrews – No report given.
 - *Livestock & Poultry*: Mr. Sipes discussed the following with the Authority:
 - The committee has met a few times and updated BMPs. The BMPs are ready, except for BMP 12 on *Equine and Poultry Waste Feed*. The committee will continue to work on putting together a BMP for distillers' grains. Mr. Josiah Fry suggested looking at the DOW guidelines.
 - *Crops*: Mr. Andrews – No report given.
 - *Silviculture*: Ms. Beth Williams provided the report as Mr. John Reinstetle was unable to attend and discussed the following with the Authority:
 - The last meeting was held in June, and the committee will meet again in October.
 - *Streams & Other Waters*: Mr. Jay Nelson provided the report as Ms. Paulette Akers was unable to attend and discussed the following with the Authority:
 - The new karst BMP is being developed and is nearing completion.
 - The pond BMP is complete.
 - *Education & Outreach*: Dr. Gumbert discussed the following with the Authority:
 - The committee has not met yet, but plan on meeting soon to work on the schedule for winter.
 - *One Good Idea* virtual meetings.
 - Looking for a new cooperator to put BMPs on the ground to feature in promotional items.
- Quarterly Update of AWQA Related Violations: Mr. Nelson gave the quarterly reports:
 - First quarter there was 9 violations; all were livestock.
 - Second quarter there were 10 violations: 7 for livestock, 2 for forestry and 1 for crop.
 - There was a brief discussion of the recently passed SB89 and how it might affect the statewide Ag Water Quality Plan. Further discussion within the EEC needs to happen.
- Terms ending for Authority Vice Chair and KASMC Committee Chair: Mr. Thomas reported that Mr. Joseph Sisk is willing to serve another term as Vice Chair. A motion to nominate Mr. Joseph Sisk as Vice Chair was made by Mr. Fred Sipes and was seconded by Dr. Amanda Gumbert. **Motion carried.** See above committee updates for KASMC.

- Updates from Members:
 - Mr. David Wayne discussed the following with the Authority:
 - Sign-up for ECAP program, and opened a second phase for crops.
 - Sign-up for SDRP program.
 - Completed 2 rounds of CRP sign-ups with the possibility of a 3rd.
 - Introduced himself to the Authority and attendees.
 - Mr. Eric Allness discussed the following with the Authority:
 - The reorganization plan for USDA was issued on July 26th and is open for a 30-day comment period for stakeholders in Congress.
 - EQIP is obligating \$25 million with an increase expected next year.
 - Sign-up for the next fiscal year begins September 26th.
 - Mr. Jay Nelson discussed the following with the Authority:
 - DOC/SWCC is working with NRCS (EWP) on funding for repairs on PL566 damage that incurred during the spring flooding events.
 - DOC is working with the Division of Water on flooding issues in smaller creeks, primarily in west Kentucky.
 - Ms. Megan Hill is the new field rep for the Division of Conservation. Her effective start date is September 1st. She will cover NE Kentucky.
 - September 1st starts the Art and Writing contest season.
 - Mr. Josiah Fry stated that the Nutrients in Agriculture Workgroup meeting will be on September 8th in Bowling Green.
 - Mr. Randy McCallon discussed the following with the Authority:
 - Kentucky Association of Conservation District convention. It is also the Southeast NACD meeting.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned.