

MEETING (NOTES) MINUTES

Agriculture Water Quality Authority

August 22, 2024, 1:30 PM

Kentucky State Fair

In attendance: Mr. Larry Thomas, Chair, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Mr. Joseph Sisk, Vice Chair, Member-at-Large; Mr. Randy McCallon, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Mr. Fred Sipes, Member-at-Large; Mr. John Chism, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; Sarah Gaddis, Division of Water; and Mr. Charles Taylor, Kentucky Geological Survey.

Also in attendance: Mr. Jay Nelson, Division of Conservation; Ms. Johnna McHugh, Division of Conservation; Mr. Eric Heard, Kentucky Pork Producers Association; Mr. Josiah Frey, Division of Water; Mr. Pete Cinotto, U.S. Geological Survey; Mr. Dustin Mattingly, USDA Farm Service Agency; Ms. Renee Carrico, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Mr. Larry Taylor, Energy and Environment Cabinet; Mr. Jeff Gravitt, Division of Conservation; John Lyons, Energy and Environment Cabinet; Mr. Lee Moser, University of Kentucky; Mr. Steve Beam, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Mr. John Reinstetle, University of Kentucky; and Kristine Whybark, Division of Conservation.

Meeting Called to Order – 1:31 pm by Mr. Larry Thomas.

Roll call of Authority members – Quorum was not met.

Oath of Office for new members - Mr. Jay Nelson informed the Authority that Ms. Paulette Akers will continue to fulfill her term until 2025.

Ms. Johnna McHugh began the swearing in process of Mr. John Chism and Ms. Sarah Gaddis. Ms. Johnna McHugh spoke the oath of office and both Ms. Sarah Gaddis and Mr. John Chism accepted.

Approval of previous meeting minutes from November 9, 2023 – No quorum. Minute approval moved to next meeting on November 21, 2024.

Old Business – Mr. Larry Thomas discussed the need to have Authority members to show up to meetings have a quorum.

New Business-

- Review and approval of revisions to four Streams and Other Waters BMPs – Mr. Jay Nelson gave an overview of the following BMPs revisions.
 - Streams and Other Waters BMP #1 Streams Crossing for Farm Equipment.
 - Streams and Other Waters BMP #2 Sand and Gravel Removal.
 - Streams and Other Waters BMP #3 Streambank and Shoreline Protection.
 - Streams and Other Waters BMP #4 Stream Flow Obstruction Removal.
- Subcommittee Reports –
 - KASMC – Mr. Pete Cinotto discussed the following with the Authority –
 - Upcoming meeting to be held on the 29th of August (with a Teams link for attendees).
 - Super Gages and current funding levels to be fully funded through USGS.
 - Farmstead – Not attended.
 - Pesticides, Fertilizers, and other Agriculture Chemicals – Not attended.
 - Livestock and Poultry – Mr. Fred Sipes informed the Authority that the subcommittee did meet back in February and discussed revisions. The subcommittee is working to finalize the revision to present to the Authority before the next meeting.
 - Crops – Not attended.
 - Silviculture – Mr. Lee Moser informed the Authority that they have 4 positions currently open inside the subcommittee and 4 possible members have been submitted to the Governor's office. 1,944 inspections have been made this year. There have been 5 emergency stop orders, but none of those have been for water quality. 9 bad actors have been identified this year.
 - Streams and Other Waters – Mr. Pete Cinotto stated the committee met in April to discuss the BMPs presented earlier in the meeting. The committee will meet again in September to discuss sinkholes and ponds.
 - Education and Outreach – Mr. John Reinstetle discussed the following with the Authority for Dr. Amanda Gumbert –
 - The subcommittee is planning on meeting this upcoming winter.
 - Good Idea Farms website update.

- Quarterly update of AWQA related violations – Mr. Jay Nelson informed the Authority of the latest quarterly AWQA violations-
 - 19 Quarterly violations in total (2 quarters shown) over 12 counties.
 - 8 dairy, 9 cattle, 1 hog, and 1 vegetable garden.
- Nominating Committee and election of officers at next meeting – Ms. Johnna McHugh informed the Authority of all the upcoming nominations. A nominating committee was formed. Serving on this committee will be Mr. Jay Nelson, Mr. Joseph Sisk, and Mr. Chuck Taylor.
- Updates from members –
 - Mr. Randy McCallon discussed the following with the Authority –
 - KACD Convention will be held in Louisville KY again next year and will coincide with the Southeast regional NACD meeting.
 - Geothermal drilling industry.
 - Mr. Chuck Taylor updated the commission on KY Water Well Drillers Board. The board would like to integrate better with the agriculture community because irrigation wells are exempt from regulation.
 - Mr. Josiah Frey discussed the following with the Authority-
 - Gulf Hypoxia Task Force meeting in May was held in Kentucky.
 - The task force is working on their report to Congress.
 - Ms. Johnna McHugh discussed the following with the Authority-
 - Biannual report will be ready for the Authority's approval in November.
 - Gave an update on current and future openings on the Authority.
 - Mr. Jay Nelson discussed the following with the Authority –
 - Division of Conservation is fully staffed since May of this year.
 - State Cost Share is down from \$2.5 million to \$2.0 million per year now.
 - Funding levels were \$8.0 million in 2008.
 - The Division of Conservation is currently working on a YouTube channel for district training.

Next Meeting – November 21, 2024, at 9:30 am, 300 Sower Blvd, Frankfort KY.

Adjourn – 2:11 pm