

MEETING MINUTES

Agriculture Water Quality Authority

Thursday, August 24, 2017

937 Phillips Ln, Louisville Kentucky

In attendance: Ms. Kim Richardson, Agriculture Water Quality Authority Chair and Director of Division of Conservation; Mr. Larry Thomas, Vice Chair and Kentucky Farm Bureau; Mr. Allen Kyle, Member-at-large; Mr. Peter Goodmann, Director of Division of Water; Mr. Allan Bryant, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Mr. Joseph Sisk, Member-at-Large; Ms. Karen Woodrich, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Mr. Ron Brunty, environmental groups; Dr. Steve Higgins, proxy for Dr. Amanda Gumbert, University of Kentucky; Keith Rogers, Department of Agriculture

Also in attendance: Ms. Johnna McHugh, Assistant Director, Division of Conservation; Mr. David Chinn, Monty's Plant Food Company; Mr. Jim Roe, Division of Water; Mr. Michael West, Energy and Environment Cabinet/Office of General Counsel; Ms. Paulette Akers, Kentucky Division of Compliance Assistance; Mr. Adam Andrews, Kentucky Corn Growers Association; Ms. Laura Knoth, Kentucky Corn Growers; Mr. Ernest Collins, concerned citizen; Mr. Steve Coleman, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Mr. John Pitcock, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; Mr. Brent Burchett, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; and Mr. Brian Lacefield.

Quorum was met.

Meeting Called to Order - at 1:30 p.m. by Ms. Kim Richardson.

Approval of previous meeting minutes – Approval for May 25, 2017 minutes was brought before the board. Mr. Allan Bryant noted a typo of the term KY-A-Syst. Mr. Allan Bryant made a motion to approve minutes with correction. Mr. Pete Goodman seconded motion. **Motion carried.**

Pesticide and Fertilizer BMP's – Mr. John Pitcock discussed changes that were made with the board.

- Reportable quantities.
 - Farmers are to refer to each product's own quantity descriptions.
- Defining the term sinkhole.

- Mr. Pete Goodman requested that in keeping with the past handling of sinkholes and the terminology of sinkholes, insert the language, “location of new storage facility is a min. of 100 ft. away from on-site wells and open throated sinkholes.
- Mr. Pete Goodman will work to define the term “sinkhole”. Mr. Pete Goodman will update the board before adjournment of meeting.
- BMP 5
 - Change the wording “shall” to “should”.
 - Blue text is for more separation.
 - Reference BMP 1 at the end of BMP 5.

Mr. Allen Kyle made a motion to approve with the exception of the definition of sinkhole. Mr. Pete Goodman seconded. **Motion tabled.**

Streams and Other Waterbodies BMPs – Mr. Jim Roe updated the board on the current BMP’s.

- Discussed regulatory needs and the agencies/groups that have reviewed the BMPs, ie; UK, DOW, and Division of Mine Permits.
- Overview of stream management with handout and webpage as examples.

Ms. Laura Knoth asked about nationwide permits and what changes have occurred. Mr. Jim Roe stated that he is still reviewing the changes and could not specify any changes as of yet. Mr. Jim Roe reiterated that the committee has held fast with the regulatory requirements for BMP changes.

Dr. Steve Higgins made a motion to approve the Streams and Other Waterbodies BMPs as presented. Mr. Ron Brunty seconded the motion. **Unanimous vote.**

Pesticide and Fertilizer BMP’s Revisited – Mr. Peter Goodman defines the term open throated sinkhole to the board. An open throated sink hole is a sink hole with an internal opening or drain including a cave or proto cave, conduit or sub-conduit or fissure, that leads to the subsurface through which water and other materials can pass from the sinkhole to the underlying solution voids and conduits. Open throats may be air filled or water filled.

Mr. Larry Thomas moved and Mr. Keith Rogers seconded the motion to bring motion off the table. **Unanimous vote.**

Mr. Pete Goodman amends the previous motion to include definition of open throated sinkhole. Mr. Joseph Sisk seconded motion. **Unanimous vote.** Motion as amended unanimous.

Strategic Plan Review – Ms. Karen Woodrich held a discussion and informed the board on any changes made to the Strategic Plan.

- Presented the February 2016 approved draft of the strategic plan. No changes have been made since then.
- A handout was given out and shows what action items have been accomplished.
 - (1) Develop AWQA brand for marketing (AWQA messaging)
 - ACTION: logo has been approved.
 - (2) Investigate the addition of an AWQA question on the NASS –
 - ACTION: not feasible at this time.
 - (3) Provide additional training to district staff and supervisors
 - ACTION: Dr. Amanda Gumbert has done this at least twice.
 - (4) Provide annual training for districts at KACD Convention
 - ACTION: Dr. Amanda Gumbert held training at both 2016 and 2017 Convention.
 - (5) Develop a set of ads/photos/videos for promotion Ag Water Quality Act, BMPs featuring farmers.
 - ACTION: Three videos have been completed as to date and three more are in process and forthcoming.
 - (6) Develop PowerPoint slides and speaking points for Authority members to use in presentations.
 - ACTION: Created and distributed to members.
 - (7) Convene a workgroup of stakeholders to discuss approaches to increasing funding for the implementation of the Agriculture Water Quality Act.
 - ACTION: Item has not been revisited as to date. This was assigned to Ad Hoc Committee. The committee was to be known as Resource Development committee and was to have Ms. Sandy Gruzesky as Chair with Mr. Pete Goodmann, Mr. Larry Thomas, Mr. Kevin Jeffries, and Mr. David Rowlett as members.
 - (8) Develop briefing sheet on AWQA
 - ACTION: Briefing sheet was presented to the board.
 - (9) Formalize AWQA procedures
 - ACTION: Updated procedures was added to each of the committees AWQA meeting briefing binders.

Ms. Karen Woodrich suggested to having an additional meeting of the Authority to decide on goals and any further actions that need to be taken. Mr. Allen Kyle suggested the afternoon of the November 16th AWQA meeting. Meeting time was accepted.

Mr. Pete Goodman suggested that the Farmstead Committee meet again and Dr. Steve Higgins asked to be a part of the committee.

The Outreach Committee needs to look into talking to Farmers Pride, Cow Country News, etc., about getting educational materials out.

Authority Members Comments – Mr. Joseph Sisk asked for more clarification on sinkholes and more notice before meetings.

Mr. Pete Goodman stated the EPA is working on answering all the questions concerning recent WOTUS ruling. He also addressed the facilities in Daviess County. Five letters of warnings were issued with no NOVs. Division of Water used multiple supervisors from other areas to do thorough inspections.

Dr. Steve Higgins informed the committee that since the first of the year the Federal Government has changed worker protection standards. This is causing a ripple effect throughout Kentucky. Mr. John Pitcock stated that the Department of Agriculture will be doing education when they receive the updated material. Mr. Joseph Sisk asked about the onerous parts. Mr. John Pitcock addressed the AEZ (application exclusion zone). This moves with your application and the people who are under your control have to be out of the AEZ.

Mr. Michael West addressed the question of reportable quantities that were brought up at last meeting. Mr. Michael West presented the Federal Regulation on the subject of quantities.

Comments from interested parties – No comments were made.

Follow-up / Actions to be taken – No comments were made.

Schedule next meeting date and location –

- November 16 at 300 Sower Boulevard in Frankfort

Adjourn – Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Allan Bryant and seconded by Mr. Allen Kyle.
Motion carried.