**MEETING MINUTES**

**Agriculture Water Quality Authority**

**August 24, 2023 1:00 PM**

**Kentucky State Fair and Exposition Center**

**Inattendance**: Mr. Larry Thomas, Chair, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Mr. Joseph Sisk, Vice Chair, Member-at-Large; Mr. Dean Schamore, US Farm Service Agency; Mr. Fred Sipes, Member-at-Large; Dr. Amanda Gumbert, UK College of Agriculture; Mr. Randy McCallon, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Mr. Carey Johnson, Kentucky Division of Water; and Ms. Beth Williams, Division of Forestry.

**Also in attendance:** Ms. Johnna McHugh, Division of Conservation; Mr. Kevin Jeffries, Magistrate, Oldham County; Mr. Brian Lacefield, Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy; Mr. Jay Nelson, Division of Conservation; Mr. Josiah Frey, Division of Water; Mr. Abe Nielsen, Department for Natural Resources; Mr. Larry Taylor, Energy and Environment Cabinet; Mr. David Chinn, Monty’s Plant Food Company; Mr. Adam Andrews, Kentucky Corn Growers; Ms. Renee Carrico, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Ms. Kathleen Saunier, Energy and Environment Cabinet; and Mr. Jeff Gravitt, Division of Conservation.

**Meeting Called to Order** – 1:19 PM by Mr. Larry Thomas.

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

**Approval of previous meeting minutes from May 4, 2023** – A motion to approve the meeting minutes with updates was made by Mr. Randy McCallon and was seconded by Mr. Fred Sipes. **Motion carried**.

**Old Business** – Ms. Johnna McHugh informed the Authority that there is no old business to discuss but wanted to let the Authority know that the process of appointing Mr. Brian Lacefield as an Authority member is ongoing. Ms. Johnna McHugh informed the Authority that the State Conservationist position for NRCS is still open.

**New Business-**

* Subcommittee Reports –
* KASMC – Ms. Angie Crain emailed Ms. Johnna McHugh and stated that she would not be able to attend today’s meeting, and they have not had a meeting.
* Farmstead – Not attended.
* Pesticides, Fertilizers, and other Agriculture Chemicals – Mr. Adam Andrews informed the Authority that the committee has not met but will be doing so in the upcoming weeks.
* Livestock and Poultry – Mr. Fred Sipes informed the Authority that the committee has not met yet.
* Crops – Mr. Adam Andrews informed the Authority that the committee has not met but will be doing so in the upcoming weeks.
* Silviculture – Ms. Beth Williams stated that the committee has not met but are working on a location to have the meeting.
* Streams and Other Waters – Not attended.
* Education and Outreach – Dr. Amanda Gumbert informed the Authority that the committee has not met yet but will be holding a meeting in late September.

**Quarterly update of AWQA related violations** - Ms. Johnna McHugh informed the Authority.

that since the last meeting there have been five notices of violation and four letters of warning from agricultural operations in the past quarter. Two of the notices of violation were dairy, one was forestry, one was swine, and one was beef. Ms. Johnna McHugh stated the letters of warning went to Warren, Spencer, Nelson, and Leslie counties.

**Updates from members** –

* Dr. Amanda Gumbert discussed the following extension perspectives with the

Authority -

* Many farmer education type projects that involve Mississippi State University and the University of Wisconsin are taking place.
	+ Virtual meetups with watershed professionals to create a network to integrate other colleagues that are doing work in Ag watersheds.
	+ Farmer based exchange conversations to start in the Fall and will update the Authority when this occurs.
* Mr. Josiah Frey handed out copies of the DOW Nutrient Reduction Strategy and discussed the following with the Authority –
	+ Kick-Off participation.
		- 44 attendees.
		- 102 invitees.
		- 21 expressed workgroup interest.
	+ Workgroups.
		- Ag. workgroup to be held on 9-21-23.
		- Public agencies workgroup to be held on 9-12-23.
		- NGO’s workgroup to be held on 9-26-23.
		- Utilities workgroup to be held on 9-19-23.
* Kickoff meeting resources.
	+ EEC.KY.GOV/NUTRIENTREDUCTION
		- See strategy resources tab.
* Mr. Randy McCallon discussed the following with the Authority –
	+ The KACD Convention in Bowling Green this year was considered a success.
	+ Ag Commissioner candidates spoke with KACD.
	+ Next years convention will be held in Louisville Kentucky.
* Mr. Brian Lacefield discussed the following with the Authority –
	+ Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy has moved to the KDA campus.
* Ms. Johnna McHugh discussed her current position (Acting Director) with the Division of Conservation. Ms. Johnna McHugh informed the Authority that with the upcoming election and the position being non-merit, the position of Director of Conservation will be filled after the upcoming election cycle (possibly January 2024). Ms. Johnna McHugh asked the Authority members to inform her of any subcommittee meeting so she can put out a press release.

**Next Meeting** – November 9, 2023 9:30 am @ 300 Sower Bldg, Frankfort, Kentucky

**Adjourn** – 1:36 pm