**MEETING MINUTES**

**Agriculture Water Quality Authority**

**August 25, 2022, 1:00 pm**

**Saddle and Sirloin Room**

**Kentucky State Fair and Exposition Center, Louisville, KY**

**Inattendance**: Mr. Larry Thomas, Chair, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Mr. Joseph Sisk, Vice Chair, Member-at-Large; Ms. Paulette Akers, Division of Conservation; Mr. Ron Brunty, Environmental Groups; Dr. Amanda Gumbert, UK College of Agriculture; Mr. Greg Stone, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Mr. Carey Johnson, Division of Water; Mr. Randy McCallon, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Mr. Fred L. Sipes, Member-at-Large, Mr. Dean Schamore, USDA Farm Service Agency; and Ms. Beth Williams, Division of Forestry.

**Also in attendance:** Ms. Johnna McHugh, Division of Conservation; Mr. Brian Lacefield, Kentucky Office of Agriculture Policy; Mr. Josiah Frey and Ms. Joanna Ashford, Division of Water; Ms. Kathleen Saunier, Energy and Environment Cabinet; Ms. Sonya Keith, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Mr. Adam Andrews, Kentucky Corn Growers; Mr. Joe Cain, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Mr. Pat Henderson, Breckinridge County Conservation District; Mr. David Chinn, Monty’s Plant Food Company; and Mr. Jeff Gravitt, Division of Conservation.

**Meeting Called to Order** – 12:14 pm by Mr. Larry Thomas.

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

**Oath of office for new members** - Ms. Johnna McHugh began the swearing in process of Mr. Dean Schamore. Ms. Johnna McHugh spoke the oath of office and Mr. Dean Schamore accepted.

**Approval of previous meeting minutes from May 5, 2022** – A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Mr. Randy McCallon and was seconded by Mr. Fred Sipes. **Motion carried**.

**Old Business** – No old business discussed.

**New Business** – No new business discussed

* **Subcommittee Reports**
* KASMC – Mr. Pete Cinotto – Not attended. No report given.
* Farmstead – Dr. Steve Higgins - Not attended. No report given.
* Pesticides Fertilizers and other Agriculture Chemicals – Mr. Larry Thomas informed the Authority that Mr. John Pitcock would like to step down as the Chair of the Pesticides, Fertilizer and other Agriculture Chemical committee. Mr. Larry Thomas will gather a nominating committee to nominate a new individual for the Pesticides, Fertilizers and other Agriculture Chemicals Chair.
* Livestock and Poultry – Mr. Keith Rogers - Not attended. No report given.
* Crops – Mr. Adam Andrews – No report given but will be scheduling something in the near future.
* Silviculture – Mr. Jeffrey Stringer – Not attended. No report given.
* Streams and Other Waters – Ms. Sarah Gaddis – Not attended. No report given.
* Education and Outreach – Ms. Paulette Akers discussed how some of the funds from the Division of Water grant has been utilized thus far.
  + Purchasing of rack cards. (AWQA information cards - Develop an Ag Water Quality Plan – eec.ky.gov/agwater).
  + Notebooks with Ag Water Quality logo on the front.
* Purchased 3,000 metal AWQA signs (I Protect Water/I have an Ag Water Quality Plan).
* The signs will be issued to priority watershed areas.
* Radio spots promoting Ag Water Quality Plans.
* Facebook (website) promoting Ag Water Quality Plans.
* YouTube link with Ag Water Quality Plans information.
* Convention banners promoting Ag Water Quality Plans.
* Slick ads for use in publications

Ms. Paulette Akers stated that since the new tool was developed and implemented, 1,800 Ag Water Quality Plans were created in the past 15 months.

**Quarterly update of AWQA related violations** - Ms. Paulette Akers informed the Authority of 11 violations of the Ag Water Quality Act since the last meeting. Four of the violations were from dairy operations, two from hog operation, one from chicken operation, three from beef operation and one dealing with a crop chemical spillage issue.

**Updates from members** –

Mr. Randy McCallon stated that KACD has partnered with KACDE to collect funds to help out Eastern Kentucky staff and supervisors that incurred losses due to historic flooding. The funds will go to three different organizations for distribution.

Mr. Joe Cain discussed forming of new tobacco co-op.

Mr. Larry Thomas announce that Mr. Joe Cain will be retiring from Kentucky Farm Bureau and this will be his last AWQA meeting.

Dr. Amanda Gumbert discussed the partnership with the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association to offer a forest stewardship field day on October the 14th. It will be a collaboration with Crooked Creek Farm and non-state forest near Bernheim forest. Advertisement will go out through the Kentucky Nursery Association.

Members and guests gave updates about topics relating to the Gulf Hypoxia Task Force.

* Mr. Josiah Frey stated that funding through the task force will be possible for a 5-year plan. First funding will be education related.
* Mr. Carey Johnson stated that there is not much of a problem with Harmful Algal Blooms this year.
* Dr. Amanda Gumbert stated that the Gulf Cruise has been completed and the zone is smaller than last year.

Ms. Paulette Akers discussed the upcoming Governor’s Conference on Energy and the Environment. It will be held on October 17th - 18th at the Embassy Suites in Lexington Kentucky.

Mr. Larry Thomas discussed the new electric vehicle plant and battery life expectancy.

Mr. Greg Stone discussed the flooding in Eastern Kentucky and the work NRCS is doing to help out with the recovery.

Mr. Ron Brunty discussed the Letcher County flood emergency fund. Mr. Ron Brunty discussed his first-hand experience with the historical flooding in Eastern Kentucky.

Mr. Dean Schamore discussed how FSA is helping out with the historical flooding in Eastern Kentucky.

Ms. Paulette Akers discussed and presented the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Authority biennial report for the state fiscal years of 2021 and 2022. This will be presented to the Governor’s Office as well.

Mr. Larry Thomas asked Ms. Paulette Akers to serve as the Chair for the nomination committee. Ms. Paulette Akers accepted.

Mr. Joseph Sisk asked for nominations for the Chair of the Authority. Mr. Fred Sipes nominated Mr. Larry Thomas as Chair. Mr. Dean Schamore seconded the motion for nomination. **Motion carried**.

A motion to cease nominations for the Authority Chair was made by Mr. Dean Schamore and was seconded by Mr. Randy McCallon. **Motion carried**.

A motion to elect Mr. Larry Thomas by acclimation was made by Mr. Ron Brunty and was seconded by Dr. Amanda Gumbert. **Motion carried**.

Mr. Larry Thomas asked for nominations for the Vice Chair of the Authority for a 1-year term. Moving forward this election should be in odd years. Mr. Fred Sipes nominated Mr. Joseph Sisk to serve as Vice Chair. Ms. Paulette Akers seconded the motion. **Motion carried**.

A motion to cease nominations and elect Mr. Joseph Sisk by acclimation was made by Mr. Greg Stone and was seconded by Mr. Randy McCallon. **Motion carried.**

**Next Meeting** – November 3rd, 2022 9:30 am at the 300 Sower Blvd Building Frankfort Kentucky.

**Adjourn** – 2:14 pm