**MEETING MINUTES**

**Agriculture Water Quality Authority**

**Thursday, August 27, 2020 1:00 PM**

**Zoom Video Conference**

**Meeting ID: 872 9729 7767**

**Inattendance**: Mr. Larry Thomas, Chair, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Mr. Joseph Sisk, Vice Chair, Member-at-Large; Ms. Paulette Akers, Division of Conservation; Mr. Allan Bryant, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Mr. Keith Rogers, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; Mr. John Webb, Division of Water; Mr. Brian Lacefield, Kentucky Farm Service Agency; Mr. Greg Stone, National Resource Conservation Service; Ms. Angela Billings, Department of Public Health; Mr. Ron Brunty, Environmental Groups; Mr. Steve Kull, Division of Forestry; Mr. Todd Clark, Member-at- large and Dr. Amanda Gumbert, UK College of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service.

**Also in attendance**: Ms. Johnna McHugh, Division of Conservation; Mr. Steve Coleman, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Mr. Brandon Howard, Division of Forestry; Mr. Joe Cain, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Mr. John Pitcock, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; Mr. Pete Cinotto, United States Geological Survey; Ms. Crystal Renfro, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Mr. Josiah Frey, Division of Water; Mr. Abe Nielson, Division of Forestry; Mr. Gordon R. Slone, Department for Natural Resources; Mr. Larry Taylor, Department for Environmental Protection; Mr. Zach Luttrell; Mr. Jimmy Chambers; Mr. Ben Koostra; and Mr. Jeff Gravitt, Division of Conservation.

**Meeting Called to Order** – 1:01 PM by Mr. Larry Thomas.

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

**Introduction of guests** – Introductions were made.

**Approval of previous meeting minutes from April 23, 2020** – A motion to approve with correction was made by Mr. Joseph Sisk and was seconded by Mr. Todd Clark. **Motion carried**.

**Old Business** –

* Approval of Crops BMPs and Update of Statewide AWQA Plan – Ms. Paulette Akers stated that the BMPs were approved at the last meeting and were sent to the Division of Water for approval. The Division of Water approved the BMPs in early June (dated May 12th). The BMPs have been incorporated into the state wide plan. The newest version of the state wide plan now includes chapter titles and is available on the Division of Conservation’s webpage.

**New Business** –

* Biennial Report – Ms. Paulette Akers stated that the original biennial report done 20 years ago was a long document (30 pages). The document was updated two years ago to a shorter version (two-page document) believing a legislator would be more inclined to read the much smaller document and follow the links. Ms. Akers asked if there were any comments about the document. There were none.
* Elections – The current Authority chairmanship term is almost over. Mr. Joseph Sisk acted as chair for the nomination discussion and vote. Mr. Keith Rogers nominated Mr. Larry Thomas to continue serving as chair, and Dr. Amanda Gumbert seconded the nomination. **Motion carried**.
* Mr. Larry Thomas stated that all subcommittee chair positions with the exception of Mr. Todd Clark are up for re-election. Mr. Larry Thomas asked the Authority to re-nominate all subcommittee chair positions to continue to serve. Mr. Larry Thomas asked Ms. Paulette Akers to confirm acceptance of chair positions for those who are not present at the meeting and report back at the next meeting. A motion to approve all subcommittee chair positions for re-election (Mr. Todd Clark excluded) was made by Mr. Allan Bryant and was seconded by Mr. Todd Clark. **Motion carried**.

**Subcommittee Reports**

**KASMC –** Mr. Pete Cinotto discussed the following with the Authority –

* Upcoming KASMC meeting (September 2nd at 1:00PM) to include the following presentations.
* Dr. Eric Rappin to discuss Temperature Inversion Monitoring in Kentucky and Dr. Stu Foster to give an overview of draft technical report: “A Visual Climatology of Kentucky”
* Angie Crain to give an USGS super gage data update and Joe Celano from Trabus Technologies to present an overview of modeling and monitoring technologies with the River Information Services Enterprise (RISE).
* Dr. Wei Ren from UK to give a brief overview of NSF proposal (just submitted!): “Quantifying Multi-Scale Climate-Smart-Agriculture Management for Triple Wins in Food Production, Climate Mitigation, and Environmental Sustainability" and needs from KASMC.
* Meeting to be held via MicrosoftTeams.
* New EPA Nonpoint Source Coordinator Ms. Kamilah Carter.

**Farmstead** – Dr. Steve Higgins was not in attendance. Ms. Paulette Akers stated that in past meeting minutes a pond BMP was identified as being needed (however, it was noted that this BMP would fit better under Streams and Other Waters) and a distillers grain BMP under the Livestock committee has yet to be developed and is needed as well.

**Pesticides Fertilizers and other Agriculture Chemicals** – Mr. John Pitcock – Nothing to report.

**Livestock and Poultry** – Mr. Keith Rogers stated the need to get started on the distillers grain BMP. Mr. Keith Rogers stated that around late September it should be underway. There have been a few circumstances brought up with farmers that have received violations from the Division of Water. There have been a few circumstances brought up with farmers that have ran into fines issues from the Division of Water.

**Streams and Other Waters** – No report was given, but discussed the need for a Pond BMP is needed.

**Crops** – Adam Andrews – Not attended. The committee has not met since the last Authority meeting.

**Silviculture** – Mr. Steve Kull stated the committee was due to meet but with the current Covid-19 pandemic it was decided to wait. Mr. Steve Kull stated that there was no issue in front of the Forestry Board and discussed upcoming Ag nominations for the Forestry BMP Board.

**Education and Outreach** – Mr. Todd Clark discussed the following with the Authority

* August 17th meeting.
  + Received a preview of new AWQA plan.
* DOC field reps will be allowed access to the new AWQA plan in order to get a trial run and to give an overview of how it works.

**Quarterly update of AWQA related violations –** Ms. Paulette Akers informed the Authority of 25 violations in total; 5 beef, 14 dairy, 3 hog, 1 horse, 1 streambank and 1 crop. A total of 4 were actual notices of violations that were follow ups from letters of warning that were sent out to individuals. The letter of warning gave a time frame of 90 days to respond. No response was received, thus the letter of warnings were issued.

Ms. Paulette Akers turned the meeting over to Mr. Zach Luttrell. Mr. Zach Luttrell introduced himself to the Authority as the new Director of Ag for the Nature Conservancy. Zach Luttrell will work with Kentucky and Tennessee both.

Mr. Keith Rogers inquired if any of the violations that were discussed earlier were because of issues with distiller’s grains. Ms. Paulette Akers did not recall any that involved distiller’s grains.

Mr. Todd Clark asked Ms. Paulette Akers if the 10 dairy violations were in the same geographical location or throughout the state. Ms. Paulette Akers stated that dairies are regulated by the Division of Water due to the presence of lagoons and have a No Discharge Permit. The violations were issued as part of regular inspections and in this case 10 of the dairy violations were located in Adair Co.

**Updates from members** – No members presented updates.

**Next Meeting** – Scheduled for November 12 at 9:30 a.m. by videoconference.

Adjourn – 1:34 PM