**MEETING MINUTES**

**Agriculture Water Quality Authority**

**November 9, 2023, 9:30 AM**

**300 Sower Boulevard**

**Frankfort, Kentucky**

**Inattendance**: Mr. Larry Thomas, Chair, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Mr. Joseph Sisk, Vice Chair, Member-at-Large; Mr. Fred Sipes, Member-at-Large; Dr. Amanda Gumbert, UK College of Agriculture; Mr. Charles Taylor, Kentucky Geological Survey; Mr. Randy McCallon, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Mr. Carey Johnson, Kentucky Division of Water; Ms. Angela Billings, Department for Public Health; and Ms. Megan Bailey-Komar, Member-at-Large.

**Also in attendance:** Mr. Jay Nelson, Division of Conservation; Mr. Jeff Gravitt, Division of Conservation; Mr. Jarod Jones, Division of Water; Mr. Abram DaSilva, National Weather Service; Mr. Damuel Morales, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Mr. Steve Beam, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Mr. Larry Taylor, Energy and Environment Cabinet; Ms. Kathleen Saunier, Energy and Environment Cabinet; Ms. Dawn Baase, Department for Natural Resources; Ms. Paulette Akers, Division of Water; and Ms. Angie Crain, United States Geological Survey

**Meeting Called to Order** – 9:34 AM by Mr. Larry Thomas.

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

**Approval of previous meeting minutes from August 24, 2023** – A motion to approve the meeting minutes with updates was made by Dr. Amanda Gumbert and was seconded by Mr. Carey Johnson. **Motion carried**.

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

**New Business-**

* Proposed 2024 Meeting dates –
  + 1st quarter – February 8th
  + 2nd quarter – (field visit – Eden Shale Farm) – April 11th
  + 3rd quarter – (state fair) - August 22nd
  + 4th quarter – November 21st

Mr. Larry Thomas, serving as Chair of the Authority has approved the above meeting dates for the upcoming 2024 year.

Dr. Amanda Gumbert discussed the Taylor family farm with over 1,300 acres of woodlands. Dr. Amanda Gumbert gave an overview of the farm and suggested the Authority visit the farm at some point in the future. Mr. Joseph Sisk and Mr. Larry Thomas agreed.

* Subcommittee Reports –
* KASMC – Ms. Angie Crain stated nothing to report at this time.
* Farmstead – Not attended.
* Pesticides, Fertilizers, and other Agriculture Chemicals – Not attended.
* Livestock and Poultry – Mr. Fred Sipes informed the Authority that the committee has not met yet but will try to in the upcoming weeks.
* Crops – Not attended.
* Silviculture – Mr. Jay Nelson stated the Silviculture Committee is scheduled to meet in Bell County on November 19th at the Division of Forestry office.
* Streams and Other Waters – No report given.
* Education and Outreach – Dr. Amanda Gumbert discussed the following with the Authority-
  + Education and Outreach Committee met on September 25th.
  + Ms. Paulette Akers and Mr. Josiah Fry discussed their education efforts related to Ag Water Quality plans and nutrient reduction strategy.
* Ms. Paulette Akers stated that advertising space has been purchased in several publications for 2024.
  + Farmers Pride (sponsored by Soybean Growers, Ky Corn Growers, Ky Pork Producers, and Ky Poultry Federation).
  + Boyle County newspapers (sponsored by Gulf Hypoxia Task Force funds).
  + Cow Country News (sponsored by Soybean Growers, Ky Corn Growers, Ky Pork Producers, and Ky Poultry Federation).
  + Soybean Sentinel (sponsored by Soybean Growers, Ky Corn Growers, Ky Pork Producers, and Ky Poultry Federation).
* Dr. Amanda Gumbert stated that Ms. Johnna McHugh and Mr. Jay Nelson has worked with KACDE to make sure they were up to date on the ag water quality planning tool as well as other content specific training related to water quality.
* Discussed winter appearances for the ag water quality display to be shown.
  + Farm Bureau.
  + Owensboro Ag Expo.
  + Kentucky Commodity Conference is possible.
    - Jan. 18 and 19.
  + Pork producers meeting is possible.
  + Kentucky Cattlemen’s Meeting
    - Jan. 11 and 12.
  + Organic Association of Kentucky.
    - Jan. 26 and 27.
* Possible future road trip to promote a greater adoption and implementation of conservation practices.
  + Discussion is continuing to evolve on how to do this and if it is feasible.
* Next meeting will likely happen prior to the next Authority meeting.

**Quarterly update of AWQA related violations** – Mr. Jay Nelson informed the Authority

that since the last meeting there have been nine notices of violation from agricultural operations in the past quarter. Six of those were cattle, two were dairy, one was crops.

**Updates from members** –

Mr. Jay Nelson discussed his position as a program coordinator with the Division of Conservation and programs and training with the conservation districts.

Ms. Paulette Akers discussed the following nutrient reduction strategy items with the Authority-

* Current nutrient reduction strategy dovetails in with the Education and Outreach subcommittee.
* Debuted a nutrient newsletter that went out last week.
  + Sent out to over 120 individuals.
* The Division of Water is currently working with the Division of Conservation to do a watershed project with the Boyle County Conservation District for priority watersheds that drain into Lake Herrington.
* Working with Red7e ongoing.
* Ongoing meetings with Kentucky Watershed Network discussing how to get funding for projects in their areas.
* Discussed Nutrient Reduction Strategy and wastewater treatment plant optimization.
  + Funds from the Gulf Hypoxia Task Force will be used to help with this.
  + Meeting is scheduled for next week.
* Upcoming Gulf Hypoxia Task Force meeting will be held on December 5th through December 8th.
  + Mr. John Lyons to attend.
* Currently working with Tennessee Department of Agriculture and Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation.
  + Meeting to be held December 14th.

Mr. Jay Nelson stated that State Cost Share applications are due by November 15th. Mr. Jay Nelson stated that in 2023 the program funding was approximately $4.2 million with 300 applications approved.

Mr. Abram DaSilva stated the Regional Coordination Cooperation Networks has a newsletter on nutrient runoff and the Mississippi River Basin coming out. Mr. Abram DaSilva asked the Authority to inform him if anyone would be interested in added to the mailing list.

**Next Meeting** – February 8, 2024 9:30 am @ 300 Sower Building, Frankfort, Kentucky

**Adjourn** – 10:15 AM