

MEETING MINUTES

Agriculture Water Quality Authority

November 21, 2024 | 9:30 AM

300 Sower Boulevard, #216

Frankfort, KY 40601

Members in Attendance: Mr. Larry Thomas, Chair, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Mr. Joseph Sisk, Vice Chair, Member-at-Large; Mr. Randy McCallon, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Mr. Fred Sipes, Member-at-Large; Mr. John Chism, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; Ms. Sarah Gaddis, Division of Water; Dr. Amanda Gumbert, UK College of Agriculture; Ms. Megan Komar, Member-at-Large; Mr. Charles Taylor, Kentucky Geological Survey; Mr. Chris Howard, Environmental Groups; and Ms. Paulette Akers, Division of Water (representing Division of Conservation).

Others in Attendance: Mr. Jay Nelson, Division of Conservation; Mr. Jeff Gravitt, Division of Conservation; Ms. Johnna McHugh, Division of Conservation; Mr. Damuel Morales; Natural Resources Conservation Service; Ms. Angie Crain, Kentucky Geological Survey; Ms. Angela Billings, Division of Water; Mr. Adam Andrews, Kentucky Corn Growers Association; Mr. Ben Koostra, Limestone and Cooper; Mr. Amin Nouri, Monty's Plant Food; Mr. Glynn Beck, Kentucky Geological Survey; Mr. Abe Nielson, Division of Forestry; Mr. Josiah Frey, Division of Water; Ms. Kathleen Saunier, Energy and Environment Cabinet; and Mr. John Reinstetle, University of Kentucky.

Meeting Called to Order: 9:31 am by Mr. Larry Thomas.

Roll Call of Authority Members: Quorum met.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes from February 8, 2024: A motion to approve was made by Mr. Randy McCallon and was seconded by Dr. Amanda Gumbert. **Motion carried.** The meeting on 8/22/2024 failed to reach a quorum, thus no official business was conducted. Dr. Amanda Gumbert suggested changes to the 8/22/2024 meeting notes.

Old Business: No old business discussed.

New Business:

- Nominations: Mr. Larry Thomas temporarily relinquished the Chair to Mr. Joseph Sisk. Mr. Sisk asked for nominations for Chair of the Authority. Mr. Fred Sipes nominated Mr. Larry Thomas. Ms. Megan Komar seconded the nomination. Mr. Joseph Sisk asked for a motion to approve Mr. Larry Thomas to serve as Chair for the Authority. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Fred Sipes and was seconded by Ms. Megan Komar. **Motion carried.** Dr. Amanda Gumbert agreed to continue as Chair of the *Education & Outreach Committee* and Mr. Adam Andrews agreed to continue as Chair of the *Pesticides & Fertilizers Committee*, and the *Crops Committee*. Mr. Jay Nelson recommended Ms. Kimberly Barton (Division of Conservation) to the position of Chair for the *Farmstead Committee*.
- Committee Reports:
 - *KASMC:* Ms. Angie Crain discussed the KASMC meeting that was held on August 29, 2024, with a total of 19 individuals attending. Discussion topics from members included super gages, mesonet, and monitoring networks.
 - *Farmstead:* No report.
 - *Pesticides & Fertilizers:* Mr. Adam Andrews discussed changing committee membership. The committee will be reviewing BMPs in 2025.
 - *Crops:* Mr. Adam Andrews discussed changing committee membership. The committee will be reviewing the BMPs in 2025.
 - *Livestock and Poultry:* Mr. Fred Sipes informed the Authority that the subcommittee met. They discussed changes to current BMPs and will add a BMP on the handling of distillers' grains and industrial byproducts. The subcommittee should meet again soon and have an update for the next meeting. Ms. Johnna McHugh asked if anyone would like to attend the upcoming meeting when the new BMP for industrial byproducts (distillers' grains) will be discussed.
 - *Silviculture:* Mr. John Reinstetle discussed the following:
 - KDF has done 2,626 inspections on 472 harvesting sites. These resulted in 270 enforcement actions on 123 cases with a total of 10 bad actors.
 - Board currently has 4 members with expired terms. They are working to try to get those positions filled.
 - *Streams and Other Waters:* Ms. Paulette Akers discussed the revisions to the following BMPs:
 - Streams and Other Waters BMP #1 Stream Crossing for Farm Equipment.
 - Streams and Other Waters BMP #2 Sand and Gravel Removal.
 - Streams and Other Waters BMP #3 Streambank and Shoreline Protection.

- Streams and Other Waters BMP #4 Stream Flow Obstruction Removal.

A motion to approve the above BMPs as presented was made by Dr. Amanda Gumbert and was seconded by Ms. Sarah Gaddis. **Motion carried.** The subcommittee is working on additional BMPs that include ponds and sinkhole protection.

- *Education & Outreach*: Dr. Amanda Gumbert discussed the following with the Authority:
 - Division of Water piloted a water conservation week and a plan to include agriculture for 2025.
 - RCPP application process in the Red River Watershed in partnership with Tennessee. The Cumberland River Compact completed the application for the project and has expressed interest in reapplying for 2025 on the next round of RCPP.
 - Several upcoming opportunities for the Ag Water Quality display and information at commodity meetings.
 - Developing a short video focusing on updating and implementing individual Ag Water Quality Plans.
- Quarterly Update of AWQA Related Violations:
 - Mr. Jay Nelson informed the Authority of the latest quarterly AWQA violations:
 - 9 Quarterly violations in total. This included: 4 dairies, 3 beef operations, 1 crop operation, and 1 trucking violation (distillers' grains).
- Updates from members:
 - Dr. Amanda Gumbert discussed the following with the Authority:
 - Upcoming *One Good Idea* shop talks.
 - Partnership with the Nature Conservancy to do vegetative buffer focus groups in January. A total of two will be held, one for farmers and one for non-operating landowners at three locations.
 - Mr. Damuel Morales discussed the following with the Authority:
 - NRCS has received \$86 million in funding in EQIP (\$49 million), Easements (\$19 million) and CSP (\$18 million).
 - RCPP has 27 interested partners with 7 applications going through and only 2 getting funded.
 - Mr. Larry Thomas informed the Authority that the Farm Bureau Convention will be coming up in a couple of weeks in which they will be setting policy for the upcoming year. Farm Bureau will be discussing priorities at their next board meeting.

- Mr. Jay Nelson discussed the following with the Authority:
 - Attended the Division of Water's (Field Operations Branch) Annual Training Meeting at Barren River Lake State Resort Park and discussed how DOC assists landowners after Notices of Violation are issued.
 - The Kentucky Soil & Water Quality State Cost Share Program deadline passed the week before this meeting.
 - Down over 100 applications from previous year (less funding available over past decade). NRCS has \$49 million in funding available in EQIP that has offset some SCS interest.
 - Discussed the Division of Conservation staff meeting that was held in Bowling Green/Mammoth Cave National Park with an entire day of karst education with Mammoth Cave National Park and Western Kentucky University staff.

Dates for 2025 Authority Meetings:

- February 6, 2025
- May 8, 2025
- August 21, 2025
- November 20, 2025

Next Meeting: February 6, 2025, @ 9:30 am. 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, KY.

Adjourn: 10:35 am