

**Agriculture Water Quality Authority Meeting  
Frankfort, Kentucky**

**June 5, 2014  
61<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
9:30 AM**

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Members present: Division of Conservation Director Kim Richardson, Chair; Kevin Jefferies, member at large; Director Peter Goodmann, Kentucky Division of Water (DOW); Lee Robey, member at large; Chuck Taylor, Kentucky Geological Surveys (KGS); State Conservationist Karen Woodrich, NRCS; Allen Kyle, member at large; Warren Beeler, Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA); Dr. Amanda Gumbert, UK-DOC; Dr. Steve Higgins, UK; Director Leah MacSwords, Division of Forestry (DOF); Larry Thomas, Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) Angela Billings, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; and Corrine Mulberry representing environmental groups. Quorum was met.

Others in attendance, Becky Thomas, KCA; Carol Catalfo, DOW; Travis Hall, DOA; Paulette Akers, DOW; Joe Cain, KFB; Jim Roe, DOW; Lacy Gaw, NRCS; Michael Unthank, USGS; Adam Andrews, Kentucky Corn Growers; Ernest Collins; Adam Jackson, DOW.; David Wayne, KDA; Johnna McHugh, DOC; and Angella Reynolds, DOC.

Meeting hosted by Department of Environmental Protection.

Meeting called to order at 9:36 a.m. by Chair Kimberly Richardson. Ms. Richardson thanked everyone for their attendance and noted that this was the 61<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Agriculture Water Quality Authority.

DOC Assistant Director Johnna McHugh swore in Director Leah MacSwords.

Chair Richardson presented the minutes of the March 6, 2014 meeting for approval. Dr. Amanda Gumbert noted a correction under the Dairy Initiative of the titling of BMPs 11 and 5 which should read the Ag Water Quality Plan instead. Motion made by Mr. Kevin Jefferies to accept minutes with corrections. Motion seconded by Ms. Corrine Mulberry.

**Motion carried.**

#### **Nutrient Reduction Strategy Update**

Ms. Paulette Akers reported that DOW met with stakeholders where they received feedback regarding the first draft of the nutrition reduction strategy. A draft response to that feedback, with consideration being paid to other partner agencies, will be created. DOW will be meeting with partner agencies to discuss the accuracy of their input to those responses. The next draft will be available in 30 days.

#### **Harmful Algal Blooms**

DOW Director Pete Goodman reported that satellites are being used to further study the harmful algal blooms (HAB) currently existing in Taylorsville Lake. DOW, University of Cincinnati, USGS, NASA, and other partners will work together to further create a model to use to project the conditions of the lake. These are public water supplies and are used for recreation. The issue of harmful algal bloom will get worse and be more pertinent as the summer progresses. More than 300 lakes in Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana are experiencing some of the same issues.

Director Goodmann noted that producers need to be aware of recognizing HAB as it can cause health problems for livestock. The testing of water is very expensive so farmers would really not need to test. To date there is not an official treatment program. DOW will work with Dr. Steve Higgins and Dr. Amanda Gumbert, both of UK, to look into formulation of a guidance document. Information would need to be provided including the warning signs of HABs, contacts, and the possible treatment, if any.

Ms. Corrine Mulberry made the motion that the topic of HAB go to the Education & Outreach Committee for development of an informational document with input from Division of Water. The information is to address the warning signs of HAB and its possible treatment. The message will need to be handled carefully as to be proportional to the risk. The Education & Outreach Committee will also help to get the message together and out to the producers. Motion seconded by Leah MacSwords. **Motion carried.**

#### **Waters of the U.S. proposed rule and Interpretive Rule general discussion**

Carol Catalfo, Division of Water, gave a brief update on the interpretive and proposed rule from EPA. Interpretive rule comments period has been extended for 30 days. EPA and the Corps of Engineers will continue to receive comments on the interpretive rule. EPA and the Corps of Engineers are adding 56 practices that would not need a 404 permit as they would be considered normal farming practices when following NRCS standards and specs. Karen Woodrich noted that the interpretive rule did go into effect April 3, 2014.

There was much discussion among the Authority concerning this matter. This is considered a hot topic issue and due to limited information on the subject since there were no representations by the EPA or the Corps of Engineers present, Authority members were encouraged to independently educate themselves as to how the Waters of the U.S. Proposed Rule and Interpretive Rule would affect their individual organizations.

#### **Education on Nutrient Management**

Dr. Gumbert reported that the past meeting minutes reflect a summary of the eight trainings, which totaled 80 producers that represented 67 farms from 32 counties. Dr. Higgins commented that they had received good feedback. Many producers realized that the discussion was to enhance their overall production. Surveys were conducted concerning the number that would be interested in fencing off streams, ponds, or waterways: 35% said that they are ready do; 50% said that they would as a result of the training; and 15% said they would not, many due to size. A follow-up training was conducted for 12 producers (30 were to attend). Ms. Gumbert assisted in developing 12 agriculture water quality plans. 10 completed no discharge permits. A binder is passed out to the trainees of all the referenced materials. There was also a

training session was conducted in Princeton May 14-15 for Conservation District employees. All nutrient management information has been localized on the AWQ Plan webpage.

### **Update on Work Groups**

#### **Forestry BMP**

Regulatory citation changes in the Silviculture BMPs were approved by the Division of Water. Leah MacSwords reported that she had spoken with Dr. Jeff Stringer concerning the streamside management zone study. Dr. Stringer requested a meeting between Forestry and DOW prior to presenting the completed BMPs concerning timber harvest widths concerning the proximity of outstanding state resource water to the Forestry BMP Board.

#### **Water Quality & Data-KY Ag. Science & Monitoring**

Mike Unthank of USGS reported that currently they are monitoring programs in the Licking River and a phosphorous probe on the Floyd's Fork Watershed and the Olmstead Site. KASMC are working to finalize a three year work plan. Pete Cinotto, also of USGS, will be scheduling an executive meeting for this winter.

#### **Livestock**

Mr. Lee Robey thanked both Dr. Higgins and Dr. Gumbert for their work. Mr. Robey asked if there could be more assistance from the county agents. Ms. Gumbert says that she encourages any communication to the higher levels of administration concerning that subject. Many representatives are responsive and involved as much as they can be, and there are those that are not. Level of county agent participation is dependent on the county. County representatives cannot assist with writing agriculture water quality plans.

#### **Education and Outreach Committee**

Has not met.

#### **Pesticides**

Allen Kyle reported that he will have the BMPs ready for the Board to review after crops have gone out, which should be sometime this fall or winter.

#### **Streams and other water BMPs**

Adam Jackson reported that they have met three times. They are currently working on BMP 1, which they will use as a template for the other three BMPs once it is completed.

The next Authority meeting to be held August 21<sup>st</sup> either before or after the Kentucky Agriculture Council meeting at the Kentucky State Fairgrounds. Chairman Richardson will contact the Fair Board to schedule.

A motion was made by Mr. Kevin Jefferies to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Mr. Kyle. **Motion carried.**  
Meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.