

**Agriculture Water Quality Authority Meeting**  
**Frankfort, Kentucky**  
**November 21, 2013**  
**59<sup>th</sup> Meeting**  
**9:30 AM**

---

Members present: Division of Conservation Director Kim Richardson, Chair; David Rowlett, KACD member Peter Goodmann, Acting Director of the Kentucky Division of Water; Angela Billings, Cabinet for Health and Family Services; Jacob Kuhn, Assistant State Conservationist, USDA-NRCS *in proxy for* Karen Woodrich; Amanda Gumbert, UK-DOC; Larry Thomas, Kentucky Farm Bureau; and Corrine Mulberry representing environmental groups. Quorum was met.

Others in attendance; Warren Beeler, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; Paulette Akers, DOW; Dr. Steve Higgins, UK; Deputy Commissioner Sandy Gruzesky, Department of Natural Resources; Dawn Riley, Monty's Plant Food; Chuck Taylor, KGS; Joe Cain, KFB; Jim Rowe, DOW; Clark Dorman, DOW; Larry Taylor, DEP-CO; Adam Andrews, Kentucky Corn Growers; Ernest Collins; Assistant Director Johnna McHugh, DOC; and Angella Reynolds, DOC.

Meeting called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Chair Kimberly Richardson. Ms. Richardson thanked everyone for their attendance and noted that this was the 59<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Agriculture Water Quality Authority.

Ms. Richardson presented the minutes of the August 8, 2013 meeting for approval. There was a correction on page 2 concerning a discussion noted by Ms. Corrine Mulberry; Ms. Mulberry made motion to accept minutes with the correction. Motion seconded by Mr. David Rowlett. **Motion carried.**

#### **Recovery Potential Presentation**

Ms. Paulette Akers, DOW, presented a Recovery Potential slide show presentation. The Recovery Potential tool is a federal pilot program, Kentucky is one of the eight states to receive the tool. They are currently conducting beta testing. It works within the confines of the Stoner Memo, such as: prioritizing watersheds on a statewide basis for nitrogen and phosphorus loading reductions. This is specific to identifying major watersheds (HUC8) that individually or collectively account for a substantial portion of loads; and identifying targeted/priority sub-watersheds (HUC12). In the past they prioritized based on need and local capacity, though in the past the potential to be recovered had not been considered. There has not been a way to foresee locations that would require the most work and funding for change. This tool was developed by EPA headquarters as a systematic approach for comparing watersheds and identifying differences in how well they may respond to restoration. It is a technical method for comparing the relative restorability of large numbers of water bodies. Restoring a HUC8 level is too large; while restoring a HUC12 levels are manageable. They have developed sixty-six indicators, grouped into three different categories: ecological, stressor, and social indicators. The tool adds the ecological, stressor indicators, and then is divided by the social indicators. The recovery potential tool setup is to select 3 to 8 indicators from each group contingent on a specific question. Output bubble plots can also be developed. The Recovery Potential tool can also assist the Authority as to the number of applied practices within the HUC itself. Other potential uses are healthier watersheds, easily recoverable pathogen impaired watersheds, and monitoring of state cost share practices. It is still in its pilot phase. They are waiting for nutrient indicators to be finalized. The Recovery Potential tool maybe ready for official use by summer 2014; currently available on the EPA website is the National Watershed Index. It incorporates parts of the Recovery Potential tool. However, if not feasible for use, the Recovery Potential tool will not be released for nationwide use.

#### **Nutrient Reduction Strategy**

Larry Taylor, DEP, reported that they are making significant movement on the development of their Nutrient Reduction Strategy. The goal is to show how Kentucky deals with and manages its nutrients. He attended the two day Nutrient Management training presented by Ms. Amanda Gumbert and Dr. Steve Higgins of UK. Mr. Taylor felt the training to be very informative and it provided important information to the producers.

The EPA has not developed a nutrient strategy for the entire basin; it is the responsibility of the contributing states to do so. The DEP is trying to develop a strategy that is reasonable, affordable, and best for the state. Currently there are existing programs that address nutrient reduction within other groups and/or agencies. DEP would prefer to capitalize on that, by placing them under one umbrella as to display these efforts as a collective of the state. Twelve states are all in the process of developing a nutrient reduction strategy plan. Only 6 states have submitted their plans for finalization or public notice; the other 6 are in the process of completing their plans. DEP believes that are 3 vital areas that will help to achieve this goal. The first is the Recovery Potential tool; by prioritizing areas that acquire the most effort, the second is the KASMC program; which tracks changes coming in and out of Kentucky, and lastly the Ag Water Quality Authority, due to its collaboration and communication efforts.

Within the next week there will be meetings with nongovernmental and governmental shareholder groups as to present an outline of their plan. The same information will be presented to all sources. A draft will be comprised for public review and feedback solicited prior to being presented to the Hypoxia Task Force. The overall goal for completion is within the next 6 months prior to the next Hypoxia Task Force meeting.

### **Nutrient Management Training**

Ms. Amanda Gumbert reported that she and Dr. Steve Higgins have been conducting their 2-day training sessions of the Nutrient Management program. They have provided 6 training opportunities for conservation district staff, supervisors, county extension agents, and anyone interested in attending. To date over 100 individuals have been trained. The next training session will be January 21-22, 2014 in Bowling Green. Mr. Rowlett attended a training session and reported that both Dr. Higgins and Ms. Gumbert did a great job. The information tied in well with the AWQA and the benefits of a nutrient management plan to producers. He felt that those in attendance were receptive to the information provided. Ms. Gumbert noted how they were trying to drive home that the nutrient management plan is part of the Ag Water Quality plan. This has been a confusing process to some of the producers. Many are an aging group of people with a bit of a fear of computers. This may need to be addressed in the future. There is the possibility for refresher courses in the future.

### **Harmful Algae Blooms**

Mr. Clark Dorman, DOW, reported that it has been confirmed that there is harmful algal blooms (HABs) levels that exceed the recommended safety levels in four central Kentucky lakes – Beaver Lake in Anderson County, Guist Creek Lake in Shelby County, Lake Reba in Madison County, and Willisburg Lake in Washington County. These levels are harmful to humans and animal life. Earlier this year the US Corps of Engineers (USACE) began monitoring USACE-owned lakes in Kentucky for the presence of HABs; they announced excessive levels have also been identified in Taylorsville, Nolin, Barren River, Rough River, and Green River lakes. A public warning was issued to avoid or minimize all human and animal contact with algae-infested waters. Currently a strategy is being developed by DOW concerning HABs testing protocols; as well as a public notification procedure when HABs levels are identified to be of concern.

### **Committee for Streams and Other Waters**

Mr. Goodmann discussed the possibility of adding an additional BMP concerning ponds to the 4 already existing BMPs. An Ad Hoc committee is being formed as to update the existing BMPs in accordance with federal law to be chaired by Mr. Adam Jackson. The hope is to have individuals to serve as representatives from the Division of Forestry, DOC, DOW, DNR, UK, and The Department of Agriculture. There are many items covered in the existing rough draft as to assist producers when referring to streams and ponds. However, many definitions may need to be fine-tuned as to provide a broader scope of understanding among the producers.

### **Corrective Measures**

DOW met with Forestry to redraft the BMPs concerning silviculture. The document was restructured with minor changes, but it will need to be reviewed by the Director of Forestry Ms. Leah MacSwords. Mr. Goodmann will brief the authority once reviewed and finalized.

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

Mr. Peter Cinotto, USGS, discussed the KASMC program; a subcommittee under the AWQA, as dedicated to coordinating agriculture science and monitoring efforts in an effort to promote sustainable farming and a healthier environment. KASMC had their November working group meeting. Currently there are over twenty members representing state, federal, local agencies, academic institutions, and the agricultural industry. All KASMC presentations, grant opportunities, real time data, and all additional research can be found on their website. Currently they are working to revamp their 3-year scoping work plan. This revamp will not be as general as the previous version. It will contain more specific information such as cost per site, monitoring stations, and partner contributions. They are also working to put together a producer sub-committee to better address their interests and encourage interaction.

Mr. Allen Kyle of the Department of Agriculture has recently retired; leaving vacant the chair for the Education & Outreach and Pesticides Committees. Commissioner Comer has asked that Mr. Warren Beeler to attend in his place until officially appointed by the Governor. Mr. Rick Kamuf, a member at large, appointment has expired. Due to other obligations he does not wish to return. AWQA will need an additional member at large. Ms. Richardson asked that any interested parties be directed to her attention.

Both the Education & Outreach and Pesticides Committees chair will be filled when a full AWQA board is maintained.

The next Authority meeting will be held March 6, 2014, 9:30 at the Division of Conservation.

A motion was made by Mr. Rowlett to adjourn the meeting and second by Mr. Goodmann. **Motion passed.**  
Meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.