

**Water Resources Board
Meeting Minutes
July 27, 2016**

Board Members in Attendance: Carl Breeding (Proxy, Dinsmore and Shohl); Brett Burchett (Proxy, Dept. of Agriculture); Earl Bush (County Judge Executives); Bill Caldwell (KDOW); Steve Coleman (KY Farm Bureau); Dr. Nancy Cox (UK); John Dix (KRWA); Kevin Jeffries (Soil and Water Conservation Districts); Justin Sensabaugh (KY American Water); Charles Snavelly (EEC Secretary); Ryan Quarles (Commissioner Dept. of Agriculture); Dr. Steve Workman (Proxy, UK)

Board Members Absent: Jared Carpenter (LRC); Lloyd Cress, Jr. (KY League of Cities); Tom McKee (LRC); Kevin Rogers (KY Chamber of Commerce)

Others in Attendance: Adam Andrew; David Beck (KY Farm Bureau); Peter Goodmann (DOW); Mark Haney (KY Farm Bureau); Jeff Harper (KY Farm Bureau); Samantha Kaiser (KDOW); Aaron Keatley (Commissioner DEP); Gary Larimore (KRWA); Haley McCoy (EEC); Bruce Scott (Deputy Secretary EEC)

The meeting began at 1:10 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by EEC Secretary and Board Chair Charles Snavelly who welcomed and reviewed the purpose for forming the Water Resources Board.

Introductions were made by each person in attendance.

Ryan Quarles, explained the importance of Kentucky of being proactive in agricultural water resources. Water is an important factor in the agricultural development of Kentucky. He explained that water tables are affected by human consumption, agriculture, and farming, and that there needs to be an open line of communication with the agricultural community.

Mark Haney, spoke about Kentucky's increasing population and how access to water could be a future issue for Kentuckians. Other states are also taking a proactive approach; Kentucky will be in the forefront.

Peter Goodmann, discussed that all Water Resources Board meetings are public meetings. Prior to each meeting a public notice will be posted and all information presented will be made available to the public. The Board will need to discuss if public comments will be allowed during meetings.

Background on Water Resources Board and H.B. 529

Mr. Goodmann discussed KRS 151.110, the water resources policy and the duties of the cabinet, and 151.112, the planning process for management and development of the Commonwealth's water resources. KRS 151.113 was developed to create the Kentucky Water Resource Board to assist the cabinet in implementation of KRS 151.110 and KRS 151.112. He discussed the duties of board as listed in KRS 151.113.

Mr. Goodman discussed how the future of agriculture will be different from the present agriculture, and that in order to have more resilient sustainable agriculture Kentucky must plan, learn, adapt, and create

tools for the agricultural community. Kentucky needs to focus on drought topics and the state drought plan needs to better serve the agricultural community. Kentucky's water resources need to be assessed, specifically related to surplus deficits and how severe droughts could affect livestock. Identification of localized issues and how to better manage these issues should be discussed. The growth of Kentucky's economy could depend on the limitations of access to water in rural areas of the state. The current exponential growth of livestock farms in Kentucky and the need for water storage could be another factor that limits the state's economic growth and should be a future topic of discussion. He suggested having regional meetings throughout Kentucky so the agricultural community's needs and concerns can be addressed and brought to Board meetings for discussion.

Steve Coleman, gave a presentation on the Water Management Working Group (WMWG), which is facilitated by the Kentucky Farm Bureau. This working group has collected data, reviewed policies, and developed recommendations that will enhance the quality and quantity of water resources. The work group has identified several areas of interest that could help develop, protect, and enhance Kentucky's water resources. All data¹, information collected, and working group meetings are made available online at www.kyfb.com/water.

The difference between the WMWG and the Water Resources Board was discussed. The Water Resources Board was created by statute as a matter of public policy, so the WMWG will work in collaboration with the Board to help develop, protect, and enhance Kentucky's water resources. The WMWG has been working on agricultural issues and can make recommendations to the Board on areas of interest that could help achieve both groups' goals.

Areas of interest for the future direction of the Water Resources Board were discussed. The Board needs to identify what water resources are available in Kentucky; the acquisition of data for water use, trends, and projections; the weather and climate history of Kentucky, the cycles and roles these have on water resources, and how the information can be used for future predictability.

The Board discussed several areas of interest for future discussions. Identifying the water resources of each county could be a baseline for the resources that are currently available in Kentucky. The use of Mesonet systems across Kentucky has allowed more data to be collected. Investing in more Mesonet systems could allow data collection in areas where gaps in knowledge currently exist. The Board discussed an interest in identifying monitoring gaps and requesting additional funding for this project.

Regulatory restrictions play a major role in the improvement of water resources. The Board showed interest in inviting Colonel Christopher Beck of the Army Corps of Engineers to give a presentation, and inviting a representative from the Corps to be in regular attendance at future meetings. Having a view from the federal level would provide valuable insight to the Board for making recommendations.

Future Meeting Dates and Agenda Topics

With the impending deadline of grants approaching, the Board discussed meeting frequently over the next six to eight weeks. Frequent meetings will allow the Board to propose project ideas and submit grants for funding projects. A Doodle poll will be created to determine the date for the next meeting.

¹ Kentucky Farm Bureau has made available a comprehensive collection of presentations and other pertinent information that has been presented to the KFB Water Management Working Group. Please visit www.kyfb.com/federation/water/resources/ to learn more about some of the issues of interest to the Water Resources Board.

Due to the size of the Water Resources Board, it was recommended that a subgroup of four member be formed to make recommendations to the board for project ideas, Mr. Steve Coleman and Mr. Brett Burchett showed interest in serving on the subgroup.

The board asked the WMWG to report data and presentations that would be useful for the Board to review. The Board will be mindful not to duplicate projects that the WMWG is currently working on.

A draft agenda will be distributed for comment prior to the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

A tour of the 300 Building was optional.