

MINUTES

WATER MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

AUGUST 28, 2019

The Kentucky Farm Bureau Water Management Working Group (WMWG) met at the KY Soybean Association Office in Princeton, KY.

Working Group Members present were: Steve Coleman, Chair; Warren Beeler; Pat Henderson; Larry Thomas; Shane Wells. Working Group members absent were: Rusty Cress; Todd Clark; Dr. Nancy Cox; Sharon Furches; Terry Gilbert; Pete Goodmann; Kenneth Imel; Kevin Jeffries; and Gary Larimore. Ex-officio members present were: Brian Lacefield, State Executive Director, FSA; and Paulette Akers, Director, KY Division of Conservation. Ex-officio members absent were: Michael Griffin, KY Director, USDA Rural Development Office; and Greg Stone, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service. Others present were: Glynn Beck, UK KY Geological Survey; Renee Carrico, Governor's Office of Ag Policy; Angie Crain, U.S. Geological Survey; David Davis, KFB; Debbie Ellis, KY Soybean Association; John David Foorgurean, Farm Credit Mid America; Stuart Foster, KY Mesonet; Chad Lee, Director, Grain and Forage Center of Excellence; Chuck Taylor, KGS; Rhea Waggoner, KY Soybean Association; and Matt Wilson, KFB. The meeting was staffed by Joe Cain.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m., by Chairman Steve Coleman. This was followed by introductions. Mr. Larry Thomas, President of the Kentucky Soybean Association welcomed the group on behalf of the Association.

Chairman Coleman asked the group to consider the minutes of the May 28, 2019 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Pat Henderson, seconded by Mr. Shane Wells that:

"We approve the minutes of the May 28, 2019 meeting as mailed. "

Motion passed.

Dr. Stuart Foster, KY Mesonet, provided an update on the Mesonet program, the Kentucky Drought Early Warning System (as part of the National Integrated Drought Information System, NIDIS) and the upcoming Biennial Drought Monitor Forum to be held in Bowling Green. Dr. Foster noted this is the first time the Biennial US Drought Monitor Forum has been held in this region. They want to better understand the needs of this region as they continue developing their technology. He encouraged anyone interested to attend the forum. He also gave an update on their stations and noted that they are in negotiations for new sites. He announced that NIDIS specifically referenced the early work in Kentucky of developing a drought early warning dashboard for

stakeholders when they kicked off the Midwest Drought Early Warning System (DEWS). Dr. Foster demonstrated the tools that are available for use on the DEWS site and discussed the communication efforts he has initiated to conduct regular webinars for stakeholders to provide climate updates and outlooks.

Mr. Chuck Taylor, KY Geological Survey (KGS), presented an update on their mapping initiative to improve access to groundwater data in Kentucky. He noted they are enhancing their website to make it more modern and user friendly. He also discussed the aquifer designation project to identify aquifer zones by utilizing water-well construction records. The objective of the groundwater monitoring project is to provide public access to all active groundwater monitoring data. This helps illustrate the drawdown pressure on various aquifers, as well as their ability to recharge. This effort is in its infancy and will be refined as KGS moves forward monitoring the network. Mr. Taylor reviewed additional KGS ongoing and future activities.

Ms. Angie Crain, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), presented an update on the Kentucky Drought Monitoring Tool that Mr. Peter Cinotto is working on as well as an update on the USGS mobile super gage project. She noted there are gaps in integrating data, and the objective of the drought monitoring tool is to make it a web-based tool, as well as a smartphone app that can be easily utilized by managers in the agricultural community on water utilization and management. A super gage monitors continuous concentrations and/or loads of compounds that might include water temperature, sediment, dissolved oxygen, pH, nitrate/nitrite, phosphates or other compounds. She noted there are multiple fixed sites as well as a mobile super gage on a boat that can directly measure river water and provide comparisons to fixed site gages.

Ms. Renee Carrico, Governors Office of Ag Policy (GOAP), gave the group an update on water resource projects the Ag Development Board and Kentucky Water Resource Board are helping to coordinate. She also provided an update on projects to come in 2020.

Ms. Paulette Akers, Kentucky Division of Conservation, provided an update on the Mississippi River Basin Nutrient Reduction Strategy as well as the Kentucky Ag Water Quality Authority and Ag Water Quality Plan requirements. She noted Secretary Snively has been working closely with stakeholders in Kentucky on a revised nutrient reduction strategy and how Kentucky can develop data to support Kentucky's efforts. Each state was provided \$100,000 from EPA to assist with the strategy. The funds will be used to modify, improve and simplify the current Ag Water Quality Plan (AWQP) development process. The revised process is still under development. Ms. Akers noted there will be considerable information coming out through a variety of media on the effort to encourage development of

Ag Water Quality Plans, implementation of BMPs, and the need to keep plans current.

Dr. Chad Lee, UK College of Agriculture, Food and Energy, provided an update on developments at the UK Grain and Forage Center for Excellence. He noted the ribbon cutting ceremony, officially opening the Center, will be on September 19th at 2:00 PM, local time. Dr. Lee also provided an overview of temperature/precipitation and how trendline yields for corn correlate closely. Current data suggests a trendline of yields being about 7 bushel below the trendline, but the final numbers could be higher. Soybeans do not correlate as well as corn.

Joe Cain provided an update on the KFB resolutions process. Mr. Coleman asked members if any members had policy recommendations. The members considered **KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU** policy and made the following recommendation:

Mr. Larry Thomas made a motion seconded by Mr. Pat Henderson to edit language on livestock and poultry disease.

Livestock and Poultry Disease

Page 26, lines 34-36, EDIT:

“We urge the Kentucky Department of Agriculture ~~and~~, the Division of Conservation, **AND GOAP INCREASE** ~~not reduce~~ the funding available for dead animal removal programs.”

Motion passed.

The next meeting will of the Water Management Working Group will be December 11th at the Kentucky Farm Bureau state office. The suggested topics discussion at the next meeting are: a Kentucky Water Resource project update from Renee Carrico, an update on the KY agricultural statistics relative to irrigation, and a discussion on irrigation scheduling from Dr. Chad Lee.

Mr. Steve Coleman expressed his appreciation to the Kentucky Soybean Association for hosting the meeting. With no further business to come before the Group the meeting was adjourned.

**Recorded by: Tiara Carter
Administrative Assistant**

**Approved by: L. Joe Cain, Director
Commodity Division**