

Kentucky Agricultural Council

Minutes of the February 17, 2012 Quarterly Meeting

The Kentucky Agricultural Council meeting was held on February 17, 2012 at 2:00 PM EST at Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, KY. Tod Griffin, chairman, called the meeting to order.

Members Present

Laura Cole, Agribusiness Association of Kentucky; David Chinn and Gary Huddleston, Agribusiness Industry Network; Todd Clark, Council for Burley Tobacco; John Settimi and Bruce Pratt, Eastern Kentucky University; Aaron Miller, Farm Credit Services; Roger Thomas and Joel Neaveill, Governor's Office of Ag Policy; Robert Alexander, Hopkinsville Community College; Keith Rogers, KY 4-H Foundation, Inc.; Pat Henderson and Don Goodin, Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund; Bill McCloskey, Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation; Kelvin Howard, Kentucky Association of Agriculture Educators; Jeff Rice, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Dave Maples, Kentucky Cattlemen's Association; Sam Lawson, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce; Bruce Metzger, KCTCS; Laura Knoth, Kentucky Corn Growers Association and Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association; Dan Flanagan, Kentucky Council on Post Secondary Education; Maury Cox and Jim Sidebottom, Kentucky Dairy Development Council; Kristen Branscum and Warren Beeler, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; Tim Hughes, Kentucky Department of Energy Development and Independence; Steve Coleman, Kentucky Division of Conservation; David S. Beck and Jeff Harper, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Gary Crenshaw, Kentucky Farm Services Agency; Ginny Grulke, Kentucky Horse Council; Jeff Hall, Kentucky Horticulture Council; Melissa Miller, Kentucky Poultry Federation; Kathy Meyer, Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office and Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association; Davie Stephens and Keith Tapp, Kentucky Soybean Association; Sharon Furches and Michelle Armstrong, Kentucky Women In Agriculture; Henry Duncan, Kentucky Woodland Owners Association; Wade Northington, Murray State University Breathitt Veterinary Center; Tony Brannon, Murray State University Hutson School of Agriculture; Frances Brown, PACE Board; Scott Smith and Jimmy Henning, University Of Kentucky College of Agriculture; Leland Brown and Shawn Clark, USDA NASS Kentucky Field Office; Karen Woodrich, USDA – NRCS; and Todd Willian, Western Kentucky University Department of Agriculture.

Others Present

Ruth Billings, Angela Blank, Lauren Bosler, Sharon Burton, Vince Gill, Bruce Harper, Steve Kelly, Beverly Lawson, Jean Marie Lawson, Christi Marksby; Whitney Meadows, Dawn Riley, Ina Sidebottom, Will Snell and Steven Spalding, .

Welcome

Chairman Tod Griffin welcomed the group to the quarterly meeting. The meeting proceeded with self introductions of those in attendance. Mr. Griffin provided an overview of the agenda.

Approve Minutes of the August 18, 2011 Meeting

Tod Griffin presented the minutes of the June 22, 2011 meeting. Jeff Rice (Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts) moved to accept them; Will Snell (University of Kentucky) seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer Steve Coleman. Keith Rogers (Kentucky 4H Foundation) made a motion to accept the report. Laura Knoth (Kentucky Corn Growers Association) seconded the motion and the report was approved.

Board of Directors Update

Chairman Griffin recognized the service of outgoing board member Kathy Meyer and presented her with a plaque. David Beck provided a report from the nominating committee. The officers for 2012 will be Dan Flanagan Chairman; Tony Brannon Chairman Elect; and Steve Coleman Treasurer. Bonnie Jolly (Kentucky Pork Producers) and Ginny Grulke (Kentucky Horse Council) have been selected to serve 3 year terms on the Board of Directors. David Beck (Kentucky Farm Bureau) made the motion to approve their terms of service on the board. The motion was seconded by Tim Hughes (DEDI) and Bonnie Jolly and Ginny Grulke were elected to serve on the Board of Directors.

Chairman's Report

Outgoing Chairman Griffin made remarks about his term during 2011. He specifically spoke about the Kentucky Agricultural Summit and Bioenergy Symposium held in Louisville November 17 and 18, 2011. The Ag Summit provides the kick-off to the next Strategic Planning Process. Mr. Griffin again thanked everyone for their support and looks forward to continuing to work with everyone. Tod also reported that the ADF has funded the KAC for 2012-13 activities in the amount of \$50,000. He recognized and appreciated the support and efforts of the board of directors.

Mr. Griffin then introduced Dan Flanagan as the new Chairman of the KAC. Mr. Flanagan gave remarks that included how pleased he was to accept the position and how fortunate we were to have all these groups come together on a regular basis. He also emphasized the importance of the strategic planning session in 2012.

Guest Speaker

Dan Flanagan introduced newly elected Commissioner of Agriculture, James Comer. Commissioner Comer made wide ranging remarks that included the importance of Ag coming together and continuing to work together on a vision for the future. He thanked everyone for their support and stated that he and the Department look forward to working with everyone.

Recognition of Outgoing Chairman

Dan Flanagan presented Tod Griffin with a plaque for his distinguished service and thanked him.

Strategic Planning Initiative

Sharon Furches discussed the new Strategic Planning Initiative. The Kick-Off meeting will be held on February 21st in Elizabethtown with registration beginning at 9:30am EST. Please plan to attend. The new strategic plan will be presented and voted upon at the Ag Summit – November 8, 2012 – in Louisville, Kentucky. Thanks to everyone but especially to the KDA, ADB and GOAP for their support.

Legislative Update

Jeff Harper from Kentucky Farm Bureau provided the membership with an update from the Kentucky General Assembly. Activities have been dominated by the redistricting debate and discussion. Ag issues of importance are the 2 year budget, how debt service is eroding the ADF, and that \$ 4 million is on the table for the Breathitt Veterinary Center. The budget will be handled the first week of March.

KAC Member Updates

Jimmy Henning reported from UK Extension. Based on current budget projections mean the college will be smaller but that they will try to hold the programs as sacred as possible. There are currently 37 agent vacancies.

Joel Neaveill thanked Jeff Harper for the legislative update. GOAP is looking forward to the strategic planning initiative.

Tod Griffin made folks aware of the Floyds Fork Watershed initiative. This is of high importance to agriculture. The Kentucky Retail Federation, Corn Growers Association and Farm Bureau are keeping close tabs on the situation but hopes others will become involved as well.

Jeff Rice from the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts discussed their priorities for the year. The cost share program is being reduced from \$9 million to \$6 million. He also agreed that Floyds Fork is of particular interest.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm EST.