

Minutes
Kentucky Agricultural Council, Inc.
Annual Members Meeting
February 16, 2023
Kentucky Expo Center, Louisville

A Kentucky Ag Council Members Meeting was called to order by Chairman Drew Graham at 10:20 am EST. Members, representatives, and guests present: 44.

Graham asked KAC Executive Secretary Jennifer Elwell to present the minutes from November 11, 2022, that were provided to members via email before the meeting and via paper copy. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

Niki Ellis, KAC Treasurer, presented the financial report through the end of January 2023. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report as presented. Motion passed.

Tod Griffin gave the nominating committee report and made a motion to elect the following slate of directors:

Drew Graham, Kentucky Farm Bureau (Ex-officio)

Tony Brannon, Murray State University Hutson School of Ag (named representative by Dean Brian Parr)

Niki Ellis, Kentucky Pork Producers Association

Nikki Whitaker, Kentucky Cattlemen's Association

Tod Griffin, Agribusiness Association of Kentucky/Ky Retail Federation

Debbie Ellis, Kentucky Soybean Association

Laura Knoth, Kentucky Corn Growers Association

Joe Cain, Ky Burley and Dark Fire Tobacco Association

Mark Barker, Farm Credit Mid-America

Dr. Nancy Cox, University of Kentucky (Ex-officio)

Keith Rogers, Kentucky Department of Agriculture (Ex-officio)

The motion was seconded by Keith Rogers. Motion passed.

It was noted that the officers, elected by the Board of Directors in June 2022, agreed to serve through the end of 2023:

Drew Graham, Chair

Tony Brannon, Vice Chair

Niki Ellis, Treasurer

Jennifer Elwell, Executive Secretary

Graham asked Elwell to review the membership dues structure discussed at the November meeting. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the membership dues rates and benefits distributed at the meeting. Motion passed.

Elwell also asked members to fill out the Kentucky Agriculture Progress Report and Priorities form to help KAC leadership determine the best course of action for addressing the next strategic plan.

Graham introduced guest speaker Dr. Mia Farrell, Associate Dean for Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity with the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. She spoke on creating an equitable, inclusive, and diverse workforce within agriculture.

Members were then asked to provide organizational updates.

Commissioner Quarles spoke on several items, including federal regulatory and legislation work conducted by the Department, trade, the search for a new state veterinarian, livestock emergency preparedness and response, the need for more large animal veterinarians, and the AgTag education program that supports 4-H, FFA, and Kentucky Proud education efforts.

Kentucky Farm Bureau President Mark Haney provided an update, noting the recent Presidents and Vice Presidents meeting, the solar bill, workforce development, the farm bill, and staff.

Dean Schamore, director of the Kentucky Farm Service Agency, provided a report on the farm bill and farm assistance programs.

Additional updates were provided by member organizations.

With no further business to be conducted, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m. EST. Motion passed.