

Kentucky Agricultural Council

Minutes of the February 13, 2009 Meeting

The Kentucky Agricultural Council meeting was held on **February 13, 2009** at **10:00 AM EST** at the KFEC, South Wing C, Room 105 in conjunction with the National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, KY. Dr. Tony Brannon, chair, called the meeting to order.

Members Present

Tod Griffin, AgriBusiness Association of Kentucky; Tony Herrington, Community Farm Alliance; Bruce Pratt, Eastern Kentucky University Department of Agriculture; Robert Monk and Steve Allard, Farm Credit Services of Mid-America; Keith Rogers, KY 4-H Foundation, Inc.; Bill McCloskey, Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy; Larry Jagggers, Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation; Sam Moore, Kentucky Agricultural Development Board; Curt Lucas, Kentucky Association FFA and KY Vocational Agriculture Teachers Assn.; Kevin Jefferies and Jeff Rice, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Dave Maples, Kentucky Cattlemen's Association; Sam Lawson, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce; Maury Cox, Kentucky Dairy Development Council; Steve Coleman, Kentucky Association of Conservation District; Mac Stone, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; Bob Bauer, Kentucky Forest Industries Association; Ray Bowman, Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office; Essie Rogers, Kentucky Horse Council; Dan Flanagan, Kentucky Poultry Association and KY Council on Post-Secondary Education; Kathy Meyer, Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association; Aaron Reding and Jaime Vincent, Kentucky Soybean Association; David Switzer, Kentucky Thoroughbred Association; James M. Weber, Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association; Jenny Inman, Kentucky Women in Agriculture; Wade Northington and Bill Lawrence, Murray State University Breathitt Diagnostic Laboratory; Tony Brannon, Murray State University School of Agriculture; Mark Waggoner, Natural Resource and Conservation Service; Scott Smith and Nancy Cox, University Of Kentucky College of Agriculture; Leland Brown, USDA NASS Kentucky Field Office; Todd Willian, Western Kentucky University Department of Agriculture; Billy Ray Smith, Kentucky FFA Foundation, Inc.; Bruce Metzger, KCTCS; Jerry Gilliam, Hopkinsville Community College;

Others Present

Todd Beckwith, Sharon Burton, Hoppy Henton, Jean-Marie Lawson, Dawn Riley, Will Snell and Steven Spalding

Welcome

Dr. Tony Brannon welcomed the group to the quarterly meeting. ~~_-and called the meeting of the Kentucky Agricultural Council to order._~~ Dr. Brannon gave ~~us~~ a parting "pedestal" story. He also spoke of how in agriculture we must wear several hats and join in unity for all of agriculture. We live in a competitive society but more often than not we have worked in cooperation ~~and~~ "cooperatition". Dr. Brannon welcomed Jerry Gilliam to KAC as a new member representing Hopkinsville Community College. He then turned the meeting over to the KAC's new chairman, Keith Rogers.

Keith thanked ~~Dr. Brannon~~ Dr. Brannon and spoke of how he and Tod Griffin phoned ~~him~~ Dr. Brannon over 2 years ago to discuss the ~~idea thoughts~~ of a new strategic plan for agriculture and ~~how~~ the leadership role KAC ~~would~~ have in this process. Dr. Brannon's Tony's leadership and acceptance of this challenge has advanced all of Kentucky's agricultural interests and has also taken the role of the KAC to new heights. Dr. Brannon was presented with a plaque for his service as chairman of the KAC, along with

a "BIG, BIG" thank you for all the miles he drove spreading the message. Dr. Brannon was also presented with a Tom Sawyer framed print from members of the [Staff Working Group](#).

The meeting proceeded with a Roll Call of members.

Approve Minutes of the November 13, 2008 Meeting

Keith Rogers presented the minutes of the November 13, 2008 meeting.

Kevin Jefferies (Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts) moved to accept the ~~minutes of the November 13, 2008 meeting of the Kentucky Agricultural Council~~ [minutes](#); Tod Griffin (AgriBusiness Association of Kentucky) seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Coleman presented the Treasurer's Report for the Kentucky Agricultural Council. The balance as of February 13, 2009 was \$1,151.59. The balance of the #2 GOAP grant was \$ 61,899.45.

The motion was made by Dr. Tony Brannon (Murray State University School of Agriculture) to accept the treasurer's report; Curt Lucas (KY Association FFA) seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

Kentucky Agricultural Council Business

Recommended Changes to the KAC 1998 By-Laws

All members were mailed a [copy of the new Draft Bylaws and a detailed memo explaining the recommended changes on the subject](#) prior to the meeting. Keith Rogers introduced the subject and ~~the background~~ [on how this came about resulting from the](#) December 4th meeting of the "Staff Working Group". Diane Fleming, [General Counsel to](#) of the GOAP was recognized for her ~~review and~~ assistance to the professional staff [in reviewing the proposed Bylaws changes and putting them into the final form that has been distributed to the KAC members-members](#). Keith then turned the discussion over to Steven Spalding. Mr. Spalding discussed how the KAC's ~~has changed over its beginning years and how that~~ role [has](#) changed significantly [from its early years, as a result of with](#) the development of the ~~is~~ Strategic Plan [and the process the KAC is undertaking to help implement the plan](#). He then walked ~~through~~ the ~~By-laws~~ memo and turned the program back over to [Chairman Rogers](#) ~~Keith~~ to lead the discussion.

Dr. Bruce Pratt raised the question of [the need to hold two](#) Annual Meetings [during the current calendar](#) this year. That was acknowledged ~~as and discussed that this was~~ the only way we could [transition to a new calendar that would allow for orderly succession of the Chair, other officers, board of directors, etc. get things on track](#). Steve Coleman brought forward an issue regarding the requirement of a 2nd signature for checks over \$ 500. Robert Monk asked Mr. Coleman for a recommendation on how to address this issue. Mr. Coleman suggested that 2 signatures be required on checks over \$5000. Sam Lawson made a motion to amend the ~~By-laws~~ [By-laws](#) and require 2 signatures on checks over \$ 5,500.00. Ray Bowman seconded and a discussion followed. Sam Lawson

called the question and the motion passed with ~~two~~ dissenting votes by Bruce Pratt (EKU) and Tony Herrington (CFA)

A motion was then made by Robert Monk to accept the suggested changes to the KAC By-laws ~~as presented in the memo~~ with ~~the~~ amendment ~~just voted~~. Kevin Jefferies seconded. There followed a discussion on the 2/3 majority vote required for passage. The question was called and the motion passed by voice vote.

Kentucky Agricultural Council Committee Structure

Committee reports were given by Dave Maples, chair of the Ag Production and Marketing Committee, Dr. Tony Brannon of the Education Committee, and Robert Monk of the Rural Communities Committee. ~~Schedules for t~~The other ~~three~~ committee meetings were ~~delayed~~~~disrupted~~ due to the ice storm; ~~therefore they and~~ will report at the June meeting. (Committee meeting minutes are available on the website; ~~p~~Please refer to them for details.) Dave Maples moved for acceptance of his report and this was seconded by Steve Coleman. Tony Brannon moved for acceptance of his report and it was seconded by Dan Flanagan. Robert Monk moved to accept his report and was seconded by Jenny Inman.

Chairman's Report

Keith Rogers provided the membership with updates on the 2009 Legislative Session. The KAC, represented by Keith Rogers and Tod Griffin, provided an update to the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Rural Issues in Frankfort on December 10th. The Staff Working Group also held a meeting with Senator David Givens, the new Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, to brief him on the KAC and its activities.

The Furrow Magazine included an article on recent strategic planning efforts across the country, ~~and our~~ Kentucky's effort received high marks and praise from the Washington State Department of Agriculture's evaluation of six such strategic planning exercises.

The KAC was invited by the National Institute of Animal Agriculture to hold a meeting in conjunction with their annual meeting March 31- April 1 in Louisville, Kentucky. Michael Judge, GOAP, represented the KAC at the Future of Agriculture Conference in Ohio.

Keith reminded the membership that the professional ~~staff still need~~~~staff still needed~~ membership forms to be completed by many of the organizations. ~~He also and~~ recognized those organizations that had made pledges to the KAC ~~toward~~ the \$25,000 match that is required by the ADF as a condition for receiving a second year of funding needed to continue our efforts to implement the Strategic Plan.

Professional Staff Update

Steven Spalding presented on behalf of the Point A Consulting team. Mr. Spalding explained that detailed monthly reports are provided to the Chairman and the Treasurer which outline each month's work. He thanked Christi Marksby for the orderly transfer of the administrative duties. New membership forms have been distributed to determine representatives, alternates and committee memberships. Great efforts are being made to "go paperless". All but 4 of KAC's members have agreed to and are receiving their meetings notifications, etc...~~are being performed~~ electronically. The review and updating~~revamping~~ of the by-laws was discussed again briefly. This was the first and most time-sensitive major undertaking by the professional staff. The website is now

~~our~~ next focus. All ~~six~~ committees which were formed ~~to help implement~~ the Strategic Planning process are functioning. The meetings have been VERY substantive with many actions coming out of them. The continuing ~~support to function of~~ the committees will require a ~~significant allocation of time~~ ~~major effort~~ ~~by the professional staff~~ going forward.

Updates from Organizations

Kentucky Department of Agriculture

This report was given by Mac Stone. "This budget thing is for real". Let's not fight over resources, people, etc. but we must work in "coopertition" to advance agriculture. KY Proud is a good focus ~~for us all~~ and is being used as a rallying cry. KDA is developing a closer relationship with GOAP and the ADB not just about food. Discussions are being held regarding food safety and traceability. The World Equestrian Games (WEG) will require coordination with all groups. Following this meeting, KDA will be represented at the Animal Agriculture Initiative meeting sponsored by the KY Soybean Association. The "fallen animal" issue was also discussed.

Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy

Bill McCloskey reported on behalf of Roger Thomas, who was unable to ~~be present~~ ~~join us~~ because of the legislative session in Frankfort. Other members of the GOAP staff are holding a model program meeting at this time as well. Bill recognized those members of the ADB ~~whowhich~~ were in attendance – Sam Lawson, Sam Moore and Larry Jagers. Angela Blank is leaving the GOAP and will begin work for the Farm Bureau. The low-interest loan program for vets will be addressed at the March 6 meeting of the KY Ag Finance Committee. Legislation was introduced to increase the membership of County Councils from 8 to 9 members. Legislation was also introduced to redefine the KARDA board and change ~~its~~ ~~the~~ membership from 27 to 23 members.

University of Kentucky College of Agriculture

Dean Scott Smith reported on the lack of funding provided to agriculture in the Federal Stimulus Bill. ~~The M~~ money for Research Facilities and ag research was stripped out. In Kentucky, ~~the~~ budget issues are dominating. There is a general freeze on the hiring of new extension agents. A few slots have been filled thanks to the transfer of some County funds. EKU is adding agents but these are from a different pool of dollars. Some key hires have been made – Beef Extension Agent, Jeff Key; Soil and Water, Brad Lee. The Extension Vet slot is still open however. The new equine program has been staffed. There are currently 400 majors in equine science and management. An intensive review of the UK Farm and Facilities is being undertaken. Bidding begins soon on the Diagnostic Center. There were no funds in the Stimulus Bill for the ARS facility. No funding has been made available for the cooperative dairy project with EKU. There are lots of stimulus monies coming into the state for bio-fuels and energy so UK is in talks with the State Energy Department.

USDA NASS Field Office

Leland Brown reported that the Census of Agriculture was released on February 4, 2009. The State profile for KY is available on their website along with county figures. A handout was available at the meeting.

KY Association of Conservation Districts

Kevin Jefferies introduced Mark Waggoner from the NRCS. NRCS received \$500,000 for ice storm clean up along stream banks, etc. The NACD is trying to have stimulus monies made available to local organizations for watershed rehabilitation. There is currently \$ 350 million with \$65 million available for local groups. KACD is also monitoring and working with organizations on the “dead animal” pick up issue.

Murray State University College of Agriculture

Dr. Tony Brannon ~~indicated made sure~~ that ~~the membership knew~~ a written report on activities at Murray was provided at the back of the room.

KY FFA Association

Curt Lucas reported that the KY FFA Convention will be held in June in Lexington. The National FFA Convention is returning to Louisville in 2013 and will rotate the hosting with Indianapolis.

Other business

Keith Rogers reminded everyone that the next ~~Quarterly Meeting~~ meeting of KAC Members will be June 9th in Lexington at 1:30 pm, held in conjunction with the FFA convention.

Sam Lawson brought up the “~~F~~fallen Animal” issue. He suggested that a letter be written by the KAC to the FDA. Dave Maples agreed to provide a draft copy. Mr. Lawson made a motion for this action. The motion was seconded by Steve Coleman and passed unanimously. ~~The motion passed.~~

Dr. Tony Brannon recognized and welcomed new member, Bruce Metzger (KCTCS) to the meeting. He also requested that any late comers please sign in for an accurate showing of attendance.

Keith Rogers closed the meeting with a final thanks to Dr. Brannon and spoke of how the Strategic Planning process and Dr. Brannon's leadership had allowed the KAC umbrella to have new life breathed into it. The KAC was originally formed in 1981 by E.W. Kessler from the Kentucky Farm Bureau.

There were no further comments or discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM EST.