

Kentucky Agricultural Council

Minutes of the February 18, 2011 Quarterly Meeting

The Kentucky Agricultural Council meeting was held on February 18, 2011 at 1:00 PM ET at the Kentucky Exposition Center, South Wing Room C – 203 in conjunction with the National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville, KY. David S. Beck, chair, called the meeting to order.

Members Present

Tod Griffin, AgriBusiness Association of Kentucky; David Chinn, Agribusiness Industry Network; Michael Judge, Eastern Kentucky University; Aaron Miller, Farm Credit Services; Joel Neaveill and Jennifer Hudnall, Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy; Keith Rogers, KY 4-H Foundation, Inc.; Kelvin Howard, Kentucky Association of Agriculture Educators; Kevin Jefferies, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Sam Lawson, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and Kentucky Ag Development Fund; Bruce Metzger, KCTCS; Laura Knoth, Kentucky Corn Growers Association and Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association; Dan Flanagan, KY Council on Post-Secondary Education; Mac Stone and Steve Kelly, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; Tim Hughes, Kentucky Department of Energy Development and Independence; Steve Coleman, Kentucky Division of Conservation; David S. Beck, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Gary Crenshaw and Steve Pratt, Kentucky Farm Services Agency; Curt Lucas, Kentucky FFA Association; Ginny Grulke, Kentucky Horse Council; Jeff Hall, Kentucky Horticulture Council; Melissa Miller, Kentucky Poultry Federation; Kathy Meyer, Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association; Keith Tapp, Kentucky Soybean Association; Jim Weber, Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association; Wade Northington, Murray State University Breathitt Veterinary Center; Tony Brannon, Murray State University School of Agriculture; Frances Ann Brown, PACE; Will Snell, University Of Kentucky College of Agriculture; Leland Brown and Shawn Clark, USDA – NASS Kentucky Field Office; Todd Willian, Western Kentucky University Department of Ag.

Others Present

Sharon Burton, Beverly Lawson, Jean Marie Lawson, Dawn Riley, Steven Spalding, and Mike Tobin.

Welcome

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

Approve Minutes of the November 12, 2010 Meeting

David Beck presented the minutes of the November 20, 2010 meeting. Kevin Jefferies (Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts) moved to accept them; Michael Judge (Eastern Kentucky University) seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Coleman presented the Treasurer's Report for the Kentucky Agricultural Council. Per the handout, the balance as of February 18, 2011 was \$23,143.36. A balance of \$7,039.37 remains for the GOAP Grant # 2. Tod Griffin (AgriBusiness Association of Kentucky) moved to accept the report; Tony Brannon (Hudson School of Agriculture, Murray State University) seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Beck made remarks as outgoing Chairman. 2010 was an important year for the KAC as it continues to evolve. Many activities such as the re-writing of the by-laws and the feasibility study were important. Thanks were made to the Board and the staff, as well as particularly to Dan Flanagan and Sam Moore for hosting 2 Board retreats. He then had new Chairman Tod Griffin make remarks and take the lead for the remainder of the meeting. Chairman Griffin recognized the Board members and the Officers. It was pointed out that the KAC had received new funding from the ADF and with that came new responsibility. Chairman Griffin formally announced plans for an Ag Summit in mid-November in Louisville. Day-to-day plans will be handled by Tod Griffin, Keith Rogers, Mac Stone and Steve Coleman. The implementation committees are still active and will have roles to play with the upcoming announcement of the next strategic planning session.

Update on 2011 General Assembly Issues

Ginny Grulke (Kentucky Horse Council) began the discussion with the mention of 5 animal welfare related bills that had been introduced. Chairman Griffin made comments regarding the filing for re-election by the Governor as well as the filing by Senate President David Williams. There has been a lot of activity but nothing much substantial in regards to agriculture other than some bills in relation to the Eastern Livestock situation. David Beck mentioned the time frame for veto dates.

Board of Directors Update

Chairman Griffin congratulated and introduced the newest Board member, Ginny Grulke from the Kentucky Horse Council. He thanked her in advance for her service. The Board of Directors held on a meeting on February 10th where the conversation centered on the ag summit and the next strategic plan. More details will be coming regarding committee work for this year. The date and location for the June quarterly meeting has not been determined. The Ag Summit will be held in November to draw producers as attendees. This will be an "out of the box" type of event to get people thinking about the future of agriculture in Kentucky. The Ag Summit will also kick-off the next Strategic Planning Process. The "Task Force" or something similar will be reconvened in the near future.

KAC Member Updates

Joel Neaville from the Governor's Office of Ag Policy provided an update on the meeting held on February 10th in Bowling Green. He thanked all those who attended and reminded everyone of the Governor's challenge to "think bigger". Over 300 people attended the meeting.

Dr. Tony Brannon reported on the West Kentucky Ag Development Planning Council. The Strategic Plan called for Regional Planning Councils. This council is made up of 20 counties, 2 ADDS and the Workforce Development Council. 20 Judge Executives were asked to nominate a representative and the first meeting was well attended. The KAC staff are assisting in the organizational aspects of this council. Sam Lawson reiterated the Governor's Challenge to "THINK BIG" for new uses of the Ag Development Fund.

Mac Stone reported that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture is very active and has lots to do with 25-30% less staff. He discussed several of the programs including; KY Proud, Grape and Wine Council, PACE, the Milk Commission, Shows and Fairs, Farm Safety and Agritourism.

Will Snell reported from the UK College of Agriculture regarding the Federal budget cuts and their impacts statewide. Alita Botts, a Kentucky native and formerly with the US House Ag Committee, has been hired by UK.

Gary Crenshaw from FSA reported that John McCauley was unable to attend as he was preparing for budget meetings in DC. Jeff Hall was recognized as former state ED. \$200 million has been proposed to be cut from the FSA budget. Kentucky would face a 15-18% cut. The FSA is looking for partnerships to keep programs viable.

The replacement for Tom Perrin at USDA NRCS has not been named yet.

Lee Brown reported from USDA-NASS about county estimates, the Ag Resource Management Survey and planting intentions.

Open Comment Period

Tod Griffin closed by saying how honored he was to be chairman and thanking David Beck again. The new dues structure was mentioned and everyone notified that they would be receiving invoices. However it was emphasized that ALL the KAC meetings are OPEN. June meeting suggestions included: a guest speaker, education for lawmakers and decision makers, a "field trip, and meeting at the FFA convention. Please attend the Agribusiness Industry Network Ag Commissioner Candidate Forum at 3pm next door.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20pm ET.