

Kentucky Agricultural Council

Minutes of the August 20, 2009 Meeting

The Kentucky Agricultural Council meeting was held on August 20, 2009 at 10:00 AM EDT at the Kentucky Exposition Center, South Wing Room C 105 in conjunction with the Kentucky State Fair in Louisville, KY. Keith Rogers, chair, called the meeting to order.

Members Present

Gary Huddleston, Agribusiness Industry Network; Rick Alexander, Agriculture Workforce Management Association; Dean Wallace, Council for Burley Tobacco; Bruce Pratt, Eastern Kentucky University Department of Agriculture; Jerry Gilliam, Hopkinsville Community College; Keith Rogers, KY 4-H Foundation, Inc.; Roger Thomas and Michael Judge, Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy; Bruce Metzger, KCTCS; Larry Jagers, Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation; Virginia Flanagan, Kentucky Agricultural Heritage Center; Scotty Parsons, Kentucky Alternative Livestock Association; Kevin Jefferies, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Sam Lawson, Kentucky Ag Development Board and Kentucky Chamber of Commerce; Dave Maples and Scotty Parsons, Kentucky Cattlemen's Association; Maury Cox, Kentucky Dairy Development Council; Steve Coleman, Kentucky Division of Conservation; Commissioner Richie Farmer and Mac Stone, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; David S. Beck, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Jeff Pendleton, Kentucky Feed and Grain Association; Quint Pottinger, Kentucky FFA Association; Billy Ray Smith, Kentucky FFA Foundation; John Morris, Kentucky Grocers Association; Todd Ryan, KY Nursery and Landscape Association; Ray Bowman, Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office; Essie Rogers, Kentucky Horse Council; Lisa Jackson, Kentucky Horse Park; Jeff Hall, Kentucky Horticulture Council; Dan Flanagan, Kentucky Poultry Association and KY Council on Post-Secondary Education; John Medley, Jr., Kentucky Pork Producers Association; Kathy Meyer, Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association; Aaron Redding, Kentucky Soybean Association; James M. Weber, Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association; Curt Lucas, Kentucky Vocational Ag Teachers Association; Jenny Inman, Kentucky Women In Agriculture; Lowell Atchley, Legislative Research Commission; Mike Phillips, Morehead State University; Wade Northington and Debbie Reed, Murray State University Breathitt Diagnostic Laboratory; Tony Brannon, Murray State University School of Agriculture; Frances Ann Brown, PACE; Scott Smith and Leslie Oliver, University Of Kentucky College of Agriculture; Leland Brown, USDA NASS Kentucky Field Office; Bobby Bradley, USDA NRCS; Jack Rudolph, Western Kentucky University Department of Agriculture;.

Others Present

Bryan Alvey, Warren Beeler, Rodger Bingham, Angela Blank, Sharon Burton, Scott Christmas, Sandy Gardner, Senator David Givens, Drew Graham, Rick Greenwell, Mark Haney, Bruce Harper, Jeff Harper, John Hendricks, Hoppy Henton, Jennifer Hudnall, Tim Hughes, Steve Isaacs, Kara Keeton, Laura Knoth, Beverly Lawson, Jean-Marie Lawson, Christi Marksburly, Representative Tom McKee, Sam McNeill, Ed McQueen, Frank Moore, Joel Neaveill, Dawn Riley, John Roberts, Ben Shaffer, Tracey Skinner, Ray Smith, Will Snell and Steven Spalding

Welcome

Keith Rogers welcomed the group to the quarterly meeting. The meeting proceeded with a Roll Call of members.

Approve Minutes of the June 9, 2009 Meeting

Keith Rogers presented the minutes of the June 9, 2009 meeting. Steve Coleman (Kentucky Division of Conservation) moved to accept them; Dean Wallace (Council for Burley Tobacco) 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 August 20, 2009 was \$13,851.59. The balance of the #2 GOAP grant was \$ 28,735.96.

The motion was made by Steve Coleman (Kentucky Division of Conservation) to accept the treasurer's report; Tony Brannon (Murray State University School of Agriculture) seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

Progress Report

Keith Rogers began the meeting with recapping what a special day today is for the KAC. 2 and a half years ago the KAC started on a journey that has taken all involved to a different level. He introduced and thanked our special guest for being here today to see the progress which has been made on the strategic plan and to receive copies of the Progress Report – those special guests were Senator David Givens, Representative Tom McKee, Commissioner Richie Farmer and Roger Thomas.

Special thanks were also given to all the Task Force Members who have been involved all the way through. Everyone has put in many hours and miles to make this possible. Special thanks also to Dawn Riley and Steven Spalding for their assistance and guidance on the presentation of the plan.

Strategic Plan Committee Reports

Reports on their recent committee meetings and preparation for the Progress Report were given by Maury Cox, Ag Production and Marketing; Tim Hughes, Agri-Energy Committee; Tony Brannon, Education Committee; Sam Lawson, Public Awareness Committee; Steven Spalding, Rural Communities Committee and Mac Stone, ADF and Supporting Agencies Committee.

These full committee reports provided the substance of the Progress Report and may be found on the KAC website.

Commissioner Farmer had to make his remarks during the Committee Reports due to time constraints on his schedule. He thanked the KAC for inviting him, commended the group for the work that has been done and feels this project is moving in the right direction. This is living proof of how good teamwork pays off. Keep up the good work and thanks to all for the work they do.

Roger Thomas spoke and reported that the Governor and GOAP were very pleased with the progress made on the Strategic Plan. Ag has not been immune to the tough times everyone has seen, but the leadership in the room has helped make it easier. Because the

strategic plan is a living document we have had the ability to work through and deal with new issues as they have developed. The ADF monies have played a critical role in moving things forward. The Governor sends his congratulations and commitment that this process is important for all of Kentucky. It is important to maintain focus and momentum in these changing times. He is glad that we have heroes in our industry such as Senator Givens and Representative McKee that understand the important role agriculture plays and that are helpful in preserving this sector.

Senator David Givens, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee then made remarks. Gave his congratulations and particularly noted milestones in the plan. The progress report is a yardstick by which to be held accountable. One can see the areas that need help because they are in black and white. Senator Givens spoke about the real heroes that all of those attending are representing – the real people out doing the real work everyday on the farm. Once again mentioned that these are challenging times and changing times. The overarching goal is to protect the ADF funds and that everyone in the room must be a cheerleader for this at all times. Also everyone in the room must carry the message about how important ag is.

Representative Tom McKee began his remarks with commenting that it was great to see so many ag leaders in one room and that each time this group meets good things happen. Our very existence depends on agriculture. At the turn of the century half of the population lived on farms, now it is less than 2%. We must leave the land better for the next generation. We have to preserve agriculture's 50% of the ADF fund. Many thanks to all for this Progress Report.

Keith Rogers then thanked the previous speakers and introduced David Beck from Kentucky Farm Bureau and Scott Smith from the University of Kentucky. Beck and Smith made overview observations about the KAC, the Progress Report and the roles of their organizations.

David Beck spoke about how important this process has been with all the different organizations involved and how it has been farmer driven to increase net farm income. The plan became a “melting pot” for priorities and goals which has led to a “living document”. We are fortunate to have an administration which is committed to agriculture and that Farm Bureau is here to be a partner as all the goals mentioned here are consistent with the KY Farm Bureau's policies. The plan gives us a roadmap to success because we have to deal with the state's limited resources and therefore we should all be on the same page regarding our priorities and goals. The plan gives agriculture the ability to be accountable to our leaders and also helps our leaders then be accountable to us.

Dean Smith made closing remarks. He emphasized that ideas can make a difference. Complimented all involved in putting the report together and a special thanks to all those involved in the successes that have been met to date. The graphics in the report were very good and have a high impact on the reader. There needs to be rigorous assessment of some of these programs and actions, in particular marketing. Things have changed drastically for instance in the produce arena – now production can't keep up with the

markets. There is potential for the ag education focus to begin dealing with workforce development as technologies are changing. Embraced the living document approach as we are able to modify items and add new ones for action. Special kudos to those involved in leadership development. This area has to evolve and change to develop a focus and sense of direction.

Keith Rogers thanked everyone again for participating and bringing their remarks to this meeting. He also pointed out the Washington State University report that cites our plan as one of the best in the country.

Chairman's Report

Keith Rogers report that the Board of Directors had not met since June 9th. Work is continuing on the 2nd year ADB grant. The annual anniversary of the first grant was July 26th. To date, \$14,350 has been raised in funds. This amount does not meet the required \$25,000 but Keith is meeting with the ADB tomorrow. KAC is still accepting contributions and pledges. The staff has been working on the progress report which was reviewed and presented today.

Other business

Previously in the meeting, it had been pointed out that at 4:30 in the GOAP booth, there would be a recognition of October as Sheep and Goat Month. At 4:40 at the KDA booth there would be a ribbon cutting ceremony for Dale Dobson's new roll over tractor.

A report was given by Sharon Burton and Tracey Skinner regarding the Kentucky Entrepreneur and Coaches Institute (KECI). An overview was given of the organization. The presenters encouraged a task force be formed for rural entrepreneurs and requested that the respective organizations please support this effort.

Tim Hughes announced that a conference was to be held on September 10th in Louisville at the Frazier Arms Museum regarding carbon sequestration and other related topics. The event is in conjunction with the National 25x25 organization.

Tony Brannon announced that 8 Kentucky Counties have recently been involved with a regional study on biofuels and bioproducts. Battelle led the study in conjunction with BioDimensions of Memphis. This report can be used statewide for strategic purposes. The report will be released August 25th and can be found on the Murray State website. September 15th and 16th will be the kickoff dates for the project.

Will Snell and Steve Isaacs discussed the Kentucky Ag Leadership Program (KALP). Class # 9 begins in January. Nominations are due in October. There is a need for nominees from both western and eastern Kentucky. Most are concentrated in central Kentucky. Thanks were given to the ADB for the \$1 million used to set up an endowment for this program.

There were no further comments or discussion and the meeting was adjourned at 12:01 PM EDT.