

# **TOBACCO SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT FUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

## **Minutes of the 7th Meeting of the 2021 Interim**

**September 16, 2021**

### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

The 7th meeting of the Tobacco Settlement Agreement Fund Oversight Committee was held on Thursday, September 16, 2021, at 10:30 AM, in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Myron Dossett, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator C.B. Embry Jr., Co-Chair; Representative Myron Dossett, Co-Chair; Senators Dennis Parrett, Robin L. Webb, and Whitney Westerfield; Representatives George Brown Jr., Kim King, Phillip Pratt, Brandon Reed, and Rachel Roberts.

Guests: Brian Lacefield, Executive Director, Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy (KOAP); Bill McCloskey, Deputy Executive Director, KOAP; Dale Dobson, Farm and Home Safety Program Administrator, Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA); Dave Morris, Deputy Executive Director, Office of Agricultural Marketing, KDA; Dr. Cheryl Witt, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor, University of Louisville School of Nursing; and Madyson Planck, Kentucky Future Farmers of America, Prepared Public Speaking Contest Winner.

LRC Staff: Stefan Kasacavage, Nathan Smith, Kelly Ludwig, and Rachel Hartley.

### **Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy Report**

Brian Lacefield stated Kentucky will be hosting the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture in September 2021, and provided a brief personnel update.

Bill McCloskey described the Agricultural Development Board's projects for August under the program. Mr. McCloskey highlighted programs including the County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP), Deceased Farm Animal Removal, Next Generation Farmer, Shared-Use Equipment Program, and Youth Agriculture Incentives Program (YAIP).

The requested program amendments discussed included:

- Trigg County Soil Conservation District requested an additional \$79,000 in Trigg County funds for CAIP. The board recommended approval, which would bring the program total to \$146,142.
- Bullitt County Conservation District requested an additional \$52,000 in Bullitt County funds for CAIP. The board recommended approval, which would bring the program total to \$142,577.
- Henry County Cattlemen’s Association, Inc. requested an additional \$13,000 in Henry County funds for the NextGen Program. The board recommended approval, which would bring the program total to \$58,000.
- Henry County Cattlemen’s Association, Inc. requested an additional \$5,000 in Henry County funds for YAIP. The board recommended approval, which would bring the program total to \$20,000.
- Henry County Cattlemen’s Association, Inc. requested an additional \$70,000 in Henry County funds for CAIP. The board recommended approval, which would bring the program total to \$287,000.
- Carroll County Conservation District requested an additional \$4,000 in Carroll County funds for CAIP. The board recommended approval, which would bring the program total to \$162,084.
- Marion County Conservation District requested an additional \$30,000 in Marion County funds for CAIP. The board recommended approval, which would bring the program total to \$180,000.

The projects discussed included:

- The Hickman County Board of Education was approved for up to \$42,909 in Hickman County funds for equipment and teaching materials to revitalize training for student agriculture workforce skills.
- The Kentucky Horse Council, Inc. was approved for up to \$200,000 in state funds to contract with the National Agricultural Statistics Service to complete an equine industry survey.
- Nelson County Farm Bureau was approved for up to \$2,188 in Nelson County funds to purchase grain bin rescue equipment for the Nelson County Fire Department.
- Corner Shop Butchery was denied \$1,500 in Lawrence County funds to build a new processing facility due to the applicant’s failure to respond to the committee’s request for information and documentation.
- Upton Meats and Custom Processing, LLC was denied \$138,238 in state funds for site preparation to build a processing facility, and to buy processing equipment due to the applicant’s failure to respond to the committee’s request for information and documentation.

In response to Representative Roberts, Mr. McCloskey stated Next Generation Farmer is a program developed for beginning farmers that would otherwise have to

compete with established farmers through CAIP. All farmers are eligible for programs offered by KOAP regardless of their background. Kentucky State University has a small grant program that targets small scale farmers.

In response to Representative Reed, Mr. McCloskey stated \$6 million has been awarded in the last 18 months to 30 meat processing facilities. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provided one-third of the funds.

In response to Representative Dossett, Mr. McCloskey stated youth are eligible for funds to purchase livestock, show equipment, or a small scale greenhouse through the Youth Agricultural Incentives Program.

### **Rural Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Pilot Program**

Dave Morris stated the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) received an appropriation of \$500,000 from the state executive branch budget bill passed in the 2020 Regular Session. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture received a \$500,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture that will be used to fund public marketing campaigns, small grants for farmer appreciation efforts, peer-to-peer mobile support, and support to young farmers.

Dr. Cheryl Witt stated the Kentucky Department of Agriculture has developed a new campaign called Raising Hope. The campaign will promote the health and safety of Kentucky's farmers and farm families by developing community-based programming, education, communication, and support systems to reduce stress, depression, and suicide rates. The campaign has many programs including: "Question, Persuade, and Refer" (QPR) training, the 988 Crisis Call Center, the Challenge Coin Initiative, and small grants for farmer appreciation.

From May 2020 through March 2021, the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network provided QPR training to 278 individuals in Kentucky. Between July 2022 and June 2023, it is projected that Kentucky will receive 42,600 inbound calls, place 2,100 outbound calls, have 28,700 chats, and receive 1,700 text messages through the 988 Crisis Call Center.

Dr. Susan Jones conducted focus groups with farmers across Kentucky to discover where funds should be directed. Based on the research conducted, the funds should be concentrated in increasing awareness and reducing the stigma of mental health issues, and showing farmers appreciation.

Dale Dobson provided a brief overview of the Challenge Coin Initiative and several legislative members accepted the challenge.

In response to Representative Roberts, Dr. Witt stated that calls to the 988 Crisis Call Center come from both rural and urban parts of the state. Dr. Witt also stated that increased access to telehealth has allowed more Kentuckians to utilize mental health resources.

In response to Representative King, Dr. Witt stated due to limited funding the programs are targeting high priority counties.

Madyson Planck delivered her award-winning speech in relation to rural mental health and suicide prevention.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.