

# TOBACCO SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT FUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

## Minutes

June 15, 2023

### Call to Order and Roll Call

The 3rd meeting of the Tobacco Settlement Agreement Fund Oversight Committee was held on June 15, 2023, 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: Representative Myron Dossett, Co-Chair; Senator Amanda Mays Bledsoe, Co-Chair; Senator Gary Boswell, Senator Matthew Deneen, Senator Denise Harper Angel, Senator Robin L. Webb, Representative George Brown Jr., Representative Kim King, Representative Phillip Pratt, Representative Brandon Reed, and Representative Rachel Roarx.

Guests: Brian Lacefield, Executive Director, Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy (KOAP); Bill McCloskey, Deputy Executive Director, KOAP; and Van Ingram, Executive Director, Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy.

LRC Staff: Stefan Kasacavage, Hillary Abbott, Kelly Ludwig, Rachel Hartley, and Emily Wiley.

### Approval of minutes for the meeting of May 18, 2023

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Representative Pratt and seconded by Senator Boswell. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

### Report on the projects considered for funding by the Agricultural Development Board

Brian Lacefield introduced new employees including interns and a loan program manager. Mr. Lacefield provided a loan update for the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation. KOAP visited Elmwood Stock Farm, which is a United States Department of Agriculture-certified organic farming operation utilizing regenerative-agriculture techniques.

Bill McCloskey described the Agricultural Development Board's projects under the program for May 2023. Mr. McCloskey highlighted programs including the County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP), Deceased Farm Animal Removal, Next Generation Farmer, Shared-Use Equipment Program, and the Youth Agriculture Incentives Program (YAIP).

The requested program amendments discussed included:

- Campbell County Conservation District requested an additional \$30,725 in Campbell County funds for CAIP. The board recommended approval, which would bring the program total to \$68,410.

- Montgomery County Conservation District requested an additional \$117,000 in Montgomery County funds for CAIP. The board recommended approval, which would bring the program total to \$200,000.

•Owen County Farm Bureau requested an additional \$300,000 in Owen County funds for CAIP. The board recommended approval, which would bring the program total to \$450,000.

The projects discussed included:

•Woodford County Fiscal Court was approved for \$50,000 in Woodford County funds to construct bleachers for its agriculture facilities.

•Auburn University was approved for \$64,880 in state funds to aid in the recruitment and support of veterinarians in rural Kentucky.

•Logan County Conservation District was approved for \$5,400 in Logan County funds to purchase a shared-use material roller.

•Little River Veterinary Clinic, LLC was approved for \$58,724 in state and Trigg County funds to aid in the construction of a large animal handling facility.

•Scott County Fiscal Court was approved for \$250,000 in state and Scott County funds to construct a new farmers market pavilion.

•Meade County Fair, Inc. was approved for \$5,000 in Meade County funds to purchase digital scales.

•Daviness County Conservation District was approved for \$20,000 in Daviness County funds to aid the Daviness County Youth Agricultural Production Cost Share Program.

•Grain Day, Inc. was approved for \$12,000 in Daviness County funds to support the 2024 Agriculture Exposition.

•Jessamine County Future Farmers of America was approved for \$15,000 in Jessamine County funds to aid in the youth cost-share program for supervised agriculture experience and 4-H projects.

•JSW Farm Chop Shop, Inc. was approved for \$1,000,000 in state funds to construct and procure equipment for beef tripe processing.

•Robert Fox, Jr. was denied \$5,000 in state funds to purchase a portable sawmill due to limited producer impact. The board referred the applicant to the Agricultural Finance Corporation.

•Calloway County Cattlemen's Association was denied funding for a cattle chute. The board recommended no funding due to Calloway County Agricultural Development Council not committing funds and designating the application as low priority.

Senator Webb commended the innovation of the large animal veterinarian program at Auburn University and stated there is currently a shortage of small animal veterinarians in Ashland, Kentucky. Large animal veterinarians could be more accessible by utilizing telehealth.

Representative King stated there are safety concerns when administering medication to large

animals and to alleviate those concerns a sweep tub is used.

Senator Deneen stated KOAP has done great work with messaging regarding the need for large animal veterinarians and incentivizing Kentucky students to enroll in the Auburn University veterinary program.

In response to Senator Boswell, Mr. Lacefield stated KOAP oversees the lending of funds once the project is complete.

### **Update from the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy**

Van Ingram stated that many states do not have the opportunity to connect with local communities regarding substance abuse, affirming the importance of the Kentucky Agency for Substance Abuse Policy (KY-ASAP), which receives Tobacco Settlement funds. The Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy (KY-ODCP) will release an overdose death report on June 15, 2023. Kentucky has seen a reduction in deaths of over five percent, but there is still work to be done. On average, six Kentuckians per day die from drug overdoses. Over 70 percent of overdose deaths in the United States and Kentucky are related to fentanyl and fentanyl analogs. These drugs are often promoted and disguised as legitimate pharmaceuticals.

Mr. Ingram stated that 23 RS HB 353 directs the KY-ODCP to promote a fentanyl education and awareness campaign primarily on social media. Mr. Ingram stated that, with the funds provided in 2023, the KY-ODCP is able to support each county with \$20,000 to local ASAP boards. In addition, \$680,000 was allocated to supplemental awards, where local ASAP boards can apply for project funding.

Mr. Ingram stated that the KY-ODCP is actively promoting workforce reentry. The KY-ODCP is involved in a matching grant with the Kentucky Chamber Foundation, which has trained over 5,000 Kentucky business leaders to be "second chance" employers. Mr. Ingram stated that this program is essential to filling the workforce need in the state. KY-ODCP also partners with the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP) whose goal is to connect individuals in recovery to meaningful work. Mr. Ingram refers to this partnership as the Strategic Initiative for Transformational Employment (SITE).

Mr. Ingram stated that KY-ODCP funds the state-wide KY Help Call Center (1-833-8KY-HELP). The call center receives about 300 calls and makes about 700 outgoing calls per month. The calls out of the center are follow-up calls at 7 days, 30 days, and 6 months. All call center representatives are trained social workers.

Mr. Ingram stated that 21 RS HB 7 created the Advisory Council for Recovery Ready Communities, which requires local communities to take inventories of their substance abuse treatment, prevention, and recovery capital. The council recently certified Danville as their first Recovery Ready Community. Mr. Ingram stated that he has encouraged community leaders to use their Opioid Abatement dollars towards this program.

In response to Senator Boswell, Mr. Ingram stated that the largest demographic of overdose deaths is ages 35-44, and the second largest is 45-54. He suggested that many of the individuals dying of drug overdoses are not new to substance use disorder.

In response to Chair Mays Bledsoe, Mr. Ingram stated that many communities have not begun to

utilize their Opioid Abatement funds. Regarding supplemental awards from KY-ODCP, programs funded may include recovery community centers and prevention education in schools. Mr. Ingram stated that the Kentucky Department of Corrections hosts a reentry simulation.

In response to Representative Brown, Mr. Ingram stated he would compile the information used in his presentation and provide it to the committee.

In response to Senator Deneen, Mr. Ingram stated that the EKCEP program has a representative in each career center in the state. Mr. Ingram stated that the funds provided for his task forces are enough to keep them operational, but there is a shortage of funding for supplies and technology.

In response to Senator Webb, Mr. Ingram stated that guidance for the expenditures of Opioid Abatement funds is provided by the Office of the Attorney General. There is a list of guidelines, voted on by the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission, on their website.

In response to Representative King, Mr. Ingram stated federal funds come to Kentucky to create the Kentucky Opioid Response Effort (KORE) that provides a list of programs. Regarding the Opioid Abatement funds, the General Assembly established a commission that will administer funds for the next 18 years. Communities already receive 50 percent of Opioid Abatement funds directly.

In response to Representative Roarx, Mr. Ingram stated there are about 15 recovery community centers in the state.

In response to Chair Dossett, Mr. Ingram stated that he was grateful for Kentucky employers who are helping to be part of the solution.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.