

# **TOBACCO SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT FUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

## **Minutes**

**December 14, 2023**

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

The 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Tobacco Settlement Agreement Fund Oversight Committee was held on December 14, 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: Senator Amanda Mays Bledsoe Co-Chair; Representative Myron Dossett Co-Chair; Senators Gary Boswell, Matthew Deneen, Denise Harper Angel, and Robin L. Webb; Representatives George Brown Jr., Kim King, Phillip Pratt, Brandon Reed, and Rachel Roarx.

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

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

### **Approval of the October 12, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Representative Reed 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 gave a brief overview of KOAP's Annual Report, various events, and site visits. Mr. Lacefield provided a loan update for the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation.

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

The following were approved for funds through the On-Farm Energy Program:

- Wolf Gap Gardens in Madison County was approved for \$10,150.
- Bells Broilers in Wayne County was approved for \$5,564.
- Hagman Farms, Inc. in Hancock County was approved for \$10,150.

- Mark Allen Farms in Hancock County was approved for \$10,150.
- Gilbert Farms in Wayne County was approved for \$10,150.
- Philip Unruh in Monroe County was approved for \$3,280.
- Merit Farms of Kansas, Inc. in Monroe County was approved for \$10,150.
- Windy Oaks Chicken House in Wayne County was approved for \$3,015.
- Grand View Acres, Inc. in Monroe County was approved for \$10,150.

The requested program amendments discussed included:

- Harrison County Beef Cattle Association, Inc. requested an additional \$1,900 in Harrison County funds for YAIP. The board recommended approval, which would bring the program total to \$7,150.
- Adair County Cattlemen's Association, Inc. requested an additional \$7,500 in Adair County funds for CAIP. The board recommended approval, which would bring the program total to \$213,500.
- Hancock County Conservation District requested an increase in the maximum producer limit from \$2,500 to \$3,000. The board denied the request due to the application not meeting the 2023 CAIP standard guidelines.
- Nicholas County Conservation District requested an additional \$38,469 in Nicholas County funds for CAIP. The board recommended approval, which would bring the program total to \$299,254.

The projects discussed included:

- Cornett Enterprises, LLC was approved for \$3,750 in state funds for consultation fees for a Food Safety Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Audit.
- Gate Keeper Cattle Company was approved for \$8,000 in Union County funds to aid in the purchase of equipment for their mobile meat retail business.
- Creek Veterinary Services was approved for \$60,545 in Allen County funds and \$97,600 in Bracken County funds to purchase a new light-duty regular cab truck with a mobile vet clinic insert.
- Raymer Veterinary Services was approved for \$60,545 in Allen County funds and \$97,600 in Bracken County funds to purchase a truck, a custom truck vault, and to help construct a mobile office area.
- Kentucky State University was approved for \$1,359,000 in state funds to aid in continuing its Mini-Grant Program to help producers across the Commonwealth.
- The Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development was approved for \$900,000 in state funds to deliver technical assistance and provide educational opportunities to agricultural and rural businesses.
- Berea College, Grow Appalachia was approved for \$322,260 in state funds to run the Eastern Kentucky Direct Integrated Grower Support Program.

- Reid’s Orchard was approved for \$10,700 in Daviess County funds to purchase a five-ton compressor, evaporator, and cooling system.
- Adair County Board of Education was approved for \$50,000 in Adair County funds to support the construction of a greenhouse at the Adair County Agricultural Facility.
- Logan Premium Meats and Processing, LLC was approved for \$3,000 in state funds to support the expenses of pursuing Halal Certification.
- David Andrew Langley was approved for \$250,000 in matching state and county funds to support the construction of a 150,000-bushel grain bin as storage for local farmers to use to fill their distillery contracts.
- Thomas Veterinary Services, PLLC was approved for \$100,000 in Todd County funds and \$99,000 in Warren County funds to aid in updating animal handling facilities and service vehicles.
- Wilderness Trail Area Beef Marketing Alliance was approved for \$344,653 in matching state and county funds to expand their existing livestock facility.
- Frontier Veterinary Services, LLC was approved for \$100,000 in Todd County funds and \$99,000 in Warren County funds to upgrade the mobile veterinarian unit, truck, and large animal handling facility.

In response to Representative King, Mr. Lacefield stated that he does not know how comparable the student loan debt is between veterinary school and medical school.

In response to Senator Boswell, Mr. Lacefield stated there continues to be 14 employees at the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development, and that number had not changed since the last time they were awarded funding.

In response to Senator Webb, Mr. McCloskey stated that farm operations in eastern Kentucky are small-scale and can be financed by the Farm Service Agency. The Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation’s micro-loan program should be expanded.

In response to Representative King, Mr. Lacefield stated the federal government launched an emergency grain storage program. If a producer was within a certain radius of the tornadoes in Mayfield in December 2022, they would qualify for assistance.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.