

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2021 Interim

August 26, 2021

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 2nd meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture was held on Thursday, August 26, 2021, at 10:00 AM, in the Conference Room, Freedom Hall, Louisville, KY. Senator Paul Hornback, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Paul Hornback, Co-Chair; Representative Richard Heath, Co-Chair; Senators Matt Castlen, Jason Howell, Dennis Parrett, Damon Thayer, Robin L. Webb, Stephen West, Whitney Westerfield, and Max Wise; Representatives Josh Calloway, Jonathan Dixon, Myron Dossett, Daniel Fister, Derrick Graham, Mark Hart, Mary Beth Imes, Kim King, Matthew Koch, Nima Kulkarni, Shawn McPherson, Phillip Pratt, Felicia Rabourn, Josie Raymond, Brandon Reed, Cherlynn Stevenson, Nancy Tate, and Walker Thomas.

Guests: Mayor Greg Fischer, Louisville Metro/Jefferson County; David Beck, President and CEO, Kentucky Venues; and Haley B. Wheeler, Miss Kentucky 2021.

LRC Staff: Stefan Kasacavage, Kelly Ludwig, Nathan Smith, and Susan Spoonamore, Committee Assistant.

Welcome and Update on Louisville Metro/Jefferson County Programs

Mayor Greg Fischer stated that Louisville restaurants continue to partner with, and support, local farmers and producers in order to provide high-quality, nutritious food to consumers. He said that small business grants have helped to keep many businesses from closing their doors permanently. One area that has not reached its full potential in helping tourism is the bourbon industry. There is a global demand for the products and only a few global markets have been tapped.

Report on the Kentucky State Fair Board

David Beck, President and CEO, Kentucky Venues, stated that the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky, and the Kentucky Department of Tourism have made good partners in assisting with many of the events held each year at the State Fair. He said that several events held during the year help to bring in revenue. The State Fair has a budget of approximately \$54 million, but revenues continue to be

down due to COVID. Mr. Beck said that Kentucky Venues is constantly recruiting new events to the fairgrounds. He stated that there are still critical infrastructure and security issues that need to be addressed such as repairing asphalt or laying new asphalt, installation of cameras throughout the grounds, and power grid lines that need to be updated.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.