

# INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

## Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2023 Interim

August 24, 2023

### Call to Order and Roll Call

The 3rd meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture was held on August 24, 2023, at 10:00 AM in Freedom Hall of the Kentucky Exposition Center. Representative Richard Heath, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

### Present were:

Members: Representative Richard Heath, Co-Chair; Senator Jason Howell, Co-Chair; Senator Cassie Chambers Armstrong, Senator Matthew Deneen, Senator Damon Thayer, Senator Robin L. Webb, Senator Stephen West, Senator Whitney Westerfield, Senator Mike Wilson, Representative Chad Aull, Representative Mike Clines, Representative Jonathan Dixon, Representative Daniel Fister, Representative Derrick Graham, Representative David Hale, Representative Kim King, Representative Shawn McPherson, Representative Amy Neighbors, Representative Michael Sarge Pollock, Representative Phillip Pratt, Representative Brandon Reed, Representative Sarah Stalker, Representative Cherlynn Stevenson, Representative Nancy Tate, and Representative James Tipton.

Guests: Mayor Craig Greenberg, Louisville Metro; Shelby Somervell, Vice President of Government Affairs and Communications, Greater Louisville, Inc.; and David Beck, President and CEO, Kentucky Venues.

LRC Staff: Stefan Kasacavage, CSA, Kelly Ludwig, Analyst, Susan Spoonamore, Committee Assistant, and Emily Wiley, Graduate Fellow.

### Approval of July 20, 2023 minutes

The July 20, 2023, minutes were approved by voice vote, without objection, upon motion made by Representative McPherson and seconded by Senator Westerfield.

### Introduction of IJC on Agriculture and Kentucky State Fair Board

#### Welcome

Mayor Craig Greenberg welcomed the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture to Louisville and stated that the Kentucky State Fair is the best fair in the country. He proposed future progress between Louisville and the General Assembly by suggesting more investments in infrastructure which would showcase Kentucky agriculture and its people. Mayor Greenberg stated that agriculture is a driver for the Commonwealth.

Shelby Somervell thanked the members of the committee for investing in the Greater Louisville region.

### Report of the Kentucky State Fair Board

David Beck stated that the Kentucky Exposition Center has a rich tradition of hosting events and competitions, which includes approximately 340 shows a year, comprising of The North

American International Livestock Show, the Farm Machinery Show, concerts, and sport competitions. He stated that 600,000 people are estimated to attend the 2023 Kentucky State Fair.

Dr. David Williams, Chair of Kentucky Venues' Finance Committee, stated that the 2023 revenues are at \$46 million, which is the highest level since 2000.

In response to Representative Aull, Dr. Williams explained that revenue started to decrease around 2016 when the University of Louisville's Men's Basketball team moved to the KFC Yum! Center.

David Wallace, Kentucky Venues board member, stated that the board has developed a three phase plan to support infrastructure needs at the Kentucky Exposition Center. He stated that Phase One totals \$180 million in appropriations from the 2022 Regular Session, which includes design and engineering for property expansion. It also include construction of a 400,000 square foot agriculture building. Phase Two would address the South Wing area through building a hotel and skywalk. Phase Three would create a tunnel under Philips Lane for tram and pedestrian transportation to the South Wing. Mr. Beck said that the plans would refresh the property and include a new front entrance facing I-65.

Keith Rogers, Chief of Staff, Kentucky Department of Agriculture thanked legislators for creating an Emergency Preparedness and Response Division within the State Veterinarian's office.

## **Adjournment**