

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the 2024 Interim

August 22, 2024

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 3rd meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture was held on August 22, 2024, at 10:00 AM in Freedom Hall, 2nd Floor. Senator Jason Howell, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Richard Heath Co-Chair; Senator Jason Howell Chair; Senators Cassie Chambers Armstrong, Gary Boswell, Matthew Deneen, Robin L. Webb, Stephen West, Whitney Westerfield, and Mike Wilson; Representatives Josh Calloway, Mike Clines, Jonathan Dixon, Daniel Fister, Derrick Graham, David Hale, Mark Hart, Matthew Koch, Shawn McPherson, Amy Neighbors, Michael Sarge Pollock, Phillip Pratt, Sarah Stalker, Nancy Tate, and Walker Thomas.

Guests: Deputy Mayor Nicole George, Louisville Metro; David Beck, President and CEO, Kentucky Venues.

LRC Staff: Stefan Kasacavage, Hillary Abbott, Kelly Ludwig, and Susan Spoonamore, Committee Assistant.

Approval of July 18, 2024 minutes

The July 18, 2024 minutes were approved by voice vote, without objection, upon motion of Representative Hart and seconded by Representative Fister.

Welcome

Nicole George, Deputy Mayor, Louisville Metro, welcomed the committee to Louisville. She stated that Louisville showcases Kentucky agriculture products and its people through the Kentucky State Fair and other annual events. It has a successful economic partnership between urban and rural areas.

Report of the Kentucky State Fair Board

David Beck, President and CEO, Kentucky Venues, stated that the Kentucky Exposition Center has a long tradition of hosting approximately 240 events and competitions each year, comprising of the North American International Livestock Show, the Farm Machinery Show, concerts, and sport competitions. He stated that attendance is projected to be around 600,000 people.

Mr. David Wallace, Kentucky State Fair Board member, said the board is currently implementing plans for Phase One to support infrastructure at the Kentucky Exposition Center, and will host a groundbreaking ceremony for construction of a 400,000 square foot agriculture building.

Representative Graham introduced Dr. Marcus Bernard, Dean, College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources and Director of Land Grant Programs.

Informational Item:

Kentucky Tobacco Research Development Center, Quarterly Report April 1, 2024-June 30, 2024.

Adjournment