

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT FUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 7th Meeting of the 2019 Interim

October 2, 2019

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 7th meeting of the Tobacco Settlement Agreement Fund Oversight Committee was held on Wednesday, October 2, 2019, at 10:00 AM, in Room 131 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Myron Dossett, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator C.B. Embry Jr., Co-Chair; Representative Myron Dossett, Co-Chair; Senators Dennis Parrett and Robin L. Webb; Representatives Kim King, Rick Rand, and Brandon Reed.

Guests: Warren Beeler, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy (GOAP); Bill McCloskey, Deputy Executive Director, GOAP; B. Mark Evers, M.D., Director, University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center (MCC); and Jason Chesney, M.D., Ph.D., Director, University of Louisville James Graham Brown Cancer Center (BCC).

LRC Staff: Nathan Smith, Tanya Monsanto, Kelly Ludwig, and Rachel Hartley.

Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy Report

Warren Beeler provided a brief overview of the largest project funded by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board. The University of Kentucky Grain and Forage Center of Excellence was funded with \$15 million.

KADF has funded three hemp projects on a trial basis. Sunstrand, Atalo Holdings, and Victory Foods were funded, but are currently struggling due to processors not purchasing the product.

Senator Webb stated a contingency plan should be implemented during the next budget cycle to assist the hemp producers until the market stabilizes and to determine what percentage of producers are affected.

In response to a question from Representative Dossett, Mr. Beeler stated hemp production is increasing in Kentucky. There were 12,000 acres approved for hemp production last year, and this year 62,000 acres were approved.

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

The requested program amendments discussed included:

- Magoffin County Agricultural Investment Program requested an additional \$18,000 in Magoffin County funds for CAIP. The board recommended approval, which would bring the program total to \$116,444.
- Hancock County Conservation District requested to increase its maximum producer amount limit to \$2,000. The board recommended approval, which would bring the program total to \$111,083.

The projects discussed included:

- The Nicholas County Extension District Board was approved for \$3,000 in Nicholas County funds to construct a ham house for use by the Nicholas County 4-H ham project participants.
- Kentucky State University was approved for up to \$990,000 in state funds over a two-year period for personnel, demonstration projects, and mini-grants to underserved, small, and limited resource farmers.
- Buffalo Skull Ranch was denied \$250,000 in state funds to build a greenhouse examining the effectiveness of various water management practices. The On-Farm Water Management Committee recommended denying the application based on the 2019 Kentucky Agricultural Development Board's hemp policy.

University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center

B. Mark Evers, M.D., stated the mission of MCC is to reduce cancer mortality through cancer research, treatment, education, and community engagement with a particular focus on the underserved population of Appalachian Kentucky. The ultimate goal of MCC is to reduce cancer mortality by 50 percent.

MCC was awarded an initial designation by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in 2013, and the designation was renewed in 2018. In 2022, MCC plans to apply for comprehensive status.

Due to the initial NCI designation, there has been an increase in cancer patient volume and funding. The inpatient cases have grown 12.4 percent, and the outpatient cases have grown 19.5 percent since 2013. The total funding has increased from \$28.4 million in

2012 to \$46.2 million in 2019. The tobacco settlement funding for MCC decreased from \$3.5 million in 2019 to \$3.34 million in 2020. The additional \$160,000 could have been used by MCC to provide more colon cancer testing, to give additional support for affiliate sites, to administer more HPV vaccinations, and to hire an outreach coordinator for western Kentucky.

There are 19 MCC affiliate network sites and seven research network sites in Kentucky. The MCC directly or indirectly cares for 59 percent of all new cancer cases in Kentucky.

University of Louisville James Graham Brown Cancer Center

Jason Chesney, M.D., Ph.D., stated the majority of cancer is caused by bad luck. DNA copying mistakes are responsible for an estimated 66 percent of cancer diagnoses, 29 percent are due to environmental factors, and five percent are due to heredity.

Improved cancer screening and research has reduced the cancer death rate by 27 percent from 1991 to 2016; however, cancer diagnoses are expected to rise from 1.7 million to 2.1 million per year by 2030. The additional 400,000 cancer patients are expected due to the aging population and increased rates of thyroid cancer, melanoma, and uterine cancer. To meet this demand, the Brown Cancer Center (BCC) is currently renovating to expand its pharmacy and to increase the number of infusion chairs.

With the support of the tobacco settlement funds, BCC has created a new position, Cancer Screening Navigator, to work with providers in Kentucky to facilitate cancer screenings. The funds also supported the development of the Kentucky Innovative Cancer Screening Program. The objective of the program is to develop new methods for early cancer detection.

BCC received a \$12 million grant from the Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence with funding anticipated to start in 2020. The grant is renewable for up to 15 years with total funding not to exceed \$30 million. The grant will support the new Center for Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy with an emphasis on conducting biomedical research to harness the power of an individual's immune system to eradicate cancer.

In response to a question from Senator Webb, Dr. Evers stated there is uncertainty if there is a cancer risk to vaping although it is a concern. There have been more cases involving lung disease due to vaping in recent months.

In response to a question from Representative Dossett, Dr. Chesney stated farmers typically are treated for melanoma rather than glyphosate-related lymphoma.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.