

# TOBACCO SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT FUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

## Minutes

April 13, 2023

### Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting of the Tobacco Settlement Agreement Fund Oversight Committee was held on April 13, 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: Representative Myron Dossett, Co-Chair; Senator Amanda Mays Bledsoe, Co-Chair; Senator Gary Boswell, Senator Matthew Deneen, Senator Denise Harper Angel, Senator Robin L. Webb, Representative George Brown Jr., Representative Kim King, Representative Phillip Pratt, and Representative Rachel Roarx.

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

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

### Election of Co-Chairs

Representative King made a motion to nominate Representative Dossett and Representative Pratt seconded. Representative Pratt made a motion to cease nominations and that Representative Dossett be elected by acclamation and Representative King seconded. Representative Dossett was elected Co-Chair by acclamation.

Senator Boswell made a motion to nominate Senator Mays Bledsoe and Senator Deneen seconded. Senator Webb made a motion to cease nominations and that Senator Mays Bledsoe be elected by acclamation and Senator Harper Angel seconded. Senator Mays Bledsoe was elected Co-Chair by acclamation.

### Approval of minutes for the meeting of December 19, 2022

Motion to approve minutes made by Senator Mays Bledsoe 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 provided a brief overview of the economic impact of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund and the history of the Master Tobacco Settlement.

Bill McCloskey described the Agricultural Development Board's projects for December 2022 through March 2023 under the program. Mr. McCloskey highlighted programs including the County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP), Deceased Farm Animal Removal, Next Generation Farmer, Shared-Use Equipment Program, and the Youth Agriculture Incentives Program (YAIP).

The requested program amendments discussed included:

- Wayne County Agriculture Development Council requested an additional \$15,000 in Wayne County funds for YAIP. The board recommended approval, which would bring the program total to \$30,000.

- Mason County Conservation District requested an additional \$66,150 in Mason County funds for CAIP. The board recommended approval, which would bring the program total to \$318,150.

- Northern Kentucky Cattle Association requested an additional \$13,507 for CAIP. The board recommended approval, which would bring the program total to \$137,922.

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

- Compton Dairy in Adair County was approved for \$6,189.
- Mountainside Farm in Bell County was approved for \$10,150.
- Deer Creek Farms & Electrical in Graves County was approved for \$10,150.
- Mark Tanaka in Jessamine County was approved for \$10,150.

The following was approved for funds through the On-Farm Water Program:

- J.R. Farms in Wolfe County was approved for \$10,000.

The projects discussed included:

- The Kentucky Dairy Development Council was approved for \$1,891,560 in state funds to continue educating, representing, and promoting Kentucky's dairy producers and industry.

- The Kentucky Beef Network was approved for \$2,057,237 in state funds to provide production and marketing programs for cattle producers that will focus on profitability and farm business management.

- The Lincoln County Board of Education was approved for \$13,112 in Lincoln County funds to expand the greenhouse at Lincoln County High School.

- The Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom Program was approved for \$151,250 in state funds for educational materials and program services.

- Bluegrass AgTech Development Corporation was approved for \$1,000,000 in state funds to support the innovation and improvement of current agriculture technology.

- The Kentucky Cattlemen's Foundation requested \$7,500,000 for the development and construction of the Agriculture Education Center. The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board denied the application, but signaled openness to reconsidering the application should it be resubmitted in the future.

- Metcalf County 4-H Council was approved for \$1,500 in Metcalfe County funds to purchase 25 hams for Metcalfe County 4-H members.

- Blackacre Conservancy was approved for \$2,785 in Jefferson County funds to build a hoop barn and purchase storage for equipment.

- Community Farm Alliance was approved for \$621,717 in state funds to continue supporting market and nutrition incentives and increase access to local food for low-income populations.

- Avios Cuban Meats was approved for \$155,403 in state funds to purchase equipment for their meat processing facility.

- The Daviess County Cattlemen’s Association was approved for \$5,775 in Daviess County funds to purchase a mobile beef promotion trailer.

- The Adair County Cattlemen’s Association was approved for \$16,000 in Adair County funds to run a Youth Cost Share Program.

- The Green Terrace Market was approved for \$33,050 in Daviess County funds to purchase refrigeration equipment.

- Kenton County Fiscal Court was approved for \$250,000 in state and Kenton County funds to build a farmers market pavilion in downtown Independence, Kentucky.

- The Kentucky Department of Agriculture was approved for \$210,000 in state funds to continue to support the Kentucky Grape and Wine Council.

Senator Mays Bledsoe discussed the Bluegrass AgTech Development Corporation’s project in Fayette County and stated the project will also impact surrounding counties.

In response to Senator Boswell, Senator Webb provided an overview of the committee’s oversight authority. Mr. McCloskey stated the Deceased Farm Animal Removal Program incentivizes farmers to be more environmentally conscious.

In response to Representative King, Mr. Lacefield is unsure if the United States Department of Homeland Security invests in meat processing projects in Kentucky, but there were federal stimulus funds from the CARES Act that benefitted 40 meat processors.

## **Adjournment**