

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT FUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes

September 18, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The fourth meeting of the Tobacco Settlement Agreement Fund Oversight Committee was held on September 18, 2025, at 1:00 PM in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Michael Sarge Pollock, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Jason Howell, Co-Chair; Representative Michael Sarge Pollock, Co-Chair; Senators Cassie Chambers Armstrong, Keturah J. Herron, and Craig Richardson; and Representatives Myron Dossett, Daniel Fister, Erika Hancock, Shawn McPherson, and Rachel Roarx.

Guests: Brandon Reed, Executive Director, Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy (KOAP); Bill McCloskey, Deputy Executive Director, KOAP; and Van Ingram, Executive Director, Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy.

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

Approval of minutes for the meeting of July 10, 2025

A motion to approve the July 10, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Representative McPherson and seconded by Co-Chair Howell. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

Report on the projects considered for funding by the Agricultural Development Board

Brandon Reed, Executive Director, KOAP, highlighted activities performed by KOAP over the prior two months, including attending Commissioner Shell's fundraiser event in support of the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers.

In July 2025, the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board (KADB) approved \$3.4 million in funds, and the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation (KAFC) approved

\$3.1 million in funds. In August 2025, the KADB approved \$500,000 in funds, and the KAFC approved \$3.1 million in funds.

Bill McCloskey, Deputy Executive Director, KOAP, highlighted the following projects approved by the KADB:

- Dino's Farm LLC was approved for \$250,000 in state funds as a forgivable loan and \$10,000 in Gallatin County funds as a cost reimbursement grant to purchase a meat processing facility in Warsaw, Kentucky.
- Creekside Veterinary Clinic was approved for up to \$55,280 in state funds and \$11,056 in multi-county funds to purchase new medical equipment and livestock facilities.
- Berea College, Grow Appalachia was approved for up to \$440,953 in state funds to run the Eastern Kentucky Direct Integrated Grower Support Program to help Eastern Kentucky farmers adopt efficient production practices.
- Animal Care Veterinary Center, LLC was approved for up to \$60,191 in state funds and \$12,038 in multi-county funds to purchase a truck and a vet box as part of the Large & Food Animal Veterinary Incentives Program.
- Graves County Farm Bureau, Inc was approved for up to \$5,000 in Graves County funds to purchase grain bin safety harnesses.
- Jarrod Cornett was approved for up to \$3,750 in state funds for consultation fees as part of the Food Safety and Efficiency Incentives Program.

In response to Representative McPherson, Mr. McCloskey highlighted the availability of funding for new and beginning farmers for high tunnels and other resources offered through the County Agricultural Investment Program and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Update from the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy

Van Ingram, Executive Director, Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy, stated in fiscal year 2025, his office received \$16.2 million in funding from the General Fund and \$3,037,500 in tobacco master settlement agreement funds.

Mr. Ingram stated \$2,280,000 was allocated to local Agency for Substance Abuse Policy (ASAP) boards for 114 counties that applied for funding. Harlan County received \$10,000 in startup funding for a new local ASAP. These funds are used for local community outreach such as naloxone distribution, working with school resource officers, canine officers, school drug education programs, prescription medication disposal, transportation to treatment services, treatment vouchers, peer support specialist training, community awareness programs, and public service announcements.

Mr. Ingram highlighted programs supported by his office such as: the Second Chance Employment Program, the Volunteers of America Restorative Justice program, and the Rx Lockbox Project.

In response to Representative McPherson, Mr. Ingram echoed the importance of maintaining a regional view when approaching addiction recovery and providing follow-up resources to those in recovery.

In response to Senator Herron, Mr. Ingram clarified that some counties are represented by a local board that oversees two or three counties jointly, but each county is entitled to at least \$20,000 in funding from the Office of Drug Control Policy.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.