

Minutes
Kentucky Agricultural Council, Inc.
Members Meeting
November 11, 2022
Kentucky Expo Center, Louisville

A Kentucky Ag Council Members Meeting was called to order by Chairman Drew Graham at 10:05 am EST. Members, representatives, and guests present: 40.

Graham asked David Beck, CEO of Kentucky Venues, to give greetings to the 49th North American International Livestock Expo. He provided insight into the show's impact: 23,000 animals, \$500,000 in premiums, 500,000 people showing and visiting from 48 states and Canada, and \$10 Million in total economic impact to Louisville.

Graham asked KAC Executive Secretary Jennifer Elwell to present the minutes from August 18, 2022, that were provided to members via email before the meeting and via paper copy. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

Niki Ellis, KAC Treasurer, presented the financial report through the end of October 2022. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report as presented. Motion passed.

Keith Rogers presented changes to the bylaws that were suggested by the bylaws committee (Keith Rogers, Tony Brannon, and Jennifer Elwell):

- 1) Article 1 – Section 3: The addition of “Exclusively for education and promotion” was a suggested change by our accountants for our tax status. The board amended the Articles of Incorporation in 2018, but the addition to the bylaws needs membership approval.
- 2) Article 2 – Section 1: The addition of member types and voting rights allows for various members of the KAC. The suggested change will allow for individual members (associate) and for-profit corporate members (sustaining). Dues amounts and a list of benefits for each type will also be considered at the meeting.
- 3) Article 2 – Section 2: We suggest changing the annual meeting time from the fourth quarter to the first quarter (typically February) following this meeting. Language regarding how members will be notified has also been updated. NOTE: The board voted for current officers to continue their term through 2023 at the June 2022 Board of Directors meeting.
- 4) Article 2 – Section 3: Addition of “Quarterly” to Special Meetings since quarterly meetings are a regular occurrence.
- 5) Article 2 – Section 5: Establishment of Dues – language cleanup and addition of payment of annual dues will be applied to the calendar year they are received. The intent is to get membership renewals on a consistent schedule.
- 6) Article 3 – Section 1, Number 1: With the Office of Agricultural Policy being moved to the KDA, a designee from the KADB was removed. This aligns with the current KDA policy for representation.
- 7) Article 3 – Section 1, Number 2: Executive Secretary was added as an officer to reflect the hiring of Jennifer Elwell.
- 8) Article 3 – Section 2, Number 4: Duties of the Executive Secretary were added.
- 9) Article 4 – Section 3: Language for the voucher system was removed, and language for expenditure approval was updated to include the Executive Secretary. NOTE: all expenditures above regular operating expenses require board approval.

The bylaws draft with changes was emailed to members on November 2, 2022. John McCauley thanked the committee for their work and positively commented on the changes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the bylaws as presented. Motion passed.

Graham made a special presentation to Dr. Tony Brannon, KAC board member and past chair, for his service to the Council. Brannon is retiring as Dean of the MSU Hutson School of Agriculture at the end of the year, but he hopes to continue to be involved.

Mark Haney, Kentucky Farm Bureau's President, provided a KFB update. He talked about membership growth, KFB Insurance having a solid market share, and primary issues determined under the resolution process: solar, labor, and workforce development. The next farm bill is also a top priority. In closing, Haney invited everyone to attend the KFB annual meeting in early December.

Graham invited Commissioner Ryan Quarles to provide a Kentucky Department of Agriculture update. Highlights included:

- Thanks to the Kentucky Legislature, Kentucky Venues facilities continue to get better.
- KDA and the Office of the State Veterinarian are holding a Large Animal Veterinarian dialogue to address the shortage on November 14.
- Priority issues for the next legislative session include the development of a Kentucky State Veterinarian Office emergency response team and solar. He also reminded the group that there would be many new faces in Frankfort and a new Senate Ag Committee Chair as Senator Paul Hornback did not seek reelection.
- In his last year in office, Quarles committed to running the KDA well, leaving it in the best possible shape, and reflecting on significant accomplishments. Among them is addressing food insecurity: The Serving Up Solutions dinner will be held in Frankfort on February 8, and a sizable donation was just made for the Venison Project.

Graham invited Kentucky FSA Director Dean Schamore to provide a program update. Following a wonderful Veteran's Day reflection, Schamore noted that the FSA has reasonable interest rates available and that tornado relief had been approved for western Kentucky.

Representative Richard Heath previewed the 2023 Kentucky General Assembly schedule and potential legislation, noting that they have historically supported KDA and KFB bills.

David Knopf, Eastern Region Director of USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, provided an overview of their services and how data for the 2022 Census of Agriculture will be gathered.

Graham called on Senator Paul Hornback and thanked him for his public service and leadership on the Senate Agriculture Committee.

Elwell thanked those who participated in the agriculture summit survey, as having a summit was noted as a top priority for KAC at the last meeting. The information collected will be utilized in future planning.

With no further business to be conducted, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m. EST. Motion passed.