

MINUTES
WATER QUALITY FEES BOARD
April 10, 2025
Regular Meeting

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** George Woolwine, Chairman, called the April 10th Meeting of the Water Quality Fees Board (WQFB) to order at 9:01 a.m.

Water Quality Fees Board Members in Attendance: David Lowe, Bill Sallee, Aaron Vaught, and George Woolwine. Donna Fogle was absent.

Staff Members in Attendance: Greg Lubeck, P.E., Deputy Director; Bailee Young, P.E.; Frank Mabson, DWQ; Denice Bullock, DWQ; Becky Irwin, DWQ; Victoria Glascock, DES; and Gabriel Thatcher, Department of Law.

Guests in Attendance: Scott Southall, Earthcycle Design, LLC.

- II. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Woolwine asked the WQFB to review the minutes of the January 16, 2025, Water Quality Fees Board Meeting.

Mr. Sallee moved to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vaught, and the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Fogle was absent.

- III. **INCENTIVE GRANT STATUS UPDATE:** Mr. Mabson and Ms. Young provided brief updates on the ongoing Incentive Grants between FY 2016 and FY 2025.

Scott Southall, Earthcycle Design, LLC, gave a brief update on the Incentive Grants his company is involved with.

Board comments and questions: Mr. Woolwine asked where the project is located on the Centenary Church property. Mr. Mabson briefly described the project sites located on the subject property.

Mr. Woolwine asked how many parking spaces are being removed at Wesley United Methodist Church of Lexington, Kentucky, Inc., for it to be heard by the Board of Adjustment. Mr. Southall replied with two (2) parking spaces.

Mr. Sallee asked for an update on FY25 Fayette County Public Schools. Mr. Mabson explained that Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS) is listed on the Council docket, but the hearing was postponed due to concerns from Councilman (CM) Sevigny regarding the removal of greenspace. He explained that this property is being redeveloped, and some of the existing green spaces will be retrofitted with parking and other potentially impermeable items, which is the concern of CM Sevigny. The applicant met the regulatory requirements and applied and was awarded grant funding to install BMPs above and beyond those new development requirements, by the WQFB during the October 2024 meeting.

Mr. Sallee said that the property is a high-profile site. Mr. Mabson agreed and said FCPS is one of the largest fee payers in Fayette County, and it would be hard to disqualify the project based on current guidelines. Mr. Mabson added that, however, the organization only received funding to cover the difference between a regular asphalt parking lot and the costs of permeable pavers.

Mr. Woolwine asked if the University of Kentucky Research Foundation (UKRF) has given any indication about the status of the project that was tabled. Mr. Mabson replied that staff gave them a deadline to try to re-establish the funding to cover their cost share after it was pulled from UK's budget.

Mr. Woolwine agreed but said other projects could use those funds. Ms. Young replied that the staff had spoken to the grantee, and they indicated it would be a few months before they could make that decision; however, the staff can give them a hard deadline.

Mr. Woolwine said that the Stormwater Incentive Grant Program provides a benefit to the grantee and is not there as a convenience for them. Mr. Mabson agreed and noted that in terms of timing, the captioned funds could be used for the FY26 Class B Infrastructure application submittals.

Mr. Woolwine agreed, adding that if UKRF is not intending to use those funds, then those funds should be made available for the FY26 Class B Infrastructure submittals. It will be up to the staff to make that happen.

The Board agreed with Mr. Woolwine's comments.

Mr. Vaught said that the staff previously presented a map of Fayette County showing the location of the past incentive grant projects. He asked if the staff could present an updated version to the Board. Ms. Young displayed the interactive map of the completed Stormwater Incentive Grant projects that is on the incentive grant website.

Mr. Vaught asked how many years the map shows. Ms. Young replied that, except for Class B Education, the map lists all completed projects for Class A Neighborhood and Class B Infrastructure grants to date.

Mr. Lowe asked if the data could be exported. Mr. Mabson was unsure.

Mr. Lowe commented that the areas to the east do not have many grants. Ms. Young said those outside the Urban Service Boundary are less involved in the grant program. Mr. Lubeck indicated that the areas outside the Urban Service Boundary are most likely not paying parcels such as farms.

Mr. Woolwine noted that grant activity in the North Elkhorn watershed is sparse. Mr. Mabson replied that it depends on the industry and the location.

Mr. Lowe said there is high residential density in the East Hickman watershed. The Stormwater Incentive Grants map shows where there are opportunities for future grant projects.

Ms. Young said that on April 4th, as part of the Bluegrass Watershed Summit, the Water Quality staff met with different agencies to discuss opportunities for collaboration. Involved residents at the summit discussed creating a workgroup to discuss future Programmatic Changes to the Stormwater Incentive Grants Program. The staff could listen and submit those comments to the Board for review and approval at the January 2026 meeting.

Mr. Lowe said that he attended the Bluegrass Watershed Summit at the Bluegrass Community and Technical College's Campus on April 5th and the attendance was a mixture of professional engineers, academics, nonprofit organizations, and citizens. He was impressed with the talent of the people who attended and suggested scheduling a listening session. He said that the biggest challenge with grants is disparate information. He asked if the staff could create a resource to show related grants that may interest residents related to water quality. Ms. Young said that Andrea Drayer with the Kentucky Water Research Institute has created a Google Doc showing all the grants in Kentucky. Mr. Lowe suggested adding the Google Doc to the city webpage for the Stormwater Quality Projects Incentive Grants program.

Mr. Sallee asked if the Georgetown Municipal Water and Sewer Service was involved in the Bluegrass Watershed Summit. Ms. Young replied that they were not at the April 4th meeting. Mr. Sallee said that there is a wellhead-protected area and was curious if they were involved.

Mr. Lowe recently attended a grant-funded rain garden event at Bluegrass Greensource (BGGS). The event had a good turnout, and Bluegrass Greensource provided an educational opportunity for the people who attended. Bluegrass Greensource also provided mini grants through their programs. Mr. Mabson indicated that the Bluegrass Greensource programs are very successful in helping the community. He added that staff had recently received documentation including pictures of the results of BGGSs mini-grant program.

Mr. Woolwine was pleased that the funds are being used throughout the community to help create solid projects.

IV. OTHER MATTERS: There were none.

V. ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Woolwine asked LFUCG staff if there were any other matters to address.

Mr. Woolwine moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 a.m.; seconded by Mr. Lowe. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Fogle was absent.

Upon adjournment, those who were available met at Centenary Church (Streambank Stabilization & Stormwater Improvement Project, NUSEC South Elkhorn Creek (Streambank Stabilization, Water Quality and Education Project), and The Friends of the Park (Dogwood Park Spring and Stream Enhancement Project).