

**KENTUCKY RIVER AUTHORITY
MEETING NO. 215
AGENDA**

Date: Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: General Butler State Resort Park
Kentucky Room
1608 Highway 227
Carrollton, KY 41008

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes #214
3. Financial Report – Jessica Pinkston
4. Discussion of River Sweep 2025 – Olivia Dorman
5. Executive Director Report – Jennie Wolfe
6. Chairman Report – James Kay
7. Discussion - Other
8. Comments from the public
9. Executive Session
 - Proposed Litigation KRS 61.810 (c)
 - Property Acquisition KRS 61.810 (b)
 - Personnel Matters KRS 61.810 (f)
12. Adjourn

The Kentucky River Authority will maintain and manage water resources of the Kentucky River Basin to provide a clean and reliable water supply for the citizens of the Basin. The Kentucky River Authority will provide leadership and a common forum for all stakeholders of the Kentucky River Basin in order to promote the highest and best uses of the water resources of the Kentucky River Basin.

A meeting of the Kentucky River Authority (KRA) was held at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at General Butler State Resort Park, Kentucky Room, in Carrollton, Kentucky, pursuant to a meeting advisory emailed to the KRA's distribution list and posted on the Kentucky River Authority website. The following board members were present: John Lyons for Secretary Goodman, Shandeep Dutta for Secretary Johnson, Mark Smith, David Jackson, James Kay, David West, Mitzi Delius, Rob Dowler, and Glenn Napier. Also, in attendance were KRA Staff Members Jennie Wolfe, Olivia Dorman, and Jessica Pinkston.

The Kentucky River Authority had two special guests in attendance and Chairman James Kay asked that they speak to the board before the meeting started. Carroll County Judge Executive David Wilhoite thanked the Kentucky River Authority for taking down the old lockmaster houses at Lock and Dam #1. He also thanked the Kentucky River Authority for the work they do on the river. Senator Gex Williams introduced himself and explained to the board members his interest in the Kentucky River.

1. Call to Order. Chairman James Kay called the meeting to order. Olivia Dorman took the roll call and announced there was a quorum.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes #214. Upon a motion made by David Jackson and second by Mark Smith the meeting minutes were unanimously approved by the board.

3. Financial Report. Jessica Pinkston summarized the financial reports for the months of January, February and March. Upon a motion made by John Lyons and second by David Jackson, the financial reports for the third quarter of the fiscal year were approved unanimously by the board.

4. Discussion of River Sweep 2025. Olivia Dorman presented the t-shirt design for the annual River Sweep event. The board members discussed using the "2025" date on the t-shirt. The board voted to keep the year on the t-shirt. A total of 336 t-shirts will be ordered with a price of \$3,528. The t-shirts will be ordered and printed through the Kentucky Department of Corrections. The county will pick the date that works best for their River Sweep event. Franklin County plans to use the t-shirts from the prior year since they did not end up having a River Sweep event in 2024. Madison County and Clark County will not participate in 2025 since Fort Boonesborough State Park is closed for the season due to flooding. Upon a motion made by Mitzi Delius and second by Rob Dowler, the design and budget were approved unanimously by the board.

5. Executive Director Report. Jennie Wolfe stated the Kentucky River Authority was fully staffed. Four lockmasters were hired and now there are six lockmasters on staff. Next Jennie Wolfe discussed the status of the open capital projects.

- **Demolition of Lockmaster Houses** is complete. Those houses were located at Kentucky River Lock and Dam #1 and Kentucky River Lock and Dam #3.
- **Locks 2 and 3 Guide Walls Repairs** project is out for bid with a bid opening on June 4, 2025. There is a virtual pre bid meeting on May 15, 2025. The plan is to get a contractor

on site by July and start work at Lock and Dam #2 in Lockport, KY. KRA pre-purchased the sheet piling in January 2023, and it is stored at Lock and Dam #3.

- **Renovation of Lock 5.** Stantec completed the cultural and historical assessments of the site on May 8, 2025. Underwater dive inspections and above water surveys being completed May 13 and 14, 2025. We will have more information at the August meeting.
- **Dam 7 repair** the design is complete.
- **Gate Repairs – Lock Gates at Locks 1 and 4** – there is a contract in place with Marine Solutions for diving services to make the repairs. We plan to start the repairs at the end of May or beginning of June. The quote is \$44,000 for both sites, with four days of work, two days at each site.

Next, Jennie Wolfe discussed the flood event in February and the island in the river from the Buffalo Trace landslide. FEMA will work with the Kentucky River Authority to determine the cost of the cleanup. The next flood discussed was the April 6 flood event. FEMA Public Assistance has not been declared for the April 6 flood as of today. The Kentucky River Authority is covered by State Risk Insurance, and the deductible is \$10,000. Jessica Pinkston set up a capital project fund and transferred \$10,000 agency cash into the fund to cover repairs and equipment replacement due to the flood.

Jennie Wolfe listed the steps the Kentucky River Authority staff is taking to get Locks #1 – #4 open for boat traffic. PECCO, a contractor with the Energy and Environment Cabinet, is working at Kentucky River Lock #3 to clear the trees and debris from the upper approach. The previous week they worked at Kentucky River Lock #4 doing the same thing. Once the locks are clear of debris, the Bourbon Boat will travel from the Ohio River to Frankfort. After that, the lockmasters will operate Locks #1 - #4 for CJ Mahan to bring their barges and equipment to Frankfort, so they can start on the KYTC West Broadway Bridge Project. The KRA staff will have limited equipment and no electric on the lock walls to operate the lock gates. They will use generators. KRA was able to set up a contract with Art's Electric for the electric repairs at Lock and Dam #4. The contractor stated it may take three weeks for those repairs. Once those repairs are complete, they will work on the electric repairs needed at Lock and Dam #2. The KRA lockmasters will start setting danger dam buoys above all 14 locks and dams on the river. The last item to get the locks fully open is the equipment needed to operate the locks. Prior to the flood, the staff was using the original equipment from the Army Corps of Engineers to operate the locks. Last year KRA staff had started the process of replacing the hydraulic pumps because over the years they had used parts from old pumps to replace parts on pumps they currently use. It was getting to the point where there were no backup hydraulic pumps to use for replacement parts. Motion Industries used the original hydraulic pumps and designed a new one. KRA had requested to replace four hydraulic pumps in 2024. There were five hydraulic pumps not in the flood. An additional seven hydraulic pumps were ordered in April. These are custom built hydraulic pumps and cost \$3,400 each. Today, there are enough drills and hydraulic pumps to operate one lock at a time. It takes a total of 16 hydraulic pumps and 16 electric drills to operate four locks. Jennie Wolfe stated she cannot give an exact date on the Locks #1 - #4 re-opening. The locks could open on a limited schedule or only operate Lock #4, depending on the

equipment replacement timeline. There will be a post on social media and the website as soon as the opening date of the locks is determined.

The next topic of discussion was the annual dredge contract and river cleanup. Our current dredge contract with CJ Mahan expires on June 30, 2025. The contract is set up as a five-year contract. A new contract is out for bid and the bid opening is May 14, 2025. The KRA permit through the Division of Water for dredging does not allow KRA to dredge the navigation channel between April 1 – June 30 each year, due to the fish spawning season. If KRA wishes to dredge the navigation channel from Lock 1 and up to Lock 5 before June 30, 2025, we will have to submit a waiver. The waiver may not be needed if the contractor cannot start before June 30, 2025.

Other news:

- Jennie Wolfe and Olivia Dorma attended the Kentucky River Water Trail meeting on April 17, 2025, at ECU in Richmond. Andrea Drayer, with the University of Kentucky Water Research Institute and the Kentucky River Basin Coordinator, is leading the group interested in this project. There is an application process to designate the Kentucky River as a national water trail and the application is due next March.
- On April 17, 2025, Stantec presented at a Professional Engineering Conference in Lexington, Kentucky. They did a presentation on the Kentucky River Navigation and Dam replacement projects that the Kentucky River Authority has undertaken over the years.
- Group of nine from Asbury, in Wilmore, did a triathlon on May 8, 2025. They biked from Asbury University to Lock and Dam #8 in Jessamine County then canoed/kayaked from there to the High Bridge Boat ramp in Pool 7 and then ran back to Asbury. It was a successful event.
- On June 7 and 8, 2025, there will be a bass tournament in Carrollton, KY. The lockmasters will operate the lock those two days at Lock #1.

6. Chairman Report. James Kay thanked Senator Williams for attending the meeting. He stated the location of the next meeting would be determined at a later date.

7. Comments from the public. Nathan Depenbrock with the Bourbon Boat spoke to the board. Next Paul Richardson with Rockin' Thunder spoke to the board and stated there were rumors and negative publicity for the Kentucky River Authority. Lastly David Brown Kinloch gave an update on the hydroelectric project at Lock and Dam #14 in Lee County.

8. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm upon a motion made by David Jackson and second by Mark Smith.