

**KENTUCKY RIVER AUTHORITY  
MEETING NO. 218  
AGENDA**

Date: February 10, 2026

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: Paul Sawyer Public Library – Community Room  
319 Wapping Street  
Frankfort, Kentucky

***This program is not sponsored by the Paul Sawyer Public Library.***

1. Call to Order
2. Comments from the public
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes
  - KRA #217
  - Special Called Meeting 12-9-2025
4. Financial Report – Jessica Pinkston
5. Consideration for 2026 Public Officials Liability Insurance – Jessica Pinkston
6. Consideration for USGS Stream-flow Gaging Network, FY 27-28 – Jennie Wolfe
7. Consideration for UK Watershed Management Agreement, FY 27-28 – Water Quality Subcommittee
8. Recommendation for the KRA Grants to the Counties – Marketing and Recreation Subcommittee
9. Recommendation for the Lock 5 capital improvement project – Executive Subcommittee
10. Executive Director Report – Jennie Wolfe
11. Chairman Report – James Kay
12. Discussion - Other
13. Executive Session
  - Proposed Litigation KRS 61.810 (c)
  - Property Acquisition KRS 61.810 (b)
  - Personnel Matters KRS 61.810 (f)
14. 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, February 10, 2026, at the Paul Sawyer Public Library Community Room, 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: Shandeep Dutta for Secretary Johnson, John Lyons for Secretary Goodman, Rob Dowler, Case Davis, Mark Smith, James Kay, David West, Mitzi Delius, Amanda Stacy, and Glenn Napier. Also, in attendance were KRA Staff Members Jennie Wolfe, David Guess, Olivia Dorman, and Jessica Pinkston.

**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. Comments from the public.** Chairman James Kay open the floor for public comments.

**3. Approval of Meeting Minutes #217 and Special Called Meeting 12-9-25.** Upon a motion made by John Lyons and second by Mark Smith the meeting minutes from KRA #217 were unanimously approved by the board. Upon a motion made by Mark Smith and second by Glenn Napier the meeting minutes from the Special Called Meeting on 12-9-25 were unanimously approved by the board.

**4. Financial Report.** Jessica Pinkston summarized the financial reports for the months of October, November and December. Upon a motion made by John Lyons and second by Mark Smith, the financial reports for the second quarter of the fiscal year were approved unanimously by the board.

**5. Consideration for 2026 Public Officials Liability Insurance.** Jessica Pinkston presented the annual renewal of the Public Officials Liability Insurance for the period March 2026 through March 2027. This insurance policy protects the KRA board members from any litigation that could arise. The Public Officials Liability Insurance is bid out for the Kentucky River Authority, through the Finance and Administration Cabinet, Division of State Risk. The cost for the upcoming year is \$5,628.52, a decrease of \$266, over the previous year. Upon a motion made by Mark Smith and second by Mitzi Delius the board unanimously approved the renewal of the Public Officials Liability Insurance.

**6. Consideration for USGS Stream-flow Gaging Network, FY 27-28.** Jennie Wolfe presented the fiscal year 2027 and 2028 USGS Stream-flow gaging network agreement to the board. The KRA has had a cost share agreement with the USGS since 1998. There are 23 gages on the main stem of the Kentucky River from Whitesburg to Carrollton. The gages help with flood predictions and also droughts. The agreement goes from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028. There is a slight increase in the two-year agreement this year of \$8,848. The total agreement is \$311,948. Upon a motion made by David West and second by Case Davis, the USGS Stream-flow Gage network for fiscal years 2027 and 2028 was unanimously approved.

**7. Consideration of the UK Watershed Management Agreement, FY 27-28.** The Water Quality subcommittee met on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, and Steven Evans with the University of Kentucky Water Research Institute presented the two-year budget request to the subcommittee. The agreement will start July 1, 2026, and go through June 30, 2028. The KRA

and the UK Water Resource Institute have had an agreement since 1997. This agreement has provided technical and administrative services to the KRA in support of Watershed Management, Interagency coordination and representation, Basin team leadership and coordination, Research coordination, the Watershed Grant Program and Kentucky Watershed Watch. The amount requested for the agreement for the next two fiscal years is \$285,570. This is an increase of \$14,959 over the previous agreement. The increase in costs is due to employee healthcare costs and increase in travel costs. The Water Quality Subcommittee recommended the KRA approve this agreement for the next two fiscal years. Upon a motion made by John Lyons and second by Case Davis the UK Watershed Agreement for fiscal years 2027 and 2028 was unanimously approved.

**8. Recommendation for the KRA Grants to the Counties.** Mark Smith spoke on behalf of the Marketing and Recreation Subcommittee and recommended to the KRA board that the Kentucky River Authority fund “Grants to the Counties” for projects related to recreation on the Kentucky River and in the Kentucky River Basin. In the August 22, 2019, KRA Board Meeting #192, the KRA board voted to designate the revenue generated from the hydroelectric operations for use by the Marketing and Recreation Subcommittee. The KRA receives annual revenue from the Hydroelectric Facilities at Locks and Dams 7 and 12. Each project will be county specific and the KRA Staff will work with them individually based on the request. The KRA Staff will evaluate the request, and work with other state government agencies if the project is on state owned property. The grant recipient will be required to keep the KRA updated on the progress of the project. The KRA staff will present the proposals to the KRA board for approval before any funds are disbursed. Upon a motion made by Mark Smith and second by Glenn Napier the KRA board unanimously approved the KRA Staff to work with the counties on the requests for funding projects.

**9. Recommendation for the Lock 5 capital improvement project.** Stantec presented three alternatives for repairs to make Lock 5 operational. They also presented the lifetime cost of those three alternatives. The project is currently in design phase A. The next step will be for Stantec to design Alternative #2 for the renovations needed to reopen Lock 5 for navigation. Alternative #2 replaces the gates on the upper and lower end of the lock chamber but no repairs to the lock walls or guide walls in the approach to the lock chamber. Upon a motion made by Rob Dowler and second by David West the KRA board unanimously approved Stantec to move forward with Alternative 2 for design.

**10. Executive Director Report.** Jennie Wolfe stated the fiscal year 2026 General Fund budget, which supports the Lock Operations program, had been cut by 3% or \$12,200. This is the funding for the lockmaster salaries and operating expenses. There are no construction updates at this time. KRA staff will work with Stantec on the design phase for the Lock 5 project. The tentative move back date for the Bush Building is April 1, 2026. David Guess, Program Coordinator, stated the repairs to the lock wall at Locks and Dams 2 and 4 are in the process of being repaired. The electrical repairs at the office at Lock and Dam 2 should be approved by the state electrical inspector on February 11, 2026. The staff will be visiting the boat ramps and getting a plan in place to set buoys above the dams once the spring floods have passed. The United States Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District gave KRA all the old blueprints and files they had stored from the Kentucky River Locks and Dams.

**9. Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 1:32 pm upon a motion made by Mark Smith and second by John Lyons.