KCC Guardian

1992 Legislative Session In Review continued

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KCF Active in Water Supply Planning

KCF has hosted a workshop on water supply planning with the help of the Kentucky Division of Water, Community Farm Alliance, GREEN, Kentucky Local Government Project, Kentucky Resources Council, the Sierra Club, and the Minnesota Project. Guide to Local Water Planning, Kentucky Edition, was distributed at the workshop. Using the guided development by the Minnesota Project, and with their support, KCF produced a Kentucky version of this publication.

In 1990, the Kentucky Legislature mandated county-level, long range water supply planning by July 15, 1998. Applicable regulations are under 401 KAR 4.220. If funds remain available, the Cabinet for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection shall award planning assistance grants until July 15, 1996. Grants have already been awarded to many southeastern Kentucky counties. The workshop provided information about the state rules and regulations and the mandated planning process, the "how-to's" of public participation, case studies of other community efforts, legal issues, water quality, and water conservation. Also included was a session on rural water issues which encouraged citizens and planners to consider the planning process for those households which derive their water from wells, cisterns and springs.

Citizen participation was the main focus of the workshop and the Citizen's Guide to Local Water Planning, Kentucky Edition were provided to participants.

The state planning regulation requires public notification and two opportunities for public comment. One is in the early stages to set goals and objectives, the other is near the end of the planning process to select water supply alternatives—or if the supply is found to be adequate, the final planning is over. The workshop encouraged citizen involvement and made the following suggestions for increased participation:

- Ask to serve on the group that oversees the planning process;
- Focus/expand the planning goals to include local priorities such as wellhead protection, growth management, wells-cistern-springs, agricultural use.

Encourage conservation and water efficiency possibilities;
- Provide planning assistance: research, policy advice, facilitate or sponsor public meetings, initiate the process or urge your county to begin planning now;
- To date 35 Kentucky counties have begun water supply planning. Each of these counties chose a regional approach to water supply planning so that there are six planning councils: Big Sandy, Cumberland Valley, Harlan & Laurel, Harrison-Boyd-Nicholas, Kentucky River (EAD), and Pennyville. Resources available to you as you begin the process in your county include:


The Earth Needs a Friend in Frankfort... Support KCF!

Please check all that apply:

- [ ] $25 (individual)
- [ ] $100+ (patron)
- [ ] $15 (student and limited income)

Contribution only: please specify amount $

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Funding Cut For Environmental Council

One of the losses of the 1992 General Assembly was funding for the Environmental Council, which was created following a state-wide assessment of needs by the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education and hearings by the Environmental Quality Commission. It gathered a broad coalition of support that included elementary, secondary, and university teachers and administrators, governmental officials, industry executives, and state and local organizations representing public health as well as the environment. The Council was originally designed to serve as a clearinghouse for environmental education resources that are currently dispersed among more than 25 state agencies, to initiate regional environmental education centers around the state, and to bring in federal and private grant money to support state and local efforts. Given the millions of grant dollars now available for environmental education, it was anticipated that the three-person office would more than pay for itself. The Special Session on solid waste management added the mandate that the Council would help coordinate public education about recycling and other waste management solutions. Because Governor Wilkinson denied appointing the Council's governing board until mid-1991, a director was not selected and office space arranged until the beginning of 1992. Governor Jones campaigned on a platform that included full support for the Council, on the reasoning that "an environmentally knowledgeable citizenry is the best defense against environmental degradation." He included $276,300 for the Council in his budget for the next biennium, which the House approved. Senator Mike Moloney, Chair of the Senate Appropriations & Revenue Committee, took it upon himself to decide that, contrary to the experience of the Council's supporters, its services are not needed; and he removed all funds for the Council from the final version of the budget. Therefore the Council is still not able to begin functioning. If you are in Senator Mike Moloney's Fayette County District, let him know you don't appreciate his arbitrary action. KCC members can also thank Governor Jones for his past support for the Council and ask him to stand by it, as alternative sources of funding are being explored.

Upcoming Events...

September 21-25
Kentucky Association for Environmental Education Fall Conference Natural Bridge State Resort Park Conference Fee: $15 - Student, $25 - Individual, $50 - Family, $150 - Organization To register contact: Fife Wicks, KAEE Fall Conference, Blackacre Nature preserve, 3200 Tucker Station Road, Louisville, KY 40299

KCC supporters who came to the February 13th benefit evening at Rick's Cafe in Frankfort were charmed by Wendell Berry's reading of his short story, "A Conceal." It was the perfect Valentine's Day story, dealing as it did about the desperate marriage proposal of smitten but tongue-tied young farmer Freshfoot to the beautiful but modest schoolteacher, Miss Minnie. Regular readers of Mr. Berry's work will recognize other members of the Pit William fellowship in the story's supporting characters. Mr. Berry has offered his original manuscript for auction to benefit KCC. This 24 page hand-written, penciled manuscript on notebook paper, in a clear readable hand, is dated 3/2/89. A few penciled revisions and a second date of 2/24/90 are at the top of the first page. The manuscript comes with a handwritten cover letter signed by Mr. Berry. The minimum bid accepted will be $200. Bids should be mailed to the KCC office at P.O. Box 1152, Frankfort, KY 40602. Sealed bids must be postmarked no later than September 30, 1992. The highest bidder will be notified of success by mail. In the event of tied bids, the highest bidders will be given a chance for a second bidding. Call 802-227-9855 for information on the bidding status.

The 1992 Legislative Session

This was a difficult session. KCC, our associated environmental groups, and others were very busy fighting off attacks to existing laws and regulations that protect the land, air, and waters of Kentucky. In the end, we were quite successful. We increased our recognition among legislators and their staffs, we advanced to some degree all our priorities, we gathered more groups with an environmental interest into our informal coalition, and KCC was a major force in significantly changing or defeating the "dairy dozen" bills, that so harshly attacked existing laws and regulations of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet. Now HB 650, the most prominent of the "dairy dozen" bills puts hazardous spills into a framework, but does not limit state's right to require cleanups and continues the state's ability to respond in emergencies. Fran Eilers, who covered environmental issues in the legislature for The Courier-Journal, noted that "the defense against legislative battery by business interests was left largely up to individual lobbyists with the Kentucky Resources Council and the Kentuck Conservation Committee. These groups had seasoned lobbyists, and the close that environmentalists have gained in recent sessions was evident." Outcome of Specific Legislation and KCC Legislative Priorities:

State Environmental Policy Act—
This effort to build accountability into planning practices and siting procedures of state agencies was not accepted as separate legislation or as an issue for a legislative task force. However, KCC did succeed in getting changes in the economic development bill of the session to include the Secretary of the Resources Cabinet on the Economic Development Board, to confirm continued on page 2

Secretary Shepherd Addresses KCC Annual Meeting

Phillip Shepherd, Secretary of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet, addressed KCC members at the Annual Meeting in Shakerette on June 20, 1992. Secretary Shepherd discussed his interest in opening up debate on environmental issues, and framing the debate in such a way that the popular will is discernable to policymakers. Shepherd is aware of strong popular democratic support for strong environmental legislation. He stated, "We need to be able to frame the debate in terms the average citizen can understand." He encouraged environmentalists to take a broader view — to cut across class lines and to cut across racial lines. "We need to seek out and build bridges to small farmers, to labor, to people who want to hunt and fish in Kentucky. Nobody wants to fish in a polluted stream. Small farmers who want to turn their land over to another generation don't want to have water problems or other problems that will interfere with their purpose. If we are willing to build bridges with diverse groups and reach out to form these coalitions, we will be successful. We need organizations like this group to reach out to form these coalitions, to be a mediating force between the broad mass of citizens that you represent and the government officials who will be making policy.

Shepherd discussed Maxey Flats low level radioactive waste facility. It was proposed as economic development for this area. The promised jobs did not come, nor economic development. Private developers made money and left a superfund.
Announcing the inauguration of the 1992 Legislative Session Special Thanks

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1992 Legislative Session Special Thanks
Keep the Act Intact

Legislative Politics
KCC Sets Annual
Public Index System (PIX)