

The Kentucky Conservation Committee

Guardian

A Review of Kentucky's Commitment to Protecting
Its Environment and Conserving Its Natural Resources



P.O. Box 1152, Frankfort, KY 40602

Fall 2003

KCC Annual Board Elections -Vote Now!

There are four nominees this year to serve as KCC board members along with returning board members. Each nominee, if elected, will serve a two-year term. The nominees in alphabetical order, are:

1. **Ray Barry**—Past KCC President, past KCC Treasurer, past KCC secretary, current KCC newsletter editor and past board member. Executive Committee Sierra Club Cumberland Chapter, Sierra Club legislature committee.
2. **Wade Helm**—Past KCC President, Board Member, and Lobbyist. Local Government and Private Attorney. Board of Director Clean Money of Kentucky, West Louisville Community Task Force, member Smart Growth Task Force, Kentucky Environmental Education Council.
3. **Dr. William Martin**—Past KCC Board Member. Past Commissioner Kentucky Dept. of Natural Resources. Chair Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Foundation. Kentucky Academy of Sciences. Director of Div. of Natural Areas and Professor of Biology, EKV.
4. **Jack Wilson**—Former Director of the Kentucky Division of Water, Commissioner of the Kentucky Dept. of Environmental Protection. Kentucky Nature Conservancy.

Vote on Legislative Priorities for 2004

The Kentucky General Assembly convenes January 2004 and the KCC will be there representing environmental interests. The KCC needs to prioritize what environmental issues are of greatest concern that can be addressed by the Kentucky General Assembly. In the past, the General Assembly has considered 7-800 bills during the session. Listed below are 16 environmental issues that are likely to be addressed in the 2004 session of the General Assembly. You may write in additional issues if we have missed any. Please indicate which 5 you think are the highest priority for KCC to pursue. We will make sure that the top ten priorities that our members identify are actively addressed by our lobbyists.

- **Smart Growth**—A number of bills introduced in the 2003 session would provide local governments with the tool to address land use patterns. Unplanned growth continues to be a threat to the quality of life in Kentucky.
- **Straight Pipes**—Thousands of straight pipes are discharging raw sewage into Kentucky streams daily. A bill to prohibit straight pipes was introduced in the 2003 session of the General Assembly but did not make it out of committee.
- **Coal Slurry**—the Martin County coal slurry pond release was one of the worst environmental disasters in the southeast. The state's ability to assure that similar disasters do not occur is imperative.
- **Mandatory Solid Waste Collection**—the elimination of open dumps will only occur when everyone participates in universal solid waste collection systems. A bill to require mandatory waste collection died in the 2001 session.
- **Confined Animal Feeding Operations**—the increase in industrialized agriculture threatens both the environment (water, air, soil) and rural Kentucky's social and economic structure. Adequately addressing these impacts has been a long running issue between the Executive and Legislative branch.

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Kentucky Voices

an evening to benefit the
Kentucky Conservation Committee
featuring

Billy C. Clark
Miss America Kissed Caleb

Sena Jeter Naslund
Four Spirits

Steven Cope
Poet and Songwriter

Friday, Nov. 7, 2003

7:00 p.m., Kentucky Coffee Tree Cafe
235 West Broadway, Frankfort, Kentucky
opposite the Old State Capitol

Suggested Donation:
\$10 Adults / Students \$5
Children under 12 free

Artwork by Laurie Schimmoeller

Fall 2003 Ballot

Instructions: Vote for as many board members as you wish by placing a check next their name below. Candidates receiving a majority of votes cast will be elected. Return ballots in enclosed envelope by Nov. 7, or bring to Kentucky Voices (see page 2). Candidate bios are on page 1.

Nominees: _____Ray Barry _____Wade Helm _____William Martin _____Jack Wilson

Vote for your top 7 issues. The ten issues with the most votes will form our top 10 priorities.

___Smart Growth ___Straight Pipes ___Coal Slurry ___Mandatory Solid Waste Collection ___ Invasive Species

___Confined Animal Feeding Operations ___Hazardous Waste Fees ___Net Metering ___Brownfield Voluntary Cleanup

___Non-Coal Surface Mining ___All Terrain Vehicles ___Campaign Finance Reform ___Grandfather Clause of the Clean Air Act

___Abandoned Mine Lands ___Vehicle Emission Testing ___Water Infrastructure

Your issue: _____

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- **Invasive Species**—a major threat to native species is in the introduction of invasive species. A recommendation of the Biodiversity Task Force is the need to improve Kentucky's ability to address this threat.
- **Hazardous Waste Fee**—the cleanup of hazardous waste sites and the maintenance of National Priority List (Superfund) sites is paid through a fee on hazardous waste generators. The fee will sunset in 2004 if not renewed.
- **Net Metering**—the generation of electricity using renewable fuels (solar, biomass, wind, hydro) could be encouraged if generators received a fair price for any excess electricity generated. Net metering would provide generators a price that, at a minimum, would equal the price that utilities currently charge.
- **Brownfield Voluntary Cleanup**—sites that are, or thought to be, contaminated are defined as "brownfields." The redevelopment of these sites are hampered due to potential cleanup cost liability. The state has proposed voluntary cleanup standards to address the issue, regulations must be approved by the legislature to begin the program.
- **Non-coal Surface Mining**—regulations on non-coal mining operations (gravel, limestone, sand, minerals) proposed by the state in 2003 were attached by the Administrative Regulation Review Committee. The regulations will die at the end of the 2004 session unless they are adopted into statute (and the Natural Resources Cabinet will be prohibited from proposing any similar regulations for 2 years).
- **All Terrain Vehicles**—the unrestricted use of ATV's has had significant impacts on public lands. Attempts to require ATV's to be licensed, to require helmets be worn, require drivers to have training, and to impose a minimum age of 16 would help reduce soil erosion on public lands.
- **Campaign Finance Reform**—the election process is often seen as being dictated by campaign finances to a greater extent than issues. Reforms in the campaign finance system is needed to assure that public policy issues are addressed on their merit rather than who contributes the most money.
- **Grandfather Clause of the Clean Air Act**—the federal government is moving to expand the definition of the "grandfather clause" which would allow older facilities to continue to operate with less restrictive air pollution controls. Kentucky has a statutory mandate to be no more stringent than federal regulations, but this interpretation of the CAA will result in continued poor air quality and health impacts.
- **Abandoned Mine Lands**—the AML program is a component of the 1977 federal surface mining law through which a fee is assessed on current coal production to provide for reclamation of abandoned mines. Absent Congressional action re-authorizing the AML program within the next year, the collection of fees from coal production for AML site cleanup will end September 30, 2004.
- **Vehicle Emission Testing**—the VET program in Louisville is scheduled to cease at the end of October 2003, and the VET testing program in northern Kentucky is being targeted for elimination in the 2004 General Assembly. During the past year both Louisville and northern Kentucky exceeded the new ozone standards.
- **Water Infrastructure**—the \$2.8 billion needed to repair upgrade Kentucky's drinking waster infrastructure over next 20 years. Assuring that Kentuckians have adequate water supplies will require new resources.

Membership Application

Please Check All that Apply

\$25 (individual) \$35 (family) \$15 (limited income) \$50 (contributor) \$100 (patron)
 \$100 (Organization) \$365+ ("365 Club")

I am enclosing an extra \$10 to receive the Legislative Alert during sessions.

Other: \$_____ (please specify amount) Total enclosed \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP+4: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ email _____

Ways I will help KCC include:

Telephone Tree Writing Letters Monitoring Interim Committees Lobbying during Session

Because one of KCC's main activities is influencing legislation, contributions are not tax deductible. Please send your check and membership information to KCC, P. O. Box 1152, Frankfort, KY 40602.

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