COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF KENTUCKY RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION FOR ACCREDITATION APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT	)))))	CASE NO. 2026-00298

O R D E R

On October 5, 2026, Kentucky Rural Water Association (KRWA) filed an application[1] for approval and accreditation, pursuant to KRS 74.020(6) and (7) and 807 KAR 5:070, for the proposed water district management training titled Water Commissioner Training (Training Program) scheduled to take place on November 4, 2026, at the Sloan Convention Center in Bowling Green, Kentucky. A deficiency letter was issued on October 10, 2026,[2] in response to the application; KRWA filed a final version of its application on October 27, 2026,[3] which cured the deficiencies.

Having reviewed KRWA's request and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Commission approves the Training Program to satisfy the six hours of training described by KRS 74.020(6) and (7), subject to the conditions discussed below. KRWA did not

[1] All applications should be filed in an optimized pdf format (searchable or OCR) and include bookmarks to distinguish sections. Any future applications from KRWA not meeting this requirement will be rejected as deficient.

[2] PSC Deficiency Letter (issued Oct. 27, 2026).

[3] KRWA Application, Final Version (filed Oct. 30, 2026).

request the Training Program be approved and accredited to satisfy any portion of the 12 hours of initial training for newly appointed commissioners required by KRS 74.020(8).

DESCRIPTION OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM

The Training Program will be conducted in person on November 4, 2026, at the Sloan Convention Center in Bowling Green, Kentucky. The Training Program will consist of the following sessions:

1. Building the Next Generation of Water Operators: How Registered Apprenticeship Can Strengthen Kentucky's Water Utilities (1 Hour) Presenter: Heather Stevenson, Kentucky Rural Water Association: Kentucky's water and wastewater utilities face a workforce challenge that extends far beyond filling vacant positions. An aging workforce, a limited pool of qualified operators, difficulty recruiting and retaining employees, and the growing technical demands of operating modern water systems are creating significant challenges for utilities. For Water District Commissioners, this is not simply a human resources issue. This presentation will introduce the Kentucky Rural Water Association's Registered Apprenticeship Program as one strategy for addressing this workforce challenge. Commissioners have a responsibility to look beyond today's operations and ensure their utility has the knowledge, skills, and leadership necessary to provide safe, reliable, and affordable water service for the next generation.

2. Kentucky Infrastructure Loan Programs (1 Hour) Presenter: Sandy Williams, Kentucky Infrastructure Authority: For utilities, navigating the Kentucky Infrastructure Loan Program can be a complicated and daunting task. The process can take quite a long time, so some utilities avoid it completely. This session will explain the process and provide tools to help utility personnel understand what information they need to begin the KIA loan application process and the steps required to develop a successful application.

3. Understanding Audits: Fixed Assets (1 Hour) Presenter: Brent Billingsley, Campbell, Myers & Rutledge, PLLC: Proper audits are crucial for any business, including utilities. Depending on the utility, an audit may be required by state regulation or as a condition of borrowing money. Audits provide a third-party review of a utility's finances and can help identify problems while also protecting utility personnel who handle finances. This session will cover audit basics, how to prepare for an audit, how to select a qualified auditor, and the audit-related regulations utilities need to understand.

4. Alternative Rate Filing (1 Hour) Presenters: Tina Frederick, Stoll Keenon Ogden, PLLC, and Noah Abner, Kentucky Public Service Commission: The

Alternative Rate Filing process was adopted in 1982 to provide a simplified and less expensive procedure for a small utility to adjust its rates. The Alternative Rate Filing application is a pre-printed form that relies on a utility's annual report, requires fewer supporting documents, requires no experts (do-it-yourself), and is designed to encourage more frequent filings. This session will cover the details of the Alternative Rate Filing process and show how small utilities can take advantage of it.

5. Working with the PSC: What Staff Needs, What Water and Wastewater Utilities Need, and How to Work Together (Part 1) (1 Hour) Presenters: Vice Chair Mary Pat Regan, Kentucky Public Service Commission; John Lyons, Kentucky Public Service Commission;[4] Derrick Willis, Kentucky Public Service Commission; Noah Abner, Revenue Requirements Branch Manager, Kentucky Public Service Commission; Amanda Lawson, Assistant General Counsel, Kentucky Public Service Commission; Tim Webb, Kentucky Rural Water Association; Russ Rose, General Manager, Oldham County Water District; and Damon Talley and Tina Frederick, Stoll Keenon Ogden, PLLC: Filing cases with the Kentucky Public Service Commission can be a complicated and confusing process for Kentucky utilities, but it does not have to be. Understanding the process and the information needed greatly eases the burden of filing with the PSC. This session will cover requirements for different filings, including Purchase Water Adjustments and Alternative Rate Filings, along with best practices for filing. Discussion will also include why Commission Staff request copies of meeting minutes, best practices for obtaining utility easements, and tips for avoiding delays in a utility's case before the PSC.

6. Working with the PSC: What Staff Needs, What Water and Wastewater Utilities Need, and How to Work Together (Part 2) (1 Hour) Presenters: Vice Chair Mary Pat Regan, Kentucky Public Service Commission; John Lyons, Kentucky Public Service Commission;[5] Derrick Willis, Kentucky Public Service Commission; Noah Abner, Revenue Requirements Branch Manager, Kentucky Public Service Commission; Amanda Lawson, Assistant General Counsel, Kentucky Public Service Commission; Tim Webb, Kentucky Rural Water Association; Russ Rose, General Manager, Oldham County Water District; and Damon Talley and Tina Frederick, Stoll Keenon Ogden, PLLC: Continuation of Session 9B.

[4] John Lyons is mistakenly referred to in the proposed agenda provided by KRWA as representing the Kentucky Public Service Commission. John Lyons is the Secretary of the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet.

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DISCUSSION

KRS Chapter 74 authorizes the creation of water districts for the purpose of operating drinking water facilities and wastewater treatment and collection facilities. Water districts organized under KRS Chapter 74 must be administered by a board of commissioners that shall control and manage the affairs of the district.[6] KRS 74.020(8) requires each newly appointed water district commissioner to complete 12 instructional hours of training regarding the laws governing the management and operation of water districts, and other subjects as determined appropriate by the Commission within 12 months of the commissioners' initial appointment.[7] KRS 74.020(6) and (7) encourage water district commissioners to complete six instructional hours of "water district management training approved by the Public Service Commission" in each calendar year by allowing the commissioners to receive a raise if they complete the training each year.

KRWA indicates that it is seeking to have the Training Program approved to satisfy six hours of annual training necessary for water district commissioners to satisfy KRS 74.020(6) and (7), but it is not seeking to have it approved to satisfy the initial training requirements of KRS 74.020(8). The Commission has discretion in approving "water district management training" offered by third parties to satisfy the six hours of subsequent training described in KRS 74.020(6) and (7) if it determines that the programs are "high quality" and "will enhance a water district commissioner's understanding of his or her

[6] KRS 74.020(1).

[7] KRS 74.020(8)(b) (discussing the training requirements for new water district commissioners).

responsibilities and duties."[8] However, third parties applying for approval of a proposed water district commissioner training program must file their applications, including a detailed description of the program, a description of the qualifications of any presenters, and a copy of the written materials to be distributed at the program among other things, 30 days prior to the first date on which the program is to be offered.[9]

KRWA provided the information required by 807 KAR 5:070 and the Commission's Order in Case No. 2018-00085 in a timely manner. The Training Program also covers topics that will be relevant and useful to water district commissioners. Moreover, the presenters appear to have knowledge of the topics they intend to discuss, and based on a review of the materials provided, the Training Program appears to be well developed and of a high quality.

The Commission finds that the Training Program will provide water district commissioners relevant and useful knowledge that will enhance the quality, management, operation, or maintenance of the water systems they operate, and therefore the Training Program should be conditionally approved to satisfy the training requirements set forth in KRS 74.020(6) and (7) or a portion thereof.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. KRWA's Training Program scheduled to take place on November 4, 2026, is hereby conditionally approved and accredited for up to six hours of annual water district

[8] See KRS 74.020(7)(c) (stating that the Commission "shall encourage and promote the offering of high-quality water district management training programs that enhance a water district commissioner's understanding of his or her responsibilities and duties").

[9] Case No. 2018-00085, *Review of Training Required and Authorized by KRS 74.020 for the Commission of Water Districts* (Ky. PSC Mar. 15, 2018), Order at 4–5.

management training for water district commissioners seeking to satisfy training requirements set forth in KRS 74.020(6) and (7).

2. KRWA's Training Program may not be used by water district commissioners seeking to satisfy any portion of the initial training requirement for water district commissioners required by KRS 74.020(8).

3. KRWA shall retain a record of all water district commissioners attending the Training Program.

4. No later than 45 days after each scheduled offering of the Training Program, KRWA shall file with the Commission:

a. A sworn statement attesting that the accredited instruction was performed, including a statement that the materials regarding each session were distributed as required by the Commission herein;

b. A description of any changes in the presenters or proposed curriculum that occurred after the application;

c. The name of each attending water district commissioner, his or her water district, the number of hours that he or she attended; and

d. A copy of any written material given to water district commissioners attending the sessions that was not previously provided to the Commission.

5. Upon receipt of the materials identified in ordering paragraph 4 and provided there are no material changes to the program, the Commission shall issue a final order approving and accrediting the Training Program.

6. KRWA shall permit a representative of the Commission to attend the Training Program at the Commission's discretion, without charge, to assess compliance

with this Order or the quality of instruction for any other purpose deemed necessary by the Commission.

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Entered on this 4th day of November, 2026.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Angie Hatton
Chair

Mary Pat Regan
Vice Chair

Andrew W. Wood
Commissioner

Barry L. Mayfield
Commissioner

ATTEST:

Justin McNeil
Executive Director

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