

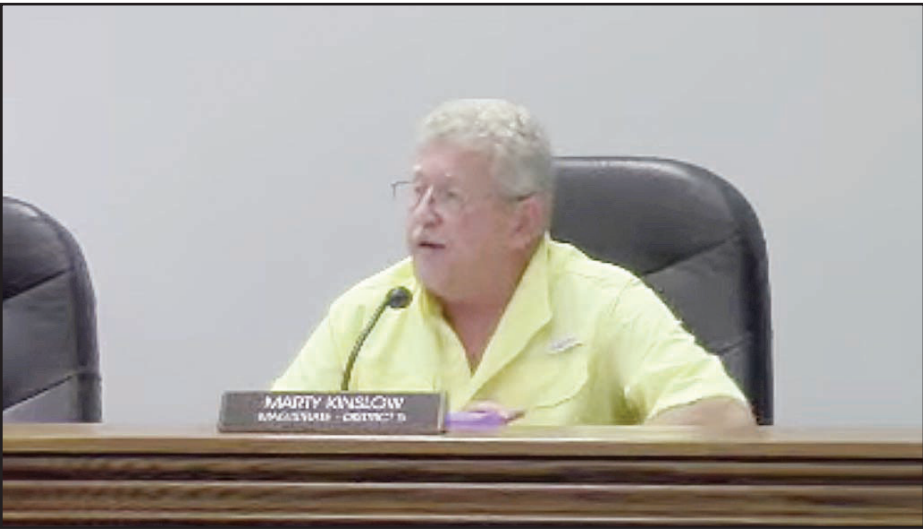
# Interlocal Agriculture Consortium

Hart, Barren, and Allen Counties moving forward on project

Allyson Dix  
Managing Editor

Barren County Magistrates approved to enter into an interlocal agreement with Hart and Allen Counties for an agricultural project, the Barren River Agriculture Consortium, or BRAC.

The agreement states the three entities have a mutual interest in pursuing together the development and provision of agriculture infrastructure such as modern produce and perishables cold storage, controlled atmosphere capabilities along with grain storage to help remedy farm production storage issues. It also looks to enhance the agriculture and economic development opportunities.



▲ Photo | Screengrab | Glasgow EPB

**Barren County Magistrate Marty Kinslow voices support for the interlocal agreement on the Barren River Agriculture Consortium project between Barren, Hart, and Allen counties.**

Barren County Judge/Executive Jamie Byrd said both Ag Commissioner Jonathan Shell and Representative Jamie Comer have approached area officials to bring the consortium to the region and the project is a private-public partner-

ship with plans to seek federal funding.

With such a project, Byrd said it has the potential to bring agriculture-related industries into the area and also help local farmers.

“Allen (county) is a

huge vegetable producer in our region,” Byrd said. “The problem these farmers are running into is that they don’t have the logistics to get it to the facility storage—we don’t have any in this region. And the cost to get it there and the

storage fee—and by doing the way we’re doing the consortium, we are hoping to cut down on the logistical costs and storage frees and increase their profit margins.”

She also said she is hopeful it will entice new farmers as well.

“It’s great and the fact they came to us and asked us to get it going is pretty impressive,” Byrd said of Shell and Comer.

As for grains, as questioned by Magistrate Marty Kinslow, Byrd said they are looking at plans, a study, and costs for a grain elevator potential in the Park City and Cave City market. “We have two locations we’re looking at,” she added. Kinslow

said grain producers currently drive their grain to Auburn and bringing the ag consortium to the area would not only help current producers, but also encourage new people to get involved in grain and vegetable production.

The principal office for BRAC would be housed in the county judge-executive’s office in Barren, but the agreement allows for other offices to be established if needed. The purpose of BRAC is to provide agricultural assistance through the use of participating county-owned resources such as land/property, shell facilities or other properties and facilities that BRAC purchases in the future.

# Magistrates Approve Study for Sports Complex

Allyson Dix  
Managing Editor

Magistrates of the Barren County voted to approve a request from Judge/Executive Jamie Byrd to fund a feasibility study for a planned sports complex facility with the exception of Tim Coomer.

Coomer voted no, without noting why, on June 27 in a special-called fiscal court meeting.

Byrd presented the court with three quotes from three companies for the study, which include: \$27,500 from Pinnacle Indoor Sports; \$25,000 from Sports Facilities Companies; and \$23,410 from TPMA.

A feasibility study will provide information about the economic impact for tourism, information on what will be most profitable, and the impact on the quality of life and use for both Barren County citizens and other counties for a regional impact.

Byrd said she traveled to Madisonville, Kentucky recently and met with the county’s judge and city mayor to tour their newly-opened sports complex facility. “Very impressive,” Byrd said. “They gave us an example of income, things that they done to prepare for that and I talked to Senator David Givens also last week and he stressed the need, especially if we’re going after state funds, that we have to have a study.”

Byrd also said she has requested \$5,000 from the local tourism and \$5,000 from the economic authority for reimbursement on this study and if those entities fail to approve, private funds will reimburse the county a total of \$10,000.

“You have my word on that whether it’s private or from those other two entities,” Byrd said.

“We’re going after 25 million dollars, so \$25,000,000, and you need a \$23-25-thousand-dollar study,” Byrd said. “This is all



▲ Photo | Rendering | Sherman, Carter, Barnhart Architects

**Barren County Magistrates approved a \$25,000 feasibility study for the planned sports complex on June 27 at the request of Barren County Judge/Executive Jamie Byrd with the expectation that \$10,000 of that will be reimbursed either from two other local entities or private funds.**

I need from you all. I’m not asking for anything else going after this because I’m already kind of doing some other stuff behind the scenes to go after these funds with regards to lobbying, meeting with representatives, and I’m doing my due diligence.”

If the study can start as early as next week, Byrd said it could be complete by the end of August, which is “key” because in order to apply for state funding on such a project, September is the deadline.

Magistrate Marty Kinslow said he preferred to only consider the two lowest bids and it was unclear to them what work the lowest bidding company has done with similar projects.

Byrd said the Madisonville complex cleared \$30,000 recently in two days from the concession stands during a volleyball tournament.

There was a long pause, leading Byrd to note the “awkward silence.”

“We gotta get this going though—we do,” Byrd said. “...I am committing to get \$10,000 reimbursed so whatever cost it is, minus 10, because we’re going to get money back for it.”

Magistrate Brad Groce ultimately motioned to pursue the sports feasibility study with the middle bid of \$25,000, noting that without the study, the state funds would go elsewhere in the state. As previously noted, with all magistrates present (some via Zoom), Coomer was the dissenting vote.

Fifteen acres of land have been announced by Glasgow Mayor Henry Royse as the city’s contribution from the 161-acres the city purchased last year on Cleveland Avenue. While that is expected to come before the full city council for approval. A construction bid packet is anticipated for the county in December of this year with breaking ground on the construction phase in the summer/fall of 2026, according to earlier comments from Byrd.

# County Approves Cemetery Relocation

Allyson Dix  
Managing Editor

The Barren County Fiscal Court unanimously voted on June 27 a resolution allowing grave sites to be relocated in Cave City.

Kentucky Industrial Alliance, property owner, discovered two abandoned cemeteries while in the process of developing the property for industrial and commercial uses. The

property is located between CSX railroad, Kentucky Highway 90, and I-65.

Photographs were provided to the county indicative that the cemeteries have been abandoned for over 10 years, which per Kentucky Revised Statutes, the court can allow the removal and relocation of the bodies buried in the land. A 60-day public notice is required, and subse-

quently fulfilled, to allow any protests.

The resolution states, “...after reviewing the comments and recognizing the proposed use of the property; and the Court after considering the opinions lodged with the Court and the benefits to be obtained by the community finds that the development of the subject tract and the relocation of the graves are in the best interest of

citizens of Barren County...”.

Under the direction of a licensed funeral director and at the expense of Kentucky Industrial Alliance, the court unanimously approved for the cemeteries to be removed, the bodies interred, and relocated to the Cave City Cemetery. The original grave monuments will also be moved identifying the individuals in their new location.

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