



Judge Executive's Report

By George Sparks

March 2025 County Judge Executive Monthly Report

We hit the ground running this month by attending the Department of Local Government's Budget Workshop held at Gateway Area Development District in Morehead. The content also covered HB 810 Training Program and SPGE's Federal/State legal updates.

I met with Vanceburg Mayor Dana Blankenship and Megan Bankemper, field representative for Senator Mitch McConnell. We discussed tourism, community development, and industrial development in Lewis County and the City of Vanceburg.

I attended a DR-4848 FEMA Recovery Transition meeting with LC Applicant Agent LeAnn Kamer, LCEM Director Dennis Brown, KYEM Caitlen Commins, and FEMA Velez Yambo. This incident occurred between 9/27-9/30 2024 due to Category A Hurricane Helene, requiring county-wide debris removal.

I attended the Hospice of Hope Finance/Audit Committee Zoom meeting.

On March 10, I presided over the March Fiscal Court meeting. The meeting was opened with prayer offered by Rex McKinniss, Minister of Tollesboro Christian Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Comprehend Inc. CEO Melissa Greenwell spoke to the court about the services they provide in Lewis County and asked the court to consider giving a donation. BTADD Missy Hardy spoke to the court about a Debris Management Plan. The bids were opened for the CPPP road projects. The County Clerk's Fee Settlement was reviewed and approved. The Brewer Lawn Service agreement was reapproved. A housing agreement with Rowan County Detention Center was reapproved. The court acknowledged the 2025-26 Jail Budget. Ordinance #25-01 FC Budget amendment was approved. A temporary easement was approved for a detour on Ribolt-Epworth Road while a bridge is put in. Resolution #25-06 was approved, which allows me to appoint members for the Ethics Committee. The selected committee members are George Plummer, Jennifer Meadows, and Jill O'Cull. The court approved selling a vehicle I drove that is no longer needed. Jeff Thoroughman was hired for workforce. Myron Conn was rehired at Solid Waste as a seasonal employee. The court approved courthouse roof repairs to be done by Orus Weaver. Magistrate Underwood discussed Cedar Lane and Waring Cemetery roads with the court. The court approved a donation to the Red Cross again this year. Approval was given to the Clerk's office to buy some election equipment. Reports were presented by all departments and approved before the court adjourned.

Next, I headed to Comprehend Inc. to attend the Board of Directors special meeting. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Rebecca Cartmell. Committee reports on some old and new business were discussed. Some policies were updated. CEO Melissa Greenwell and others gave updates on several programs.

Lewis County EM Director Dennis Brown, Road Supervisor David Goodwin, Applicant Agent LeAnn Kamer, KYEM Area 7 Manager Jason York and I met FEMA workers in Lewis County to assess storm damage. We visited several of the roads that were washed out during the February flooding. These damaged roads have been repaired, and some will be eligible for FEMA Public Assistance funding. Combined with work done by the state highway, we met and exceeded the financial threshold required to qualify for Public Assistance during the February flooding. We appreciate our county officials for their hard work along with KYEM and FEMA for coming to visit and do their assess-

ments of these roads.

Attended the BTADD Water Management Council. During the meeting we discussed project amendments for nine projects. We discussed operator training coming up on March 19th at the Mason County Extension Office. BT Workforce Development gave a presentation on the different programs they have and how they can work with and support us. I spoke with Debbie Landram with the KY Infrastructure Authority about the South Shore Water Project that will provide public water for several residents on Scaffold Lick and in the Firebrick area. Debbie says the project is making some progress.

BTADD Executive Director Kevin Comette and I visited Superior Composites. We met with plant manager Greg Spears to discuss the workforce, employee recruitment, and employee retention. We discussed production, storage, and distribution. Lastly, we talked about our goal of having a riverport here in Lewis County.

I attended the monthly BTADD board of directors meeting. I called the meeting to order followed with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Sarah Eitler with What's Happening News Publications gave a presentation to the board. The board approved the appointment or reappointment of new members from Fleming, Mason, and Robertson counties. A financial report and budget versus actual was given by Stephen Culp and approved. Staff reports were given by all departments. Executive Director Kevin Comette spoke about the intergovernmental review process, the GSI Software Annual Renewal, and the status of bills in the House and Senate as of 3/17/25.

We have been continuing to make improvements in the Lewis County Road Department. The staff along with the maintenance department have been helping fix doors and floors. They have been doing spring cleaning, painting, and making the inside look much better.

Next, I went to the Comprehend Inc. Board of Directors monthly meeting. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Rebecca Cartmell followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The board approved the past meeting minutes. A financial report was given by Ms. Hicks and approved. The CEO report was given by Ms. Greenwell followed by committee reports.

I attended the Licking Valley Community Action Program monthly meeting. The meeting was called to order followed by prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The past minutes and a financial report were both approved. Program reports were given by Director Kenneth Walters, and several other business matters were discussed before closing.

Magistrates Johnny Osborne, Mark Horsley, and I hit the road to attend the KY Magistrates and Commissioners Association spring conference in Lexington. We heard from Lieutenant Governor Jacqueline Coleman, KACo Attorney Rich Orstein, DLG Robert Brown Budget Preparation, Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell, Representative Patrick Flannery, Senior Advisor Rocky Adkins, and several other state and local officials. We heard updates on Opioid Abatement, medical cannabis, jails, roads, bridges, and much more. It was a great time to make connections with other officials across Kentucky.

Employees from the Small Business Development Center and TENCO Workforce Development staff traveled to Lewis County to discuss the upcoming Business Forum on May 9 from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Lewis County Extension Office. All Lewis County business owners are encouraged to attend. We all plan on getting out into the county and stopping by some of the businesses to encourage them to come to our forum. This will be a time to meet and

connect with other business owners and learn about what they do, some of the ways they may work together, and to learn what Workforce and SBDC can do to support them.

Next, I met with Buffalo Trace ADD staff and EM Director Dennis Brown to discuss the Lewis County 911 service contract. We talked about several changes that need to be updated in our service contract. Once the updates have been made, they will go before the court for approval.

I had the opportunity to discuss a wildfire mitigation forestry grant with Buffalo Trace and the Division of Forestry. We applied for the grant through BTADD and are hopeful that we will receive it. Over the past few years, there have

been several forest fires in the county - some of which have burned several hundred acres. If awarded, BTADD will help us build a wildfire mitigation plan. It will include community meetings and training for our fire departments. Overall, it will help Lewis County be safer and better prepared. We also want to protect our timber, which is one of our greatest resources.

I collaborated with County Attorney Benjamin Harrison and landowners to get an easement contract to build a detour on their property while a new bridge is under construction on Ribolt-Epworth Road.

I went to the Lewis County Board of Education to meet with Maysville Community & Techni-

cal College President Dr. McColough and LC Superintendent Dr. Mike Melton. We discussed education at the college and at the new Career and Technical Center. We met with Principal Jeremy Ruckel and he gave us a tour of the center.

I attended a phone conference briefing with the National Weather Service and LCEM Director Dennis Brown concerning potential severe weather on 3/30/25-3/31/25. The potential for strong winds seemed to be their biggest concern.

Treasurer Penny Lee, Road Supervisor David Goodwin, and I met with Scott Pekar of Worldwide Equipment to discuss the process of updating the Road Department's semi-tractor and two tri-axle trucks. The Fiscal Court will make the final decision on these

trucks in the April 14, meeting. LC Fiscal Court and the county road department have been working with Worldwide for the past 11 years.

When I look at my calendar and see all of the events and meetings coming up, I am filled with hope and excitement for the future of Lewis County. We have been working diligently on an array of projects, multiple grants through Buffalo Trace Area Development District, and events that will bring people together to generate ideas to help our county excel. It is a blessing to have the opportunity to work hard for you, the good people of Lewis County, and make many great partnerships with officials in Frankfort and across the state of Kentucky along the way.

City of Vanceburg Electric Plant Board Water Quality Report 2024

For previous reports include year. Example: tapwaterinfo.com/2023/vanceburg

Water System ID: KY0680438 Manager: Troy Hughes 606-796-2641	CCR Contact: Troy Hughes	Mailing Address: PO Box 489 Vanceburg, KY 41179	Meeting location and time: Electric Plant Board Administrative Office Second Tuesday, monthly at 6:00PM
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Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects may be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated contaminants, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and may pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, (sewage plants, septic systems, livestock operations, or wildlife). Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, (naturally occurring or from stormwater runoff, wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming). Pesticides and herbicides, (stormwater runoff, agriculture or residential uses). Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, (by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, or from gas stations, stormwater runoff, or septic systems). Radioactive contaminants, (naturally occurring or from oil and gas production or mining activities). In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water to provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Source Information:

Electric Plant Board's water supply comes from a ground water source and draws from four wells within the Ohio River Alluvium, located 3 miles east of Vanceburg in the community of Black Oak. The following is a summary of the system's source of water assessment and its availability and susceptibility to contamination, which is part of the completed Source Water Plan (SWAP). The completed plan is available for inspection at the Electric Plant Board Office. An analysis of the overall susceptibility to contamination of the Vanceburg Utilities' water supply indicated that this susceptibility is moderate. There are a total of 127 potential sources of contamination within the wellhead protection area following susceptibility rankings: 7 high, 120 medium, and 0 low. Sources of high potential impact include: Highway 8, agricultural land use, underground storage tanks, above ground storage tanks, and a railroad. Sources of moderate potential impact include: septic systems, wastewater package plants, and above ground storage tanks. This is a summary of the susceptibility analysis. The complete Susceptibility Analysis Report is available at the Buffalo Trace Area Development District and at the Division of Water.

Information About Lead:

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Your local water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact your local water system. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

We are required to annually provide information about the health risks from lead in drinking water to schools and child care facilities. All elementary schools, secondary schools, and child care facilities are eligible to be sampled for lead by our water system. Contact our office for scheduling or to learn results of previous sampling.

Service Line Inventory Information:

To address lead in drinking water, EPA requires that all community water systems develop and maintain an inventory of service line materials. We have completed a service line inventory (SLI) and it is available for review at our office.

Lead Sample Results Availability Information:

We are required to periodically sample water from customer taps to determine lead and copper levels. EPA sets the lead action level at 0.015 mg/L (15 ppb). For a water system to be in compliance, at least 90% of tap water samples must have lead levels below this limit. This report contains the 90th percentile and range of our most recent sampling. The individual results for each location sampled can be reviewed at our office.

Some or all of these definitions may be found in this report:

- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** - the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** - the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- Below Detection Levels (BDL)** - laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.
- Not Applicable (N/A)** - does not apply.
- Parts per million (ppm)** - or milligrams per liter, (mg/L). One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- Parts per billion (ppb)** - or micrograms per liter, (µg/L). One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- Parts per trillion (ppt)** - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000,000.
- Parts per quadrillion (ppq)** - one part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.
- Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** - a measure of the radioactivity in water.
- Millirems per year (mrem/yr)** - measure of radiation absorbed by the body.
- Million Fibers per Liter (MFL)** - a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.
- Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.
- Variations & Exemptions (V&E)** - State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
- Action Level (AL)** - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system shall follow.
- Treatment Technique (TT)** - a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Spanish (Español) Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

We are only required to test for some contaminants periodically, so the results listed in this report may not be from the previous year. Only detected contaminants are included in this report. For a list of all contaminants we test for please contact us. Copies of this report are available upon request by contacting our office.

Regulated Contaminant Test Results								Vanceburg Electric Plant Board	
Contaminant [code] (units)	MCL	MCLG	Report Level	Range of Detection	Date of Sample	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination		
Inorganic Contaminants									
Barium [1010] (ppm)	2	2	0.069	0.069 to 0.069	Jun-24	No	Drilling wastes; metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits		
Fluoride [1025] (ppm)	4	4	0.57	0.57 to 0.57	Jun-24	No	Water additive which promotes strong teeth		
Nitrate [1040] (ppm)	10	10	2.68	2.68 to 2.68	Nov-24	No	Fertilizer runoff; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits		
Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts and Precursors									
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL = 4	MRDLG = 4	0.93 (highest average)	0.52 to 1.4	2024	No	Water additive used to control microbes.		
TTHM (ppb) (Stage 2) [total trihalomethanes] (Annual Sample)	80	N/A	6 (high site)	3 to 6 (range of individual sites)	2024	No	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection.		
Household Plumbing Contaminants									
Copper (ppm) Round 1 sites exceeding action level 0	AL = 1.3	1.3	0.871 (90 th percentile)	0.062 to 0.932	Aug-24	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems		
Lead (ppb) Round 1 sites exceeding action level 0	AL = 15	0	0 (90 th percentile)	0 to 2	Aug-24	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems		

Your drinking water has been sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. There are no MCLs and therefore no violations if found. The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help EPA determine where the contaminants occur and whether they should have a standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that these data are available. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact our office during normal business hours. None of the contaminants tested for at this time were detected.

Violation 2024-9057616

We received a violation for failing to certify that we had distributed the 2023 Water Quality report to our customers. The report was delivered to our customers on time, however, the certification package showing that it had been distributed was not delivered to the Division of Water on time. We have made internal changes to ensure we deliver all certification documents in a timely manner in the future.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

WIC WANTS YOU! - WIC offers health care and free healthy foods for eligible women and children under age 5. Call the Lewis County Health Department to find out if you qualify. Ex. of WIC Program Income Guidelines: A family of 4 can make up to \$57,720 annually. Call today 606-796-2632.

LEWIS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Will meet the third Saturday of each month at Noon at the Historical Society building on Market Street, Vanceburg.

COVERED BRIDGE MEETING SET FOR APRIL 10 - The Covered Bridge Chapter of Kentucky Public Retirees will meet Thursday, April 10, at the Double S Entertainment Center on Foster Street in Flemingsburg. Guest Speaker will be Goldie Williams. All city, county, and state retirees are invited to attend. Please come and enjoy the fellowship and if you have not paid your dues you may do so at this time.

LEWIS COUNTY 4-H COMMUNICATIONS CONTEST - Lewis County 4-H will be hosting a county-wide communications contest on Tuesday, April 15, at Lewis County Central Elementary beginning with Sign-In at 6:00 p.m. The contest will start at 6:30 p.m. with awards presented following the tallying of scores. Winners will advance to the Area Communications Contest held in May. Any Lewis County youth ages 9-18 are encouraged to compete! Planning guides for both Speech and Demonstrations can be obtained by calling the Lewis County Extension Office at 606-796-2732. Youth are encouraged to wear business casual clothing for the event. Registration is due by April 10 and can be completed by calling the Lewis County Extension Office. Any questions regarding the competition can be directed to Ashley Hunt (ashley.mhunt@uky.edu OR 606-796-2732).