

MEETING MINUTES

Special Called Meeting of the
Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Tuesday, April 22, 2025 | 9:00 AM
Virtual Meeting
Zoom Conference ID: 845 5362 3580 Password: SWCC

In attendance for SWCC: Mr. Danny Shipley, Chair; Mr. Don Overbey; Mr. Bill Harned; Mr. Lenville Martin; Mr. Jeff Rice; and Mr. Keith Tingle.

Others Present: Mr. Jay Nelson, Division of Conservation; Ms. Johnna McHugh, Division of Conservation; Ms. Crystal Renfro, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Mr. Steve Coleman, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Mr. John Chism, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; Ms. Debbie Boyd, Hopkins County Conservation District; Mr. Ted Jessup, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Ms. Beth Harrod, Division of Water Dam Safety Section; Mr. Scott Schneider, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Ms. Marilyn Thomas, Division of Water Dam Safety Section; Mr. Jeff Gravitt, Division of Conservation; Ms. Shanna Drake, Division of Conservation; Ms. Rhonda Lamb, Concerned Landowner; Mr. Bill McCloskey, Kentucky Office of Ag. Policy; Ms. Penny Warwick, Warren County Conservation District; Ms. Dawn Baase, Department of Natural Resources; Ms. Kristine Whybark, Division of Conservation; Ms. Tammy McCallon, Calloway County Conservation District; Mr. Glenn Alexander, Division of Water Dam Safety Section; Ms. Melinda Murphy, Division of Conservation; Ms. Robin Decker, Grayson County Conservation District; Ms. Sarah Bryant, Kentucky Office of Ag. Policy, and Mr. Steve Kelley, Chairman, West Fork Mayfield Creek Watershed Conservancy District.

Quorum was met.

Call to Order and Introduction: by Mr. Danny Shipley (10:08 AM).

Mr. Danny Shipley turned the meeting over to Mr. Jay Nelson.

Mr. Jay Nelson discussed the recent historic flooding in Kentucky. He also described the \$5 million in allocated funds for NRCS program match for dam rehabilitation, and that he had consulted with EEC legal staff and upper management on the potential use of this funding for dam repair projects as a result of this flood event. As a result of that effort, he stated that the funds could be used for assisting local sponsors for the federal (NRCS) Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP), which is a 75% federal and 25% dam sponsor match. These funds can be utilized to assist local watershed conservancy districts on their portion of the 25% required match.

Mr. Jay Nelson turned the meeting over to Mr. Scott Schneider to discuss EWP program.

Mr. Scott Schneider gave a presentation describing how the EWP program works, how funding is handled, and how the incorporation of state dam rehab funds would work within the EWP program.

Mr. Jay Nelson suggested to the Commission that the dam rehab funds be available to support the local watershed conservancy districts for their required match for the EWP program *for this flood event*.

Mr. Jay Nelson asked the Commission to rescind the prior approval of \$3 million of this funding for the Marshall County Conservation District (East Fork of Clarks River Project) so that this funding be available for more immediate and needed repair work through EWP. Mr. Nelson stated that he had spoken with the chair of the Marshall County Conservation District Board and had received their agreement for this vote. He stated that this specific East Fork Clarks River rehab project is on hold due to the need for revised plans, and that funding will not be needed for a significant amount of time on that project. Mr. Keith Tingle made a motion to rescind the previous approval for Marshall County. Mr. Bill Harned seconded the motion. **Motion Carried.**

Mr. Jay Nelson stated that he will have paperwork ready (application, agreements, contracts) for the next Commission meeting for review. Mr. Jay Nelson asked for approval to move forward in the process. A motion was made by Mr. Jeff Rice and was seconded by Mr. Bill Harned. **Motion carried.**

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn the SWCC meeting was made by Mr. Don Overbey and was seconded by Mr. Bill Harned. **Motion carried.**

Next SWCC meeting is May 19th at 9:00 AM.