**MEETING MINUTES**

**Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission**

**Monday, April 24, 2023**

**9:00 AM**

**300 Sower Blvd, Frankfort, KY**

**or**

**Zoom Conference ID: 845 5362 3580 Password: SWCC**

**In Attendance for SWCC**: Mr. Danny Shipley, SWCC Chair; Ms. Denise Hoffman; Mr. Lenville Martin; Mr. Don Overbey; Mr. Aaron Lewis; and Mr. Keith Tingle.

**Others Present:** Ms. Paulette Akers, Division of Conservation; Mr. Gordon R. Slone, Kentucky Department for Natural Resources; Ms. Johnna McHugh, Division of Conservation; Mr. Tim Hughes, Department of Agriculture; Ms. Bridget Abernathy, Division of Forestry; Mr. Steve Coleman, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Ms. Crystal Renfro, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Ms. Natalie Browning, Kentucky Association of Conservation District Employees; Ms. Kathleen Saunier, Energy and Environment Cabinet; Mr. Vincent Thompson, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Ms. Lisa Mullings, Kentucky Association of Conservation District Employees; Mr. Steve Beam, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Mr. Dean Schamore, Farm Service Agency; and Mr. Jeff Gravitt, Division of Conservation.

Quorum was met.

**Meeting Called to Order** – 9:03 AM by SWCC Chair Mr. Danny Shipley.

**SWCC KACD Joint Minutes from the February 2023 Meeting** - Motion to approve minutes was made by Mr. Lenville Martin and was seconded by Ms. Denise Hoffman. **Motion carried.**

**Agency Reports** -

* Division of Conservation – Ms. Paulette Akers informed the Commission of her decision to resign her position with the Division of Conservation.
* KACD – Ms. Crystal Renfro discussed the following with the Commission –
* Finished up area meetings.
* Convention date is July 9th to be held in Bowling Green.
  + Ms. Karen Woodridge from National NRCS office will attend.
* KACD meeting at Cherries dairy barn.
* 75/25 discussed.
* KACD Auxiliary – Ms. Lisa Mullings discussed the following with the Commission –
  + 37 total applicants for the George Craft on Scholarship.
    - Biggest turnout.
* Natural Resources Conservation Service – Mr. Steve Beam discussed the following with the Commission –
  + Positions available for field staff (41 position in total).
* Active EWP projects in Eastern Kentucky associated with flooding.
* Flood plain easement EWP that will provide for buyouts.
* EQIP funding totaling $26 million.
* Mississippi River Basin Initiative and National Water Quality Initiative funding.
  + Over 1,800 application with about 800 funded at this time.
* CSP entered 113 renewals for $3.3 million.
* Better outreach for the socially disadvantaged.
* Department for Natural Resources – Mr. Gordon Slone discussed the following with the Commission –
  + Mr. Gordon Slone thanked Ms. Paulette Akers for her service to the Division of Conservation.
  + Intern program with the Energy and Environment Cabinet.
* Division of Abandon Mine Lands – Infrastructure bill allocated $74 million dollars for the next 15 years totaling $1.1 billion.
* Division of Oil and Gas – Over 475 wells have been plugged. 620 wells are currently being looked at.
* Kentucky Department of Agriculture – Mr. Tim Hughes discussed the following with the Commission –
  + Arbor Day celebration in Jackson County.
  + Ag Development Board and Finance Corporation joint meeting.
  + Ag Finance Corporation’s portfolio over $100 million.
  + National Association of State Departments of Agriculture received $3 million in EPA funding.
  + Tennessee Department of Agriculture.
  + Badlands Development Board.
* University of Kentucky, CAFE – Not attended.
* Division of Forestry – Ms. Bridget Abernathy discussed the following with the Commission –
  + Spring fire season.
  + Prescribed burns.
    - Working with Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and US Fish Wildlife Service.
* Increase in funding to help with urban forestry, forestry health and stewardship.
* Finalized proposal for funding with the Forest Service.
* Process of hiring a new Stewardship Coordination.
* 60 acres of trees planted this past spring.
* Nursery program winding down.
* Arbor Day planting with school kids.
* KACDE – Ms. Natalie Brown discussed the following with the Commission –
  + Upcoming annual conference from Southeast in Pigeon Forge.
  + Upcoming area meetings.
    - May 3rd, May 10th and May 11th.
* April area meeting went well with the help of Mr. Jay Nelson from the Division of Conservation.
* Farm Service Agency – Mr. Dean Schamore discussed the following with the Commission
  + Planting season underway.
  + ERP program.
  + Tornado clean up still ongoing in several Counties in Kentucky.
  + Emergency Room Storage program is currently pause for a bit.

**Correspondence** – Ms. Paulette Akers discussed the following correspondence with the Commission:

* Boone County – The Boone County Conservation District is requesting the transfer of funds in the amount of $5,578.09 from Heavy Material Removal/Farm Dump Fund to Conservation Education Fund. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Aaron Lewis and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. **Motion carried**.
* Kenton County – The Kenton County Conservation District is requesting a reconsideration of the Commission decision to deny the 2022/2023 environmental grant for dead animal removal assistance program. After a discussion the Commission upheld their past decision. A motion to deny was made by Mr. Lenville Martin and was seconded by Ms. Denise Hoffman. **Motion carried**.
* Lee County – The Lee County Conservation is requesting an approval for a special training before FY 2023 ends June 30th. This will allow two of its newest members to qualify for their per diem. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Keith Tingle. **Motion carried**.
* Ms. Johnna McHugh asked the Commission to approve the presentation by the Ms. Kimberly Bartley to be used a qualifying event. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Marion. **Motion carried**.
* Bath County – The Bath County Conservation District is requesting that the Zoom attendance for Area 5 be approved as a qualifying event towards their incentive per diem. Campbell County and Harrison County also requested approval for this as well. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Lenville Martin and was seconded by Mr. Keith Tingle. **Motion carried**.

**Equipment Report** – Ms. Johnna McHugh presented the report with copies distributed.

* Statement of Operations - Ms. Johnna McHugh gave an overview of the year-to-date equipment fund report. Mr. Keith Tingle made the motion to approve, and Ms. Denise Hoffman seconded the motion. **Motion carried**.
* Approval of Equipment Loan Requests **–** No loan request to be discussed.

**Conservation District Supervisors** – Ms. Johnna McHugh presented the requests with copies distributed.

* Vacancy Petitions - Ms. Johnna McHugh presented the requests.
  + Anderson County - Alayna Jacobs to fill unexpired term of Kelli Buckley (2024) (1 petition received)
  + Breathitt County - Ashley Hudson to fill unexpired term of Clifton Hudson (2026) (1 petition received)
  + Fayette County - Robert Lofton to fill unexpired term of Jessica Voigt (2026) (1 petition received)
  + Laurel County - Brandon Fawbush to fill unexpired term of Jerry McDaniel (2024) (1 petition received)
  + Pike County - Matt Hager to fill unexpired term of Brian Mullins (2024) (1 petition received)

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Aaron Lewis and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. **Motion carried**.

* Incentive Per Diem – Ms. Johnna McHugh presented the requests for supervisor and receive incentive per diem.
  + Anderson County -
    - Roy Toney – 8 ten-minute trainings, KACD convention, Area 6 meeting
    - Don Sayre – 8 ten-minute trainings, Area 6 meeting
    - Mike Wilson – 8 ten-minute trainings, Area 6 meeting
  + Boone County -
    - Kathy King – 8 ten-minute trainings, Area 5 meeting
  + Fleming County -
    - Gene Jarvis – Area 8 meeting, 10 ten-minute trainings
    - Donnie Christman – KACD convention, 10 ten-minute trainings
  + Gallatin County -
    - Peggy Tinch – 9 ten-minute trainings, Area 5 meeting
    - Joe Smith – 8 ten-minute trainings, Area 5 meeting
    - Cindy Sullivan – 9 ten-minute trainings, Area 5 meeting
    - Vic Satchwell – 9 ten-minute trainings, Area 5 meeting
  + Grant Couny -
    - Bill Courts – 8 ten-minute trainings, Area 5 meeting (via Zoom)
    - Tim Epperson – 8 ten-minute trainings, KACD convention
    - Ronnie Gabbert – 8 ten-minute trainings, Area 5 meeting
    - Tim Henry – 8 ten-minute trainings, Area 5 meeting
    - Jerry Martin – 8 ten-minute trainings, KACD convention
    - Tisha Woodyard – 8 ten-minute trainings, Area 5 meeting (via Zoom)
    - Travis Woodyard – 8 ten-minute trainings, Area 5 meeting
  + Montgomery Couny -
    - Danny Montgomery – Area 8 meeting, 12 ten-minute trainings
    - Robert Amburgey – Area 8 meeting, 11 ten-minute trainings
    - Linda Webb – KACD Convention, Area 8 meeting
    - Shannon White – KACD Convention, Area 8 meeting
    - Mike Gabbard – KACD Convention, Area 8 meeting
    - John Gabbard – KACD Convention, Area 8 meeting
    - Barry McCoy – KACD Convention, Area 8 meeting

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Ms. Denise Hoffman. **Motion carried**.

**Agriculture District Program** - Ms. Johnna McHugh presented the report with copies distributed. One (1) new petition were presented to the Commission for consideration for a total of 527.56 acres.

1. Todd County (Petition No. 110-06 – 527.56 acres). Motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin.  **Motion carried.**

Twelve (12) new agricultural districts have been submitted to the commission for five-year recertification for a total of 3,627.77 acres.

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| **COUNTY** | **PETITION NO.** | **ACRES** |
| Barren | 005-12 | 321.45 |
| Boone | 008-04 | 648.33 |
| Boone | 008-15 | 77.67 |
| Cumberland | 029-04 | 617.05 |
| Cumberland | 029-05 | 260.05 |
| Cumberland | 029-06 | 363.31 |
| Cumberland | 029-07 | 268.00 |
| Cumberland | 02908 | 376.70 |
| Hardin | 047-03 | 44.37 |
| Lincoln | 069-04 | 149.19 |
| Meade | 082-02 | 414.38 |
| Meade | 084-14 | 87.27 |

Motion to approve the above 12 recertifications was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Keith Tingle. **Motion carried**.

**Old Business** – No old business was discussed.

**New Business** –

* FY24 Environmental Grants – Ms. Paulette Akers presented the revised environmental grant application. The Commission revised the amount for funding from $10,000 to $7,500 with a 25% match. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Keith Tingle. **Motion carried**.
* Watershed Dam Rehab Contract review – Ms. Paulette Akers presented the watershed dam rehab contract. The Commission approved the contract with further discussion forthcoming. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. **Motion carried**. A motion to advertise application was made by Mr. Aaron Lewis and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. **Motion carried**.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lenville Martin and was seconded by Mr. Keith Tingle.

**Motion carried**.

Next Board Meeting – Next SWCC meeting is July 10th at KACD Annual Meeting in Bowling Green.