

MEETING MINUTES

Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

300 Sower Blvd, Frankfort KY, Conference Room #214

Monday, May 18, 2026 | 9:00 AM

SWCC Members

Danny Shipley (Chair)	Area 3
Jeff Rice	Area 2
Bill Harned	Area 4
Eddie Monroe	Area 5
Keith Tingle	Area 6
Anne Bays	Area 7
Lenville Martin	Area 8
Denise Hoffman	Area 9

Other Attendees

Jay Nelson, Division of Conservation
Johnna McHugh, Division of Conservation
Melinda Murphy, Division of Conservation
Jeff Gravitt, Division of Conservation
Steven Olt, Division of Conservation
Crystal Renfro, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts
Steve Coleman, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts
Eric Allness, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Steve Beam, Natural Resources Conservation Service
David Wayne, Farm Service Agency
Sarah Charles, Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy
Bailey Siry-Crowder, Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy
Abe Nielsen, Division of Forestry
Chloe Brantley, Kentucky Rural Water Association
Katie Vandegrift, Lantern Hill Farm, Midway, Kentucky
Nat Colten, Woodford County Conservation District

1. Call to Order

Chairman Danny Shipley called the meeting to order. Attendees introduced themselves and their organizational affiliations. The meeting was conducted in a hybrid format, with some members attending in person and others joining via Zoom.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes from the January 23, 2026, and the February 19, 2026, SWCC meetings were presented for approval. A motion to approve both sets of minutes was made by Lenville Martin and seconded by Denise Hoffman. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Agency Reports

Division of Conservation: Jay Nelson and Johnna McHugh

National Watershed Coalition Spring Workshop

- Workshop was held in early April in Bowling Green, KY. Over 100 registrants across three days; excellent weather and a successful field day.
- Approximately 40 representatives from Kentucky attended. Of those, roughly 15 were watershed directors. DOC noted a desire to see greater watershed director participation at future events.

Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Contract Update

- Marshall County contract was approved after being in the system since December; start date was adjusted five times before approval. Graves and Marshall are the two initial contracts fully finalized.
- In the preceding two weeks, 12 more contracts were entered into the system. Three are pending two additional approval levels before reaching the district signing stage.
- Progress is ongoing; the contracting process remains slow but is moving forward.

Staffing Changes

- Secretary Goodman was reappointed to the Transportation Cabinet. John Lyons has been named Secretary of the Energy and Environment Cabinet. DOC has already resolved several issues with the new Secretary.
- Gordon Sloan retired earlier this year (January). Jim Cable (previously with Abandoned Mine Lands) has been named Commissioner for the Department of Natural Resources. Commissioner Cable was out of town and asked that his apologies be conveyed; he plans to attend the next Commission meeting.
- Kim Barton, DOC's Northern Kentucky field representative, is leaving for a position outside state government. Her last day is this Friday. DOC will be working to fill the position promptly.
- DOC has two interns starting this summer: Blake Bratcher and Alexa Clifford.

Agriculture Water Quality

- A successful Agriculture Water Quality Advisory Committee meeting was held at Robinson Forest. A solid quorum was achieved despite the remote location.
- DOC is updating the statewide Ag Water Quality Plan. Four BMPs have been approved (two new, two revised). One or two additional BMPs are under review before the plan is fully updated.
- DOC staff, including Kimberly Bartley and Steven Olt, have been collaborating with the Division of Water and UK Extension on the Kentucky Nutrient Management Planning Tool, which contains data that needs to be updated. A direction for the path forward is being determined.

State Envirothon

- The State Envirothon was held the previous week. Ten teams qualified; nine competed (one withdrew due to AP exam conflicts). The event included oral presentations on Day 1 and outdoor field tests on Day 2. This year's current issue topic was non-point source pollution, in addition to the standard subjects of soils, aquatics, wildlife, and forestry.
- The team from the Gatton Academy will represent Kentucky at the International Envirothon in Mississippi. The team from Montgomery County will represent Kentucky at the National FFA Convention in October.

Summer Interns

- DOC will have two summer interns, and they will be starting within the next two weeks.

Division of Forestry: Abe Nielsen (on behalf of Bridget Abernathy)

- Wildland Fire: The spring fire season concluded April 30. There were 638 fires burning just over 15,000 acres. Drought conditions late in the season contributed to a significant end-of-season fire. KDF will monitor conditions heading into the fall fire season. The agency assisted with 12 prescribed burns totaling just over 3,000 acres.
- Tree Seedling Nurseries: The seedling sales season (September through April) concluded with 493,000 seedlings sold. Of those, 168,000 went to conservation districts, and 45,000 were provided as match at no cost.
- Urban & Community Forestry Grants: \$100,000 was recently awarded in tree planting grants to six groups across the state: the cities of Newport, Florence, Richmond, Winchester, and Erlanger, and the non-profit Louisville Groves. These groups will plant 193 shade or fruit trees in identified urban forestry priority areas.
- Wolf Creek State Forest: The Division is closing on this property within the next month. Wolf Creek State Forest will be approximately 465 acres in Breathitt County, about 17 miles east of Jackson. The property was purchased in partnership with the Imperiled Bat Conservation Fund and the Kentucky Heritage Lands Conservation Fund. It will become the 11th Kentucky State Forest. The property has an existing road system; plans include timber stand improvement and parking area development.

Natural Resources Conservation Service: Steve Beam

- NRCS Leadership: Chief Bettencourt has stepped down; Colton Buckley has been assigned as Acting Chief, effective that day.
- Farm Bill: The Farm Bill passed the House mid-week the prior week. The bill must still clear the Senate and reconciliation. Movement on a new Farm Bill is occurring, though the full timeline remains uncertain.
- Farmer Roundtables: NRCS completed a roundtable in south-central Kentucky reviewing practice standards including energy, fence, water facilities, and related livestock practices. Good engagement from cattle and poultry producers; actionable feedback was received.
- EQIP and CSP: Both programs are actively obligating funds. The pace of obligation is rapid; funding figures change daily. A second agricultural land easement (ACEP-ALE) sign-up is also underway.
- Staffing: New federal hiring remains very limited. Nationally, 218 positions have been approved for hire. Kentucky received one position and is advertising for a Supervisory District Conservationist. Additional positions may come in future quarters but are not guaranteed.

Farm Service Agency: David Wayne

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): The general CRP sign-up has closed; accepted offers are being processed. Continuous CRP is being approved in batches, approaching the acreage cap. Grassland CRP sign-up ends May 29; producers with predominantly grass farms are encouraged to submit offers.

- Livestock Forage Program (LFP): Thirty-three counties have triggered LFP due to D3 drought conditions in May. Producers with reported grazing acres in triggered counties are eligible. Sign-up is ongoing throughout the year, and if conditions trigger again later in the summer, producers may participate again. Accurate grazing acreage reports are critical.
- Staffing: FSA is operating at 275 positions in Kentucky for 2026. Hiring will be limited to backfilling vacancies from normal attrition; no new positions are being added. All 64 service centers remain open.

Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy (KOAP): Sarah Charles

- 2026 Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) Payment: The total payment to Kentucky came in at \$94 million; the first time the payment has fallen below \$100 million, though it exceeded estimates. The Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund (KADF) received \$38.6 million; \$13.5 million was distributed to counties. The Development Board approved \$4.3 million in county funds on the preceding Friday.
- KOAP 25th Anniversary: The closing celebration event is scheduled for June 19 at the Kentucky Historical Society. All Commission members are welcome to attend.
- CAIP Administrator Trainings: Six of eight planned trainings have been completed with over 151 extension agents and county administrators in attendance. One additional training is scheduled for the following day in London, with a final training in Frankfort in June.
- CAIP Standardization: Presentations were made at spring area meetings regarding the policy for all county conservation districts to administer CAIP by 2031. Over 150 survey responses were received, including 45–46 from counties not currently administering CAIP. Feedback was constructive and informative.

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts: Crystal Renfro

- Spring Area Meetings: All nine area meetings have been completed. Attendance and engagement were strong this year.
- KACD Annual Convention: Scheduled for July 26–28 at the Crowne Plaza in Louisville. Room reservation links were released to districts this morning. Members are encouraged to reserve rooms early and avoid cancellations to protect the KACD room block.
- KACD Google Calendar: Now live on the KACD website (About Us → Meetings). The calendar is updated immediately when meetings are scheduled or changed, including snow-day notifications for area meetings.
- Farm Bill Outreach Staff: Six Farm Bill outreach contractors remain deployed across the state for the next few months, assisting with NRCS local work group meetings and other outreach.
- New Public Affairs Specialist: Seth Smallwood has been hired as KACD's public affairs specialist, stationed at the NRCS State Office. Seth is a former partner affiliate employee with conservation district experience. Districts are encouraged to reach out to him with news stories, success stories, or video opportunities.
- State Budget Update: The General Assembly session was disappointing for conservation programs. Direct aid will be reduced to \$186,500 and the State Cost Share Program to \$1,773,000 for the coming fiscal year. KACD will advocate for reinstatement in the next budget cycle, recognizing that budget advocacy must begin two years in advance.

- Resolution: A district has submitted a resolution proposing that districts with sufficient local funding be allowed to voluntarily donate their direct aid allocation back into a redistribution pool to support lower-funded districts.
- NRCS Local Work Group Meetings: KACD Farm Bill outreach staff are assisting with local work group meetings across the state. Districts hosting meetings are thanked; others are encouraged to participate. Most areas have one or two work groups; some eastern Kentucky work units have three.

4. Correspondence: Jay Nelson

Carroll County: Environmental Grant Reallocation

Carroll County Conservation District requested to move \$2,500 in Environmental Grant funds from their dead animal disposal program to their hardwood tree reimbursement program due to limited applicant interest in the dead animal program.

A motion to approve was made by Bill Harned and seconded by Keith Tingle. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Edmonson County: Environmental Grant Reallocation

Edmonson County Conservation District requested to move \$1,508 in Environmental Grant funds (older unspent balance) from soil testing to tree seedlings.

A motion to approve was made by Bill Harned and seconded by Keith Tingle. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Logan County: Environmental Grant Reallocation

Logan County Conservation District requested to move 2021 Environmental Grant funds originally allocated for erosion control blankets to other practices in their local program, due to insufficient applicant interest. The proposed practices included cover crops, pipeline and tanks, wildlife food plots, pollinator plots, and stream obstruction removal. DOC noted that Commission policy prohibits duplicating practices offered under the Kentucky State Cost Share Program. Cover crops and pipeline/tanks are offered under state cost share and therefore should be excluded from the approved reallocation. Wildlife food plots, pollinator plots, and stream obstruction removal are not duplicated in the State Cost Share Program. The amount was not specified per practice category.

A motion to approve the reallocation excluding cover crops and pipeline/tanks was made by Denise Hoffman and seconded by Eddie Monroe. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Menifee County: Environmental Grant Reallocation

Menifee County Conservation District requested to move \$1,525 from soil testing (funded in 2020) to environmental education initiatives, citing limited interest in soil testing. The district indicated \$625 from its own funds would remain in soil testing.

A motion to approve was made by Lenville Martin and seconded by Denise Hoffman. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Campbell County: Kentucky State Cost Share Application Revocation

DOC presented a State Cost Share Program application modification request from Campbell County that raised concerns during staff review. The original application listed 16 beef cows and was entered under the Livestock:Pastureland practice category. Upon review, it was determined that the operation is a swine (show pig) operation with no beef cattle; swine

operations are not eligible for pastureland category practices. The application should have been submitted under the Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) category, which cannot be changed retroactively under Commission policy. DOC legal staff confirmed the Commission has the authority to revoke the original approval.

A motion to revoke the approval of original Campbell County application was made by Bill Harned and seconded by Keith Tingle. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Allen County: Kentucky State Cost Share Program Application (NOV)

DOC presented a State Cost Share Program application from Allen County for a dairy operation with an NOV. The application includes practices for a composting facility (dead animal disposal), critical area planting, fence, heavy use area, and roof runoff structure (guttering). Total application amount: \$16,836.93. A field visit by DOC staff confirmed that recent changes to the operation caused runoff issues, which the proposed practices will address. The matter has been largely resolved by the landowner, but the practices will provide long-term solutions.

A motion to approve was made by Keith Tingle and seconded by Eddie Monroe. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Equipment Report: Johnna McHugh

Equipment Loan Fund Status (as of April 30, 2026)

- Beginning balance (start of fiscal year): \$1,569,146.23
- Total receipts this fiscal year: \$112,329.60 (\$109,777.21 amortization; \$2,552.39 interest)
- April receipts: approximately \$5,700
- One loan issued this fiscal year: \$15,866.67
- Ending balance as of April 30, 2026: \$1,665,609.16
- All active loans current.
- Note: A previously approved loan for Nicholas County has not been disbursed. Nicholas County has not responded to repeated requests to formally decline the funds in writing. The funds remain earmarked in the account. DOC will consult with legal staff and report back at the July meeting.

A motion to approve the equipment report was made by Bill Harned and seconded by Lenville Martin. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Equipment Loan Application: Bath County

Bath County Conservation District requested a loan for a Land Pride 9-foot multi-purpose seeder to be owned by the district. Bath County currently maintains three no-till drills, two chain harrows, a lime spreader, and a bale wagon. All prior loans are current and reporting is up to date.

- Equipment cost: \$19,400
- Down payment: \$6,000 trade-in allowance plus \$500 cash (\$6,500 total, one-third of cost)
- Loan amount: \$12,900

- Term: 3 years
- Monthly amortization: \$358.33
- Proposed rental rate: \$80 for up to 10 acres; \$8 per acre thereafter
- Selected vendor is not the lowest bid by sticker price, but the trade-in allowance makes it the lowest net cost; this is permitted under Commission policy.

A motion to approve the Bath County equipment loan was made by Denise Hoffman and seconded by Eddie Monroe. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Conservation District Supervisors: Johnna McHugh

Vacancy Petitions

- LaRue County – Max Ragland to fill the unexpired term of Merle Edlin (1 petition received)
- Laurel County – Linda Wittenback to fill the unexpired term of James Sensabaugh; Stephen Davis to fill the unexpired term of Ronnie James (1 petition received per position)

A motion to approve all vacancy petitions was made by Keith Tingle and seconded by Bill Harned. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Incentive Per Diem

Incentive per diem requests were received from supervisors in the following counties. All individuals have completed at least two qualifying events and requests were approved by their respective local boards prior to submission:

- Barren County
 - Kenneth Edwards – KACD convention, Area 3 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Charles Embry – Area 3 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Don Wilson – Area 3 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Jackie Nuckols – Area 3 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Floyd Ray Jones – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Jerry Reed – Area 3 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
- Bath County
 - Jodi Purvis – Area 8 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Vernon Stamper – Area 8 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Valerie Ousley – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Michael Staton – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Travis Reed – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Aaron Watson – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Colby Wells – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training

- Campbell County
 - Rick Simon – KACD convention, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Greg Davis – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Richard Carr – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Kirsten Hill – Area 5 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Lawrence Schadler – KACD convention, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Christy Geiman – Area 5 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Amy Downton – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
- Casey County
 - LJ Wilson – Area 7 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Valorie Floyd – KACD convention, Area 7 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Mary Sue Shoopman – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Roger Weddle – Area 7 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - David Grider – Area 7 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Brent Ware – Area 7 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Curtis Todd II – Area 7 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
- Fleming County
 - Donnie Christman – KACD convention, area 8 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Mollie Dailey – KACD convention, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
- Gallatin County
 - Vic Satchwell – KACD convention, area 5 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Peggy Tinch – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Joe Smith – Area 5 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Deb Brown – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Emily Epifanio – KACD convention, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Randy Cozine – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
- Hancock County
 - Gary Long – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Loyd Ray, Jr. – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Stephen Ogle – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Dennis Johnson – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Joseph Hagman – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Anthony Johnson – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Daniel Emmick – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training

- Harlan County
 - David Howard – Area 9 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Robert Jones – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Will Clem – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Lonnie Saylor – Area 9 meeting, NACD annual meeting, DOC virtual training
 - Susie Mavinidis – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Marcella Whitaker – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
- Jefferson County
 - Sarah Beth Sammons – KACD convention, area 4 meeting, NACD SE meeting, DOC virtual training
 - David Kaelin – Area 4 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Tyler Lloyd – Area 4 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Elizabeth Everhart – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Austin Clark – KACD convention, area 4 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings, NACD SE meeting
 - Thomas Edison – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
- Laurel County
 - Clemons Bundy – Area 7 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Kenneth Massey – Area 7 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Ronald Patton – Area 7 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Brandon Fawbush – Area 7 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings
- Montgomery County
 - Danny Montgomery – KACD convention, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Barry McCoy – KACD convention, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Linda Webb – KACD convention, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Shannon White – KACD convention, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Mike Gabbard – KACD convention, 8 ten-minute trainings
 - John Gabbard – KACD convention, 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Robert Amburgey – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
- Morgan County
 - Deborah Wilson – Area 8 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Chris Lacy – Area 8 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Chris Lindon – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Mark Luke – Area 8 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Travis Stacy – Area 8 meeting, DOC virtual training
 - Henry Ronald Cole – Area 8 meeting, DOC virtual training

- Kenneth Scarberry – Area 8 meeting, DOC virtual training
- Robertson County
 - Danny Case – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - William Grant Paynter – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Dwaine Miller – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - James Brumagen – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Benny Renner – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Harley Flack – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Gerry Becker – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
- Rowan County
 - Sam Hughes – Area 8 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Clyde Mays, Jr. – Area 8 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Gary Ferguson – Area 8 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Steve Kelsey – Area 8 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Anthony Anderson – Area 8 meeting, 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Angela Clatos – 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training

A motion to approve all incentive per diem requests was made by Keith Tingle and seconded by Eddie Monroe. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Agriculture District Program: Johnna McHugh

Program Summary (Cumulative)

- Total petitions/amendments received: 1,217 from 83 counties for 646,352.76 acres
- Total acres withdrawn from ag districts overall: 200,579.26 (417.98 acres withdrawn this meeting)
- Total ag districts certified: 597 in 80 counties for 440,134.71 acres
- Amendments approved: 449
- Petitions/portions denied: 47, for 6,812.02 acres (due to planning boundary conflicts or other reasons)

New Petitions and Amendments: 11 Petitions, 2,374.32 Acres

Fleming County (035-32): New Petition

A motion to approve was made by Denise Hoffman and seconded by Keith Tingle. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Fleming County (035-33): New Petition

A motion to approve was made by Keith Tingle and seconded by Eddie Monroe. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mason County (081-07): Amendment No. 2

A motion to approve was made by Keith Tingle and seconded by Bill Harned. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mason County (081-11): New Petition

A motion to approve was made by Keith Tingle and seconded by Denise Hoffman. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mason County (081-12): New Petition

A motion to approve was made by Bill Harned and seconded by Jeff Rice. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mason County (081-13): New Petition

A motion to approve was made by Keith Tingle and seconded by Lenville Martin. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mason County (081-14): New Petition

A motion to approve was made by Lenville Martin and seconded by Bill Harned. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mason County (081-15): New Petition

A motion to approve was made by Denise Hoffman and seconded by Eddie Monroe. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Meade County (082-05): Amendment No. 1

A motion to approve was made by Jeff Rice and seconded by Eddie Monroe. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Scott County (105-06): Amendment No. 1

A motion to approve was made by Lenville Martin and seconded by Bill Harned. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Scott County (105-11): New Petition

A motion to approve was made by Denise Hoffman and seconded by Lenville Martin. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Woodford County (120-11): New Petition

A motion to approve was made by Keith Tingle and seconded by Jeff Rice. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Five-Year Recertifications

Five ag districts have been submitted for five-year recertification, totaling 1,708.26 acres, one each from the following counties:

- Barren County (005-06)
- Bracken County (012-12)
- Henry County (052-13)
- Knox County (061-01)
- Woodford County (120-01)

A motion to approve all five recertifications was made by Jeff Rice and seconded by Eddie Monroe. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Old Business

EWP Funding Process Update

Covered under the Division of Conservation agency report (see Item 3 above).

Agriculture Water Quality Authority

The Commission currently has one environmental groups and three ag-at-large positions on the Ag Water Quality Authority. One of the ag-at-large positions cannot continue to serve. Staff will compile a list of commodity groups as potential nominees. Commission members are invited to suggest candidates. This item will be on the agenda for the July meeting.

9. New Business

Equipment Loan Incentive Opportunity: Division of Water Partnership

DOC presented a new funding opportunity from the Division of Water (Paulette Akers) using gulf hypoxia program funds. The Division of Water proposes to cover the required one-third down payment for conservation districts purchasing conservation equipment through the Commission's equipment loan program. The two-thirds loan portion would continue to flow through DOC; the one-third grant would come directly from the Division of Water to the district, keeping funding sources separate per state government requirements.

Approximately 18 counties in priority watersheds are initially eligible, with a secondary list available if initial allocations are not fully utilized. DOC's financial staff within the Cabinet have approved the arrangement. No formal Commission action is required at this time.

Caldwell County Agricultural District: Attorney Correspondence

DOC briefed the Commission regarding an outside attorney representing landowners in Caldwell County who is seeking to expedite an ag district application, potentially involving a utility easement. The attorney attempted to contact the Commission directly, bypassing the conservation district. DOC clarified the proper application process and has not yet received an eligible application from this party. The matter is expected to be before the Commission at the July meeting. Commission members were informed in the event they receive inquiries or calls.

New Legal Review Requirement

A new cabinet-wide policy now requires all materials to be presented to the Commission's legal staff at least two weeks before any meeting at which they will be displayed or distributed. This has resulted in several vacancy petitions and incentive per diem requests that arrived after the cutoff being held for the July agenda. Commission members were notified in the event of inquiries from districts about the delay.

KACD Annual Convention/SWCC Meeting

Discussion was held regarding the scheduling of the SWCC's regular July meeting during the KACD Annual Convention (July 26–28, Crowne Plaza, Louisville). It was determined that the SWCC will hold its meeting on Monday, July 27, at 1:00 PM during the afternoon breakout session period. Commission members are encouraged to actively participate in applicable

breakout sessions, including those on watersheds, ag water quality, internal controls, and education.

Kentucky State Cost Share Training Recap

Melinda Murphy reported that state cost share training was conducted after area meetings this spring, with strong participation. Training included review of DOC's spreadsheets, form procedures, and the reasoning behind requirements. Board supervisors who remained for training with their district administrators were commended. DOC encourages supervisors to attend future trainings to maintain baseline knowledge of administrative processes, particularly in anticipation of staff transitions. DOC staff are available to conduct individual district training sessions upon request.

10. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Lenville Martin and seconded by Eddie Monroe. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

The next SWCC meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 27, 2026, at 1:00 PM during the KACD Annual Convention, Crowne Plaza, Louisville, KY.