

Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

September 16, 2024 – 9:00 AM

Zoom Conference ID: 845 5362 3580 Password: SWCC

300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort KY 40601

In attendance for SWCC: Mr. Danny Shipley, Chair; Ms. Denise Hoffman; Mr. Don Overbey; Mr. Bill Harned; Mr. Jeff Rice; Mr. Aaron Lewis; and Mr. Keith Tingle.

Others Present: Mr. Jay Nelson, Division of Conservation; Mr. Gordon Slone, Department for Natural Resources; Mr. Lenville Martin; Ms. Johnna McHugh, Division of Conservation; Ms. Dawn Baase, Department for Natural Resources; Ms. Crystal Renfro, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Ms. Natalie Browning, Kentucky Association of Conservation District Employees; Mr. Eric Allness, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Ms. Kathleen Saunier, Energy and Environment Cabinet; Mr. Warren Beeler, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; Mr. Steve Beam, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Mr. Steven Olt, Division of Conservation; Mr. Jeff Gravitt, Division of Conservation; Ms. Penny Warwick, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; and WKYT.

Quorum was met.

Call to Order and Introduction – by Mr. Danny Shipley.

SWCC Minutes from the April 15, 2024, Meeting – A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Mr. Bill Harned. Ms. Denise Hoffman seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

SWCC Minutes from the July 31, 2024, and July 15 Notes Meeting – A motion to approve the meeting minutes and notes together was made by Mr. Keith Tingle. Mr. Bill Harned seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

District in Good Standing Appeals – Ms. Johnna McHugh discussed the following DIGs appeal.

- DIGs filled out incorrectly.
 - Fleming County – Bonding
 - Nicholas County – Budget updates.
 - Ohio County – Employee signing checks.
 - Pendleton County – Statewide events.

A motion to approve the above DIGs appeals was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman. Mr. Bill Harned seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

- DIGs Missing an item and submitted the item.
 - Caldwell County – Proof of meeting with fiscal court.
 - Crittenden County – Proof of meeting with fiscal court.
 - Kenton County – Proof of meeting with Fiscal court.
 - Knox County – Corrective measures submission, proof of meeting with fiscal court.
 - Menifee County – Corrective measures submission, proof of meeting with fiscal court.
 - Pike County – State cost share reports.
 - Wolfe County – State cost share reports.
 - Woodford County – Sate cost share reports.

A motion to approve the above DIGs appeals was make by Mr. Keith Tingle. Ms. Denise Hoffman seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

- DIGs Requesting a different decision.
 - Boone County – Employee signing checks, fiscal court.

A motion to deny the above appeal was made by Mr. Keith Tingle. Mr. Bill Harned seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

- DIGs not submitted by deadline.
 - Estill County
 - Martin County

A motion to approve the above DIGs appeals was make by Mr. Bill Harned. Ms. Denise Hoffman seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Agency Reports –

- Division of Conservation – Mr. Jay Nelson discussed the following -
 - Meeting from July 31st on the Red Lick Watershed.
 - Possibility of a Hypoxia grant from Division of Water to help districts purchase drills.
 - KACDE meeting attended.
 - Division of Conservation staff going to Minnesota in October to the NASCA annual meeting.
 - Announced upcoming October Division of Conservation staff meeting.
 - Discussed possible YouTube page for the Division of Conservation.
 - Update on Mr. Lenville Martin’s appointment.

Mr. Gordon Slone discussed the appointment process and the difficulties on getting appointments approved.

- Division of Forestry – Mr. Gordon Sloane discussed the following –
 - Forecast for October and November is higher than usual for the possibility of wildfires due to the area being dry.
 - \$6 million dollar cap for funding wildfire suppression if KDG goes over that limit. A special session will need to be held to approve additional funding.
 - The division has been working out of state. (Texas, California, Oregon, and Montana).
 - Funding from the United States Forest Service to help with hurricane damage discussed.
 - \$3 million in grant funding to help with fire suppression.
 - US Forest Service and US Fish and Wildlife hosted a Southern area advanced equipment academy in Bell County. It was attended by 18 students from 10 states.
- Natural Resources Conservation Services – Mr. Eric Allness discussed the following –
 - Record quantity of financial assistance funds were made available to producers this year.
 - \$41 million in financial assistance funds (Environmental Quality Incentives Program).
 - Conservation Stewardship Program discussed. Over \$14 million has been funded this year. 450 producers participated thus far.
 - NRCS funding coming from the Inflation Reduction Act
 - Looking at adding an additional supervisory district conservationist position in each area in 2025.
 - RCPP update. There was 7 projects application in KY.
 - Update on 75/25 program and wildlife training.
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- Farm Service Agency – Not attended.
- Kentucky Department of Agriculture – Mr. Warren Beeler discussed the following –
 - Mr. Greg Shanks was appointed Emergency Manager for the drought mitigation team.
 - Kentucky Department of Agriculture had two regional meetings in Murray County and Morehead County with the Cabinet for Economic Development.
 - Field day in Saint Catherine with 300 people attending.
 - Farmers Appreciation Day in conjunction with the farm safety group.
 - State Fair update.
 - Milk Processors Association meeting at Lake Barkley for traveling around the state for Farm to Fork events.
- University of Kentucky, CAFE – Not attended.
- Department for Natural Resources – Mr. Gordon Sloan discussed the following –
 - Abandoned Mine Lands receives \$47 million yearly for projects and \$27 million in AMLR projects.
 - Oil and Gas also using federal grants to plug abandoned wells.

- KACD – Ms. Crystal Renfro discussed the following –
 - KACDE meeting update.
 - KACD special meeting to accept nomination for area five Commissioner.
 - Ms. Kayleigh Evans is the new contract employee with KACD.
 - Two new agreements with NRCS. Update on newsletter.
 - KACD will be revamping their committee.
 - Upcoming August 2nd, 2025, NACD Conservation meeting to be held in Louisville KY.
 - Churchill Downs reception this upcoming weekend.
 - 81st KACD upcoming convention next year.
- KACDE – Ms. Natalie Browning discussed the following –
 - KACDE conference was a success with 80 plus people were involved.
 - Tabloid and T-shirt update.
 - Ms. Penny Warwick will be the new KACDE president.
 - Ms. Penny Warwick introduced herself to the Commission.

Mr. Steve Olt discussed his new role as the new Director of the State Cost Share Program and gave a State Cost Share update.

SWCC Correspondence – Mr. Jay Nelson discussed the following –

- Green County requests to transfer the fund from its District Watering Facility Program to the Dead Animal Removal Program. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Don Overbey. **Motion carried.**

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

- Equipment Loan Statement Operations – Ms. Johnna McHugh provided an overview of the Equipment Loan State of Operations with copies of report distributed to all board members. Mr. Keith Tingle made a motion to approve the report as stated. Mr. Bill Harned seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**
- Approval of Equipment Loan Requests –
 - Morgan County requested a loan of \$12,333.33.00 with \$6,166.67 down to purchase a Ideal trailer post driver – ID205. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and seconded by Mr. Keith Tingle. **Motion carried.**

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

- Approval of vacancy petitions – Ms. Johnna McHugh presented the following requests.
 - Campbell County – Christine Geiman to fill the unexpired term of Jason Kilmer (2024) (1 petition received)
 - Jefferson County – Tyler Lloyd to fill the unexpired term of Gilman Gagga (2026) (2 petitions received).

A motion to approve the above vacancy petitions was made by Mr. Bill Harned and was seconded by Ms. Denise Hoffman. **Motion carried.**

- **Incentive Pay for Supervisors** – Ms. Johnna McHugh presented the following requests –
 - Bell County
 - David Thompson
 - John Brock
 - Chuck Blank
 - Hannah Browning
 - David Gibbons
 - Bill Partin
 - Clay County
 - Bill Robinson
 - James Combs
 - Nicholas County
 - Denise Matthews
 - Taylor County
 - David Cowherd
 - John McLean
 - William Wallace Evans
 - Sheila Thomas
 - Nevin Price
 - Marsha Woodrum
 - Wayne County
 - Jason Gregory
 - Jerry Sloan
 - Karen Floyd
 - Edward Cushman
 - Wesley Elam
 - Travis Lewis

A motion to approve the above Incentive Per Diem Requests was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Mr. Aaron Lewis. **Motion carried.**

Agriculture District Program - Ms. Johnna McHugh presented the report with copies distributed. Thirteen (13) new petitions were presented to the Commission for consideration for a total of 2,423.30 acres.

1. Campbell County (Petition No. 019-19) – 325.98 acres. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Keith Tingle. **Motion carried.**
2. Campbell County (Petition No. 019-20) – 55.65 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Bill Harned and was seconded by Mr. Keith Tingle. **Motion carried.**
3. Campbell County (Petition No. 019-21) – 188.61 acres. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Aaron Lewis. **Motion carried.**
4. Campbell County (Petition No. 019-22) – 117.57 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Ms. Denise Hoffman. **Motion carried.**
5. Campbell County (Petition No. 019-23) – 64.44 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Bill Harned and was seconded by Mr. Keith Tingle. **Motion carried.**
6. Campbell County (Petition No. 019-24) – 59.45 acres. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Bill Harned. **Motion carried.**
7. Campbell County (Petition No. 019-25) – 178.62 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Ms. Denise Hoffman. **Motion carried.**
8. Campbell County (Petition No. 019-26) – 153.22 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Mr. Bill Harned. **Motion carried.**
9. Madison County (Petition No. 076-09) – 286.44 acres. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Bill Harned. **Motion carried.**
10. Scott County (Petition No. 105-01 (A2)) – 2.20 acres. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Aaron Lewis. **Motion carried.**
11. Scott County (Petition No. 105-08 (A2)) – 109.03 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Bill Harned and was seconded by Ms. Denise Hoffman. **Motion carried.**
12. Scott County (Petition No. 105-10) – 258.27 acres. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Bill Harned. **Motion carried.**
13. Whitley County (Petition No. 118-06) – 624.82 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Mr. Bill Harned. **Motion carried.**

Three (3) Agricultural districts have been submitted to the commission for five-year recertification for a total of 694.27 acres.

COUNTY	PETITION NO.	ACRES
Henry	052-08	273.41
Henry	052-09	205.62
Scott	105-01	215.24

A motion to approve the above 3 recertifications was made by Mr. Bill Harned and was seconded by Ms. Denise Hoffman. **Motion carried.**

Old Business –

- Environmental Grant Application Timeline – Mr. Jay Nelson updated the Commission on the current state of the Environmental Grant. Mr. Jay Nelson discussed the current partnership with the Department of Agriculture and possible extra grant funding. Mr. Jay Nelson will update the Commission once a decision is finalized.

New Business –

- Direct Aid Allocations - Ms. Johnna McHugh discussed the proposed funding for direct aid. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Bill Harned. Mr. Keith Tingle seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**
- Ms. Johnna McHugh discussed the upcoming Art and Writing Contest. The contest will run from September 1st to December 1st.

Adjourn -

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

Next SWCC meeting is November 18th at 9:00 AM.