**MEETING MINUTES**

**Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission**

**Monday, September 18, 2023**

**9:00 AM**

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

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

**Others Present:** Ms. Johnna McHugh, Division of Conservation; Mr. Bill Harned, Bullitt County Conservation District; Ms. Sarah Bryant, Kentucky Office of Ag Policy; Ms. Melinda Murphy, Division of Conservation; Mr. Steve Kull, Division of Forestry; Dr. Steve Higgins, University of Kentucky, CAFE; Mr. Jay Nelson, Division of Conservation; Mr. Allan Bryant, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Ms. Becky Thompson, Kentucky Beef Network; Ms. Dawn Baase, Department for Natural Resources; Mr. Tim Hughes, Department of Agriculture; Mr. Steve Coleman, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Ms. Crystal Renfro, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Ms. Penny Warwick, Kentucky Association of Conservation District Employees; Ms. Kathleen Saunier, Energy and Environment Cabinet; and Mr. Jeff Gravitt, Division of Conservation.

Quorum was met.

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

**SWCC Minutes from the July 10, 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 Report** – Ms. Johnna McHugh discussed the following with the Commission-

* Art and Writing Contest.
  + Topic – Wildlife.
  + Submissions need to be turned in by December 1st. Winners to be chosen in January.
* Employee training is ongoing
  + Environmental grant reporting form last month
  + Equipment Loan Program and State Cost Share planned for the spring.
* Supervisor training to be held this winter.
* Currently working on regulations for the Equipment Loan program.

**Division of Forestry** – Mr. Steve Kull discussed the following with the Commission.

* Tree seedling program update.
  + Tree orders starts September 1st.
* Invasive species update.
* Federal funds will be used to increase capacity.
* $3.5 million dollars allocated for tornado remediation efforts.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Mr. Steve Beam discussed the following with the Commission.

* Currently working on hiring a new State Conservationist.
  + Ms. Joni Franklin is the current acting State Conservationist.
* EQIP update.
  + $28.5 million allocated this year.
  + $13 million in CSP.
* EWP project update.
  + Home buyback signups end at the end of September.

**Farm Service Agency** – Mr. Dean Schamore - No report given.

**Department for Natural Resources** – Mr. Gordon Slone – No report given.

**Kentucky Department of Agriculture** – Mr. Tim Hughes discussed the following with the Commission.

* Kentucky State Fair update.
* NASDA fund update ($3 million in EPA funding).
* KDA to receive over $8 million dollars for Food System Infrastructure Grant.
* 1,400 surveys sent out to determine how to help the middle part of the food chain. Currently have 140 that have been sent back in.
* September 20 is Farmer Appreciation Day.

Ms. Sarah Bryant discussed the following with the Commission.

* Currently located at 107 Corporate Drive (location moved from downtown).
* CAIP program changes will be on the website by December 1st.
* All 120 counties have had at least 1 CAIP program available for their producers.

**University of Kentucky, CAFE –** Dr. Steve Higgins discussed and gave a presentation on NRCS and Eden Shale Farm.

**KACD** – Ms. Crystal Renfro discussed the following with the Commission –

* Currently working on the 2024/2025 annual meetings.
  + To be held at the Crowne Plaza in Louisville Kentucky.
    - This will be the 80th annual meeting.
* 75/25 update.
* Next KACD meeting will be next Friday, September 29th.
* Legislative priorities.
* KACDE auxiliary update.
* Revamp of the scholarship application.

**KACDE** –Ms. Penny Warwick gave an update on annual conference held in Elizabethtown. KACDE is planning to have their conference at the same place next year.

**Correspondence** – Ms. Johnna McHugh discussed the following County correspondence with the Commission:

* Carter County would like to move funds from its Environmental Grant for the use of its soils testing and noxious weed control programs. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. **Motion carried**.
* Edmonson County would like to move funds from its Environmental Grant for soil testing and tree seedlings. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was made by Mr. Don Overbey. **Motion carried**.
* Estill County would like to reallocate funds from Dead Animal Removal program over to the Environmental Education and tree seedling giveaway. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Lenville Martin and was seconded by Mr. Keith Tingle. **Motion carried**.
* Kenton County would like to reallocate the remaining funds from its Farm Dump Cleanup Assistance Program over to its Dead Animal Removal Program. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. **Motion carried**.
* Scott County would like to transfer funds from its Environmental Grant to its Dead Animal Removal Program. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Don Overbey and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. **Motion carried**.

**District in Good Standing Appeals –**Ms. Johnna McHugh discussed the following district DIGS appeals in which information was missing or incorrect and is up for approval.

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| **County** | **Starting %** | **Ending %** | **Motion to approve 1st** | **Motion to approve 2nd** | **Approved/Denied** |
| Barren County | 75 | 75 | Ms. Denise Hoffman | Mr. Lenville Martin | Approved |
| Boone County | 90 | 90 | Mr. Lenville Martin | Mr. Keith Tingle | Denied |
| Boyle County | 75 | 100 | Ms. Denise Hoffman | Mr. Lenville Martin | Approved |
| Breathitt County | 75 | 100 | Mr. Aaron Lewis | Mr. Lenville Martin | Approved |
| Casey County | 75 | 100 | Mr. Keith Tingle | Ms. Denise Hoffman | Approved |
| Clay County | 75 | 75 | Ms. Denise Hoffman | Mr. Lenville Martin | Approved |
| Crittenden County | 75 | 100 | Ms. Denise Hoffman | Mr. Lenville Martin | Approved |
| Daviss County | 75 | 100 | Mr. Don Overbey | Ms. Denise Hoffman | Approved |
| Hancock County | 75 | 100 | Mr. Lenville Martin | Mr. Keith Tingle | Approved |
| Johnson County | 75 | 100 | Ms. Denise Hoffman | Mr. Lenville Martin | Approved |
| Livingston County | 75 | 100 | Mr. Lenville Martin | Ms. Denise Hoffman | Approved |
| Martin County | 75 | 100 | Mr. Lenville Martin | Mr. Keith Tingle | Approved |
| McCracken County | 75 | 100 | Ms. Denise Hoffman | Mr. Lenville Martin | Approved |
| Nicholas County | 75 | 75 | Ms. Denise Hoffman | Mr. Lenville Martin | Denied |
| Oldham County | 75 | 75 | Mr. Lenville Martin | Mr. Don Overbey | Denied |
| Owsley County | 75 | 100 | Mr. Lenville Martin | Mr. Keith Tingle | Approved |
| Pendleton County | 75 | 75 | Ms. Denise Hoffman | Mr. Keith Tingle | Approved |
| Pike County | 75 | 75 | Ms. Denise Hoffman | Mr. Lenville Martin | Approved |
| Pulaski County | 90 | 100 | Mr. Lenville Martin | Mr. Don Overbey | Approved |
| Rockcastle County | 75 | 100 | Mr. Lenville Martin | Mr. Don Overbey | Approved |
| Scott County | 75 | 100 | Ms. Denise Hoffman | Mr. Lenville Martin | Approved |
| Simpson County | 75 | 75 | Mr. Lenville Martin | Mr. Keith Tingle | Approved |
| Spencer County | 75 | 100 | Ms. Denise Hoffman | Mr. Keith Tingle | Approved |
| Wayne County | 75 | 100 | Mr. Lenville Martin | Mr. Don Overbey | Approved |
| Woodford County | 75 | 75 | Ms. Denise Hoffman | Mr. Keith Tingle | Approved |
| Russell County | 90 | 90 | Mr. Lenville Marin | Ms. Denise Hoffman | Denied |

**Equipment Report** –

* Statement of Operation - Ms. Johnna McHugh presented the report with copies distributed. Ms. Johnna McHugh gave an overview of the year-to-date equipment fund report. Mr. Lenville Martin made the motion to approve, and Mr. Keith Tingle seconded the motion. **Motion carried**.
* Approval of Equipment Loan Requests - None

**Conservation District Supervisors** –Johnna McHugh

* Approval of vacancy petitions - Ms. Johnna McHugh presented the requests.
  + LAUREL COUNTY – Ronnie Patton to fill unexpired term of John D. Day Jr. (2024) (1 petition received).
  + NICHOLAS COUNTY – William Bedini to fill unexpired term of Laura Dyer (2024) (2 petitions received).
  + ROCKCASTLE COUNTY – Alvin Pigg to fill unexpired term of Roy Reynolds (2024) (1 petition received).
  + WARREN COUNTY – Benjamin Hudnall to fill unexpired term of Orville Dotson (2024) (1 petition received).
  + WAYNE COUNTY - Jamie Conley to fill unexpired term of Lawrence Leady (2024) (1 petition received).

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Mr. Don Overbey. **Motion carried**.

* Incentive pay for Supervisors-
  + Franklin County

Todd Akers – New Supervisor Zoom training, 12 ten-minute trainings.

Steve Coleman – KACD convention, SENACD convention, New Supervisor Zoom training, NACD convention, Area 6 meeting, 11 ten-minute trainings.

Eddie Harrod – New Supervisor Zoom training, 12 ten-minute trainings.

Mike Johnson – New Supervisor Zoom training, 11 ten-minute trainings.

Susan Wise – New Supervisor Zoom training, 11 ten-minute trainings.

* + Hancock County

Loyd P. Ray, Jr. – New Supervisor Zoom training, 11 ten-minute trainings.

* + Hardin County

Vincent Thompson – Area 3 meeting, 11 ten-minute trainings

Harrison County

Paul Tucker – 12 ten-minute trainings, KACD Convention, Area 5 meeting

Nick Farmer – 12 ten-minute trainings, Area 5 meeting

Jennifer Burgan – 12 ten-minute trainings, KACD Convention, Area 5 meeting

Russell Gray – 12 ten-minute trainings, Area 5 meeting

* + Knox County

Tommy Bargo – Area 7 meeting, New Supervisor Zoom training.

* + Marion County

Steve Downs – 12 ten-minute trainings, KACD Convention

Joe Paul Mattingly – 12 ten-minute trainings, KACD Convention

Roger Hardin – 12 ten-minute trainings, KACD Convention

Donnie Veatch – 12 ten-minute trainings, KACD Convention

Joe Bernard Luckett – 12 ten-minute trainings, KACD Convention

Larry Jones – 12 ten-minute trainings, KACD Convention

Thomas Glasscock – 12 ten-minute trainings, KACD Convention

* + Morgan County

Chris Lindon – 8 ten-minute trainings, New Supervisor Zoom training.

Deborah Wilson – 8 ten-minute trainings, New Supervisor Zoom training.

* + Robertson County

Danny Case – New Supervisor Zoom training, 11 ten-minute trainings.

W. Grant Paynter – New Supervisor Zoom training, 12 ten-minute trainings.

James Brumagen – New Supervisor Zoom training, 11 ten-minute trainings.

Dwaine Miller – New Supervisor Zoom training, 12 ten-minute trainings.

Benny Renner – New Supervisor Zoom training, 11 ten-minute trainings.

Harley Flack – New Supervisor Zoom training, 11 ten-minute trainings.

Gerry Becker – New Supervisor Zoom training, 10 ten-minute trainings.

Motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. **Motion carried**.

**Agriculture District Program** - Ms. Johnna McHugh presented the report with copies distributed. Seven (7) new petitions were presented to the Commission for consideration for a total of 3,897.97 acres.

1. Adair County (Petition No. 001-02 (A2)) – 38.00 acres. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Keith Tingle.  **Motion carried.**
2. Boyle County (Petition No. 011-07(A7)) – 41.00 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Lenville Martin and was seconded by Ms. Denise Hoffman.  **Motion carried.**
3. Breckinridge County (Petition No. 014-14) – 2,925.80 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Don Overbey and was seconded by Ms. Denise Hoffman.  **Motion carried.**
4. Calloway County (Petition No. 018-01(A1)) – 69.25 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Don Overbey and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin.  **Motion carried.**
5. Hart County (Petition No. 050-03) – 439.49 acres. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Keith Tingle.  **Motion carried.**
6. Kenton County (Petition No. 059-04(A2)) – 64.40 acres. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin.  **Motion carried.**
7. Shelby County (Petition No. 106-03(A5)) – 320.03 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin.  **Motion carried.**

Thirty (30) new agricultural districts have been submitted to the commission for five-year recertification for a total of 20,881.71 acres.

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| **COUNTY** | **PETITION NO.** | **ACRES** |
| Boyle | 011-01 | 194.31 |
| Boyle | 011-02 | 13.00 |
| Boyle | 011-03 | 590.89 |
| Boyle | 011-05 | 215.70 |
| Boyle | 011-06 | 241.00 |
| Boyle | 011-07 | 1,520.02 |
| Boyle | 011-08 | 348.00 |
| Boyle | 011-09 | 644.18 |
| Boyle | 011-10 | 86.03 |
| Boyle | 011-15 | 187.70 |
| Boyle | 011-17 | 677.12 |
| Calloway | 018-01 | 1,610.79 |
| Calloway | 018-02 | 1,010.83 |
| Calloway | 018-05 | 293.71 |
| Carter | 022-03 | 603.00 |
| Carter | 022-04 | 463.00 |
| Franklin | 037-02 | 130.10 |
| Franklin | 037-04 | 300.00 |
| Franklin | 037-06 | 152.78 |
| Hickman | 053-01 | 4,239.02 |
| Henry | 052-17 | 178.17 |
| Henry | 052-18 | 482.63 |
| Knox | 061-04 | 154.00 |
| Marion | 078-04 | 525.02 |
| Russell | 104-04 | 702.85 |
| Shelby | 106-03 | 4,094.01 |
| Taylor | 109-02 | 907.15 |
| Taylor | 109-14 | 52.72 |
| Taylor | 109-15 | 76.86 |
| Taylor | 109-16 | 187.12 |

Mr. Aaron Lewis made a motion to approve the above recertifications. Mr. Don Overbey seconded the motion. **Motion carried**.

Ms. Johnna McHugh discussed the direct aid totals for each conservation districts. A motion to approve the final allocation of funds to each district was made by Mr. Lenville Martin and was seconded by Ms. Denise Hoffman. **Motion carried**.

**Old Business** –

* Mr. Jay Nelson discussed his and Ms. Johnna McHugh’s visit to Eden Shale Farm and possible additions to the State Cost Share program. Dr. Steve Higgins gave an overview and presentation of the new practices at Eden Shale Farm.

**New Business** –

* No new business was discussed.

**Next Board Meeting** – November 20st, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. 300 Sower Blvd Frankfort KY.

**Adjourn** – A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lenville Martin and was seconded by Mr. Keith Tingle. **Motion carried**.