

Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2025 | 9:00 AM

300 Sower Boulevard, Room #216, Frankfort KY 40601

Zoom Conference ID: 845 5362 3580 Password: SWCC

In Attendance for SWCC: Mr. Danny Shipley, Chair; Ms. Denise Hoffman; Mr. Lenville Martin; Mr. Edwin Monroe; Mr. Jeff Rice; Mr. Bill Harned; 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. Steve Beam, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Mr. Eric Allness, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Ms. Bailey Siry-Crowder, Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy; Mr. Gordon Slone, Department for Natural Resources; Ms. Bridget Abernathy, Division of Forestry; Mr. David Wayne, Farm Service Agency; Ms. Sarah Charles, Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy; Ms. Melinda Murphy, Division of Conservation; Ms. Rosalind Streeter, Oldham County Conservation District; Ms. Jesse Taylor; Energy and Environment Cabinet; and Mr. Jeff Gravitt, Division of Conservation.

Quorum was met.

Call to Order and Introduction: Mr. Danny Shipley

SWCC Minutes from September 22, 2025, Meeting and Special Meeting Minutes from October 28, 2025: A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Mr. Lenville Martin and seconded by Mr. Keith Tingle. ***Motion carried.***

Agency Reports

- ***Division of Conservation:*** Mr. Jay Nelson discussed the following with the Commission:
 - NASCA/NWC conference.
 - Governor's Conference on Energy and the Environment.
 - AWQA meeting will be held on November 20th, 2025.
 - Interest in ag districts across the state. Mr. Mark Davis has been doing presentations when requested.
 - Scheduling meetings with partnership management to discuss plans going forward.

- Ms. Johnna McHugh asked the Commission to consider nominees for the upcoming vacancies for the AWQA, specifically the ag at-large seats and the environmental groups seat.
- Division of Forestry: Ms. Bridget Abernathy discussed the following with the Commission:
 - Currently Kentucky is in its fall fire season.
 - Working closely with various partners.
 - Invasive plant conference to be held at EKU.
 - Division of Forestry's independent seed orchard program (Partnership between KDF and UK aimed at planting white oak seed orchards on private property as well as public-facing properties throughout Kentucky).
 - Seedling sale that runs from January to April.
 - Closing on the DOF's 11th state forest located in Breathitt County (450 acres).
 - Reappointment of Ms. Beth Williams to the AWQA as a member.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service: Mr. Eric Allness discussed the following with the Commission:
 - Federal Government shutdown and its effect on NRCS and its employees.
 - NRCS priority items: CSP payments, EWP program, EQIP, CSP, and easement programs.
 - NRCS sign-up deadline early in the fiscal year but accept applications throughout the year.
 - U.S. Capitol Christmas tree made a stop in Lexington, Kentucky.
 - Mr. Steve Beam discussed funding for RCPP, upcoming meeting in December, and EWP extensions.
- Farm Service Agency: Mr. David Wayne discussed the following with the Commission:
 - Federal government shutdown and its effect on FSA and its employees.
 - FSA issued \$32 million across Kentucky to producers during the government shutdown and \$24 million in marketing assistance loans.
 - Update on CRP 2026 sign-ups (827 new offers for CRP that resulted in 7,000 acres with \$1.1 million in annual rental payments to producers).
- Department for Natural Resources: Mr. Gordon Slone thanked everyone for all their hard work during the federal government shutdown.
- Kentucky Department of Agriculture: Ms. Sarah Charles discussed the following with the Commission:
 - Introduced Ms. Bailey Siry-Crowder to the Commission.
 - Discussed CAIP administration by conservation districts.
 - 10 CAIP administrator trainings across the state.
- University of Kentucky, CAFE: Not attended.
- KACD: Ms. Crystal Renfro discussed the following:
 - KACD board met last week.
 - 2026 KACD Convention will be held in Louisville KY at the Crown Plaza Hotel. Board is working on signing a contract with the Holiday Inn in Bowling Green for 2027 and 2028 conventions.

- Partnership Affiliate program (90-10% split).
- KACD partnership with Mr. Ryan Whitt.
- 6 new part-time KACD employees for 8 months.
- KACD Legislative, Natural Resources, Education, and Urban Committees.
- Legislative reception is set for January 22nd, located in Frankfort KY at the Kentucky Historical Society.
- Board of Directors is considering cell phone plan for districts.
- Mr. Steve Coleman thanked Mr. Jay Nelson for his partnership meeting suggestion and that KACD's legislative priorities are requesting \$1.5 million for direct aid, \$ 2.5 million for state cost share and \$5 million for dam repairs.
- KACDE: Ms. Penny Warwick: Not attended.

SWCC Correspondence: Mr. Jay Nelson discussed the following:

- Grant County requested an adjustment (from 90% to 100%) to adjust their DIGS score. A motion to deny was made by Mr. Bill Harned and was seconded by Mr. Keith Tingle.
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. Mr. Bill Harned made a motion to approve the report as presented. Mr. Lenville Martin seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**
- Approval of Equipment Loan Requests: None received.

Conservation District Supervisors: Ms. Johnna McHugh presented the requests:

- Approval of vacancy petitions: Ms. Johnna McHugh presented the following requests:
 - Breathitt County - Barbara Smith to fill unexpired term of Danny Fugate (2026) (2 petitions received)
 - Cumberland County - Lannie Willen to fill unexpired term of Tony Nation (2026) (1 petition received)
 - Martin County - Vicki Evans to fill unexpired vacancy (2028) (1 petition received)
 - Whitley County - Brian Prewitt to fill unexpired term of Jim Jones (2028) (1 petition received)

A motion to approve the above vacancy petitions was made by Mr. Edwin Monroe and was seconded by Mr. Jeff Rice. **Motion carried.**

- Incentive Pay for Supervisors: Ms. Johnna McHugh presented the following requests:
 - Bell County
 - Ethan Warren – Area 7 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Scott County
 - Keith Tingle – KACD Convention, Area 6 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings

A motion to approve the above Incentive Per Diem Requests was made by Mr. Lenville Martin and was seconded by Mr. Bill Harned. ***Motion carried.*** Mr. Keith Tingle abstained.

Agriculture District Program: Ms. Johnna McHugh presented the report. Five (5) new petitions were presented to the Commission for consideration for a total of 447.76 acres.

1. Campbell County: (Petition No. 019-07(A8)): 21.39 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Mr. Edwin Monroe. ***Motion carried.***
2. Campbell County: (Petition No. 019-13(A6)): 18.99 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Mr. Bill Harned. ***Motion carried.***
3. Campbell County: (Petition No. 019-26(A1)): 106.50 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. ***Motion carried.***
4. Gallatin County: (Petition No. 039-03(A2)): 31.44 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Bill Harned and was seconded by Ms. Denise Hoffman. ***Motion carried.***
5. Gallatin County: (Petition No. 039-08): 269.44 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Mr. Jeff Rice. ***Motion carried.***

13 Agricultural districts have been submitted to the commission for five-year recertification for a total of 9,599.21 acres.

COUNTY	PETITION	ACRES
Bracken	012-10	685.45
Bracken	012-11	623.14
Breckinridge	014-01	269.58
Breckinridge	014-02	333.58
Breckinridge	014-03	296.26
Breckinridge	014-04	549.01
Breckinridge	014-05	301.08
Breckinridge	014-06	367.00
Breckinridge	014-07	187.86
Breckinridge	0147-08	1,789.43
Gallatin	039-04	937.49
Meade	082-01	2,732.45
Mercer	084-08	526.88

A motion to approve the above 13 recertifications was made by Mr. Lenville Martin and was seconded by Mr. Bill Harned. ***Motion carried.***

Old Business

- SCS Update: Mr. Jay Nelson discussed with the Commission the potential need to extend the SCS application deadline as a result of the federal government shutdown. There was discussion with NRCS (Eric Allness) on workload. The conclusion was to extend the deadline until January 16th, 2026. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Lenville Martin and was seconded by Mr. Bill Harned. ***Motion carried.***
- EWP Timeline/Application Update: After discussion on the extension of the EWP deadline for DSR return due to the federal government shutdown, the Commission discussed extending the state supplemental EWP application deadline to January 16th. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Lenville Martin and was seconded by Mr. Keith Tingle. ***Motion carried.***

New Business

- Determine meeting dates for 2026:
 - January 23rd
 - May 18th
 - July 26th
 - September 21st
 - November 16th

A motion to approve the above meeting dates was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. ***Motion carried.***

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the SWCC meeting was made by Mr. Edwin Monroe and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. ***Motion carried.***

Next SWCC meeting is January 23, 2025.