

Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

September 22, 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; Ms. Anne Bays; Mr. Lenville Martin; Mr. Edwin Monroe; and Mr. Keith Tingle.

Others Present: Mr. Jay Nelson, Division of Conservation; Ms. Johnna McHugh, Division of Conservation; Ms. Kathleen Saunier, Energy and Environment Cabinet; Ms. Crystal Renfro, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Ms. Sonia White, Department of Natural Resources; Mr. Clark Sturgeon, United States Department of Agriculture; Mr. Steve Coleman, Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts; Mr. Eric Allness, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Ms. Megan Hill, Division of Conservation; Ms. Melinda Murphy, Division of Conservation; and Mr. Jeff Gravitt, Division of Conservation.

Quorum was met.

Call to Order and Introduction: Mr. Danny Shipley

SWCC Minutes from August 02, 2025, Meeting: A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and seconded by Ms. Denise Hoffman. ***Motion carried.***

Districts in Good Standing (DIGS) Appeals: Ms. Johnna McHugh discussed the following DIGS appeals:

- **Filled out form incorrectly:**
 - Adair County – A motion to approve the appeal was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. ***Motion carried.***
 - Caldwell County - A motion to approve the appeal was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. ***Motion carried.***
 - Calloway County - A motion to approve the appeal was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. ***Motion carried.***
 - Franklin County - A motion to approve the appeal was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. ***Motion carried.***
 - Grant County - A motion to approve the appeal was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. ***Motion carried.***
 - Graves County - A motion to approve the appeal was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. ***Motion carried.***
 - Harrison County - A motion to approve the appeal was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. ***Motion carried.***

- Jackson County - A motion to approve the appeal was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. ***Motion carried.***
- Jessamine County, Metcalfe County, Montgomery County, Muhlenberg County, Nicholas County, Pike County, Trimble County, and Wolfe County - A motion to approve the above 8 appeals was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Ms. Anne Bays. ***Motion carried.***
- ***Missing an item and submitting it:***
 - Anderson County, Barren County, Bracken County, Fulton County, Hardin County, Hickman County, LaRue County, Letcher County, Lewis County, Magoffin County, Marion County, McCreary County, Mercer County, Pulaski County, Robertson County, Taylor County, and Whitley County. A motion to approve the above DIGS was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. ***Motion carried.***
- ***Not submitted by deadline:***
 - Fayette County – A motion to deny was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Keith Tingle. ***Motion carried.***
 - Woodford County – A motion to deny was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Ms. Anne Bays. ***Motion carried.***
- ***Requesting different decisions:***
 - Boone County – A motion to deny was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Keith Tingle. ***Motion carried.***

Agency Reports

- ***Division of Conservation:*** Mr. Jay Nelson discussed the following with the Commission:
 - Working on EWP process for damaged watershed structures.
 - Introduced Ms. Megan Hill to the Commission as the Division's new field rep.
 - Met with Kentucky Office of Ag Policy and discussed CAIP and joint training.
 - Governor's Conference on the Environment is October 20th and 21st.
 - NASCA/NWC annual meeting in Texas October 27th through October 29th.
 - Daviess County update on flooding issues on Panther Creek.
 - Art and Writing contest season has started.
- ***Division of Forestry:*** Not attended.
- ***Natural Resources Conservation Service:*** Mr. Eric Allness discussed the following:
 - Kentucky has entered a D3 drought.
 - NRCS will continue to work if a government shutdown occurs.
 - NRCS will be letting 34 individuals go next week as part of a deferred resignation program. Total staff will go from 220 to 190 staff in total.
 - Environmental Quality Incentives Program has \$35 million obligated and the CSP program has \$15 million obligated.
 - \$24 million anticipated in EQIP funds next fiscal year. The deadline for signing up is Friday September 26th.
 - Working on streamlining the CSP program.

- \$14 million potentially provided to partner organizations to help out NRCS with staffing, technology, and outreach.
- Farm Service Agency: Mr. David Wayne discussed the following with the Commission:
 - Kentucky has entered a D3 drought.
 - Potential government shutdown.
 - USDA reorganized plan to move 6 regional hubs across the nation.
 - FSA currently has 283 employees in 64 offices.
 - FSA has paid out \$71 million in SDR program to Kentucky producers.
 - \$11 million has been paid out to Kentucky producers through ECAP program.
 - 134 CRP contract with 19,386 acres enrolled.
- Department for Natural Resources: Not attended
- Kentucky Department of Agriculture: Ms. Sarah Charles discussed the following with the Commission:
 - KACD Convention.
 - Meeting with the Division of Conservation concerning CAIP (training to start January – June)
 - Kentucky Department of Agriculture evaluation discussed.
- University of Kentucky, CAFE: Not attended.
- KACD: Ms. Crystal Renfro discussed the following:
 - KACD/SENACD convention had 400 attendees. Next year's Southeast NACD convention will be in North Carolina.
 - Ms. Crystal Renfro stated that KACD had two new employees: Ms. Kayleigh Evans and Mr. Ron Witt.
 - 5 new part-time positions with 500 to 1,000 hours (9-month employment) possible to help with EQIP and CSP.
 - Reinstated the KACD Legislative, Natural Resource and Education Committees.
 - KACDE quilt update.
 - Mr. Steve Coleman stated that he and Mr. Ted Jessup (KACD President) and Ms. Jennifer Bergen (KACD Secretary Treasurer) look forward to working with the SWCC. Mr. Steve Coleman stated that KACD has met with the General Assembly on the upcoming 2026 budget cycle. KACD is currently working on their priorities for the upcoming year.
- KACDE: Ms. Penny Warwick discussed the following:
 - Discussed the KACDE conference held in Frankfort with 50 people attending.
 - Over 60,000 Art and Writing tabloids have been distributed.

SWCC Correspondence: Mr. Jay Nelson discussed the following:

- Carter County requested permission to divert funds from their soil and manure portion of the environmental grant to fund its chemical portion of funding.

A motion to approve the above request was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Ms. Denise Hoffman. ***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. Lenville Martin made a motion to approve the report as stated. Mr. Edwin Monroe seconded the motion. ***Motion carried.***
- **Approval of Equipment Loan Requests:** None received.

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

- **Approval of vacancy petitions:** Ms. Johnna McHugh presented the following requests:
 - **Elliott County:** Mara Stamper to fulfill unexpired term of Darrell Fannin (2026) (1 petition received)
 - **Garrard County:** Sara Vard Logan Von Gruenigen to fulfill unexpired term of Myles Hill (2026) (1 petition received)
 - **Lewis County:** Timothy Shoemaker to fulfill unexpired term of William Bertram (2026) (1 petition received), and Franklyn Mawk to fulfill unexpired term of Gregg Webb (2026) (1 petition received)
 - **Owen County:** Cody Anderson to fulfill unexpired term (2028) (1 petition received)

A motion to approve the above vacancy petition was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Mr. Jeff Rice. ***Motion carried.***

- **Incentive Pay for Supervisors:** Ms. Johnna McHugh presented the following requests:
 - **Casey County**
 - Brent Ware – Area 7 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Valorie Floyd – KACD convention, area 7 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Roger Weddle – Area 7 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Mary Sue Shoopman – At least 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - LJ Watson – Area 7 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - David Grider – Area 7 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Curtis Todd II – Area 7 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - **Clay County**
 - Ronald Bowling – At least 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Jeanette Gregory – At least 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Darrell McKeehan – At least 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Jocelyn Wolfe – At least 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training

- Billy Robinson – At least 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
- James Combs – At least 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
- Tim Lunsford – Area 9 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings
- Hardin County
 - Vincent Thompson – KACD convention, at least 8 ten-minute trainings
- Laurel County
 - James Sensabaugh – Area 7 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Clemons Bundy – Area 7 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Charles Massey – Area 7 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Ronnie Patton – Area 7 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings
- Marshall County
 - Kyle O'Dell – Area 1 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Jeff Futrell – Area 1 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Eugina Seibert – Area 1 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Taylor Hendley – Area 1 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings
- Metcalf County
 - Thalia Pace – KACD convention, Area 3 meeting, at least 7 ten-minute trainings, work group meeting
- Morgan County
 - Mark Luke – At least 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
- Taylor County
 - David Cowherd – KACD convention, at least 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Doug Underwood – Area 7 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - William Wallace Evans – Area 7 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Sheila Thomas – At least 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
 - Nevin Price – Area 7 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings, DOC virtual training
- Warren County
 - Emily Sharp – KACD convention, area 3 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Mark Chapman – Area 3 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Garnett Owens – KACD convention, area 3 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings
 - LaJuana Wilcher – KACD convention, area 3 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Troy Ellis – Area 3 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Benji Hudnall – Area 3 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings
 - Rhodes Hester – KACD convention, area 3 meeting, at least 8 ten-minute trainings

A motion to approve the above Incentive Per Diem Requests 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 to attendees. Six (6) new petitions were presented to the Commission for consideration for a total of 1,813.52 acres.

1. Barren County: (Petition No. 005-16): 1,151.49 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Ms. Anne Bays. ***Motion carried.***
2. Gallatin County: (Petition No. 039-02 (A1)): 5.31 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Mr. Jeff Rice. ***Motion carried.***
3. Gallatin County: (Petition No. 039-07): 61.54 acres. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Anne Bays and was seconded by Mr. Edwin Monroe. ***Motion carried.***
4. Henry County: (Petition No. 052-23): 111.22 acres. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Ms. Anne Bays. ***Motion carried.***
5. Kenton County: (Petition No. 059-09): 181.61 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Ms. Anne Bays. ***Motion carried.***
6. Madison County: (Petition No. 076-05 (A1)): 302.35 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Ms. Jeff Rice. ***Motion carried.***

16 Agricultural districts have been submitted to the commission for five-year recertification for a total of 10,652.47 acres.

COUNTY	PETITION	ACRES
Campbell County	019-13	563.05
Carlisle County	020-01	812.50
Carlisle County	020-02	1,078.80
Carlisle County	020-03	1,197.09
Carlisle County	020-04	332.00
Carlisle County	020-05	460.29
Gallatin County	039-01	172.69
Gallatin County	039-02	399.95
Gallatin County	039-03	632.30
Gallatin County	039-05	1,39.43
Henry County	052-01	2,055.54
Madison County	076-03	149.51
Madison County	076-05	411.19
Marshall County	079-03	288.29
Mercer County	084-07	513.25
Mercer County	084-15	580.00

A motion to approve the above 16 recertifications was made by Mr. Jeff Rice and was seconded by Ms. Denise Hoffman. ***Motion carried.***

Old Business:

- EWP Timeline/Application Update: Mr. Jay Nelson discussed the process of EWP application (deadline of October 23rd) submission and all the work that goes into this.

New Business:

- EWP Application Approvals:
 - Marshall County is requesting \$380,809.12 in funding for repairs to be made on FRS #'s 28A, 32 and 33 (NID #'s 0199, 200 and 202). A motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. **Motion carried.**
 - Graves County is requesting \$9,613.13 in EWP funding for repairs for Graves County. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Mr. Jeff Rice. **Motion carried.**
- Mr. Jay Nelson presented a State Cost Share application for Lincoln County in the amount of \$20,000 for a NOV for lagoon issues. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Lenville Martin and was seconded by Ms. Denise Hoffman. **Motion carried.**
- Direct Aid Allocations: Ms. Johnna McHugh discussed the proposed funding for direct aid (\$858,500.00). A motion to approve was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Ms. Denise Hoffman. **Motion carried.**

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn the SWCC meeting was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Ms. Denise Hoffman. **Motion carried.**

Next SWCC meeting is November 17, 2025.