



2015 Committee Reports

Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

JANUARY 2016

NATURAL RESOURCES, 2 OF 2

This committee encourages conservation districts to provide for the wise use of our natural resources. We depend on the soil and water for our existence as it is vital for food and fiber production, liquid consumption, energy and industrial production, transportation and recreation.

Dam Safety:

1. Encourage the continued development and dissemination of materials available which inform the general public and agencies concerned with the general information requirements as spelled out in the laws which deal with renovation of dams which are unsafe.
2. Encourage watershed conservancy districts to work with the Division of Water to maintain watershed structures in accordance with their annual inspection reports. Conservation districts shall review and evaluate watershed conservancy district activities in their county at least annually, including watershed structure maintenance plans and hazard class evaluations.
3. Work with local organizations to encourage that structures be considered for community and industrial water supplies in addition to flood control. Promote wise planning and zoning in watersheds where dams or reservoirs are located, or may be located in the future.
4. Secure all possible funding for research, maintenance & rehabilitation of PL 566 structures.

Water Quantity:

1. Encourage inventory and evaluation to determine the availability of surface and ground water for water consumption by homeowners, businesses, factories, agricultural operations, energy production facilities, and other uses in the future years.
2. Conservation districts should support efforts to identify and protect the groundwater resources in Kentucky. Kentucky Division of Water should coordinate and conduct monitoring and report preparation for groundwater resources and make that information available to the public.
3. Conservation districts to keep informed and become involved in the community water supply planning required by the General Assembly. Conservation districts involvement should also include water conservation planning, and being involved with both water and wastewater issues.
4. Districts should work with Watershed coordinators and Division of Water and to establish local Watershed Watch groups to ensure adequate water quality monitoring data to be utilized in updating or establishing surface and groundwater quality standards.



Non-Point Source Pollution:

The Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission has been designated the lead implementation agency for the agriculture and construction components of the Kentucky Nonpoint Source Pollution Program and assigned major roles in implementing the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act and the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program. The Commission's policy is to coordinate all projects and efforts to address nonpoint source pollution at the state level and work in cooperation with local conservation districts.

1. Districts should track and support the Farm Bureau Water Management Quality Work Group on water quantity issues and keep conservation districts informed of the actions of this group.
2. KACD and conservation districts should support efforts to provide adequate funding to carry out the provisions of the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality. Districts should continue to promote and educate the voluntary cooperation and cooperator's agreements with all landowners/land users within their respective areas to apply appropriate best management practices on their land.
3. Districts should promote the State Cost Share program and assist landowners/land users in addressing water quality problems by protecting surface and groundwater from pollution through the use of "Best Management Practices". Districts should encourage future development and implementation of the State Cost Share Program along with the Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the Division of Conservation.
4. KACD encourages districts to Apply for non-point source funds (Section 319 of the Clean Water Act) through the competitive EPA 319 grant process to provide technical assistance to landowners and obtain the necessary funding for the matching funds required.
5. Conservation districts should educate and inform each landowner/land user on the importance of the voluntary Non-Point Source Pollution Program.
6. Conservation districts should continue to emphasize water quality through educational and informational delivery programs. To publicize, encourage the use of and make available such publications as the Best Management Practices Manual for Construction, Best Management Practices Manual for Agriculture, Kentucky Forest Practice Guidelines for Water Quality Management and other appropriate materials.
7. The Division of Conservation should continue to develop sediment erosion and storm water management control model ordinances for use by conservation districts to promote the adoption of construction BMPs with local units of government, contractors and developers to more effectively minimize soil erosion from urban areas and construction sites across Kentucky.
8. Districts should utilize information available to better inform landowners/land users and chemical users on the application of chemicals, animal waste and fertilizers and encourage all landowners/land users to use soil and nutrient tests to determine fertilizer and nutrient application needs.
9. Districts should encourage continued research and education on precision application of chemicals and nutrients to save landowners/land users money and promote better water quality.
10. Adequate water quality monitoring data should be utilized in updating or establishing surface and groundwater quality standards. District participation in local basins of the Watershed Watch in Kentucky is encouraged.
11. Target non-point source programs to conservation districts and landowners/land users with the greatest problems and provide adequate funding to those landowners/land users. Conservation districts should work with the Division of Conservation staff to identify water quality problems and project proposals in their respective counties to apply for the Non-Point Source Section 319(h) funding.



Floodplain Management:

Floodplain management needs to be stressed in Kentucky. Maps delineating floodplain boundaries based on 10 through 500 year frequencies should be used by communities in planning future developments. This should also include studies and consideration of karst area floodplain management and delineation.

1. Work with local planning and zoning
2. Consider construction of additional floodplain structures.
3. Local Long Range consideration about the effects of building below and around structures
4. Conservation Districts should encourage local governments or local communities to seek out and participate in cost share assistance that may be available for flood plain mapping.
5. Maintain emergency action plans for high hazard structures and file in the office of the County Court Clerk and ensure that copies be made available by the conservation district in which the dam and any portion of the danger area are located and a notice be published annually in the newspaper having the largest circulation in the county or counties.
6. Districts should educate lending institutions about floodplain risks and the benefits of flood proofing measures.
7. KACD encourages Watershed Conservancy Districts and Conservation Districts to maintain emergency action plans for high hazard structures and review on a yearly basis
8. Educate all landowners located in the Watershed and around the structures on a yearly basis by advertising, mailings or local meetings.
9. Encourage state government to develop a tax incentive program, consisting of either property tax exemptions or tax breaks for the development of land outside the floodplain instead of lands within the flood prone areas within a community. This would provide financial incentives to land developers for selecting sites out of the floodplain and result in controlling development in the floodplain. Floodplain insurance programs should be modified to provide insurance on property presently located in the floodplain. Insurance should not be provided on new development within these areas. Land transfer and property sales should continue to be required to have a disclosure statement noting the location of property located in a floodplain (100 year frequency).
10. Conservation Districts should encourage local governments or local communities to seek out and participate in cost share assistance that may be available for flood plain mapping with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under Section 22.
11. Districts should educate lending institutions about floodplain risks and the benefits of flood proofing measures.