



10-Minute Supervisor Trainings

Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

JUNE 2017

KENTUCKY'S CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

The five member groups of the Kentucky Conservation Partnership work together to protect the Commonwealth's natural resources. They each have their own roles in this mission.

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts (KACD)

KACD was created in 1951 to represent all 121 Conservation Districts and Watershed Conservancies in cooperating with the state and federal legislatures concerning conservation promotion. They meet regularly, bi-monthly in Frankfort and primarily operate on annual KACD dues paid by the conservation districts and conservancy districts. The makeup of the KACD consists of a director representing each of the nine areas across the state, a president, vice president and secretary/treasurer. Directors are elected during area meetings and can serve 3 consecutive 2 year terms.

They play a vital role in the direction that conservation programs take in Kentucky with the standing committee reports and roles. These committees are formed by members of conservation district board members, staff and partner agency personnel and have recommendations to further conservation in the areas of legislative, district outlook and leadership development, forestry, research, soil stewardship, conservation programs, natural resources, public information and awards, education and youth and PL-566 watersheds.

KACD sponsors the annual state convention for supervisors, staff and partner agencies. Their goal is to provide informative programs, share ideas, success stories, honor awards and suggestions during the convention that will further conservation districts goals locally and recognize districts and individuals on their conservation efforts.

KACD also act on behalf of the local districts regarding county district passed resolutions and legislative initiatives (both state and national levels). They sponsor the Jim Claypool Art and Conservation Writing contest and Envirothon competition. They are a liaison to the National Association of Conservation Districts.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

NRCS works through Memorandum of Agreements and cooperative working agreements to provide technical assistance to the local conservation districts. NRCS personnel service all technical aspects of program best management practices (BMPs) for both federal and state funded cost share programs. Common technical assistance includes resource assessment, practice design, construction check and resource monitoring. They utilize national standards and specifications for planning and construction of conservation BMPs. Currently NRCS and some districts have 50/50 agreements on proving cost assistance for district technical personnel to help meet the workload demands of the Farm Bill programs and state cost share.

Kentucky Division of Conservation (DOC)

Kentucky Division of Conservation was created in 1946 under KRS 146.080. The Division of Conservation is charged with providing assistance to Kentucky's 121 conservation districts to develop, administer and implement sound conservation programs across the state. Division of Conservation provides a staff of field representatives to aid and advise each county conservation district on policy, regulation and program compliance and administration. Division of Conservation staff also work, advise and aid the Kentucky Soil and Water Commission and Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts in their administrative, regulatory and policy making responsibilities and duties. The partnership with DOC and the local districts is the fundamental foundation of sound conservation promotion and implementation in the state ever more today as districts deal with new and expanded regulations and policies. The county conservation district board of supervisors and district staff rely on Division of Conservation for guidance and assistance on a daily basis.

Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC)

The Soil and Water Conservation Commission was created in 1946 under KRS 146.090. The policies under which the conservation districts operate are set by the Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission. This commission is made up of nine area district supervisors from across the state appointed to serve a 4 year term by the secretary of the Energy and Environment Cabinet, with approval from the governor. The commission relies on the Director of the Division of Conservation as an executive officer, as well as advisory members from Secretary of the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet, Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture, Director of the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station, Director of Kentucky Vocational Education, and Kentucky State Conservationist for U.S. Department of Agriculture. Soil and Water Commission meet regularly bi-monthly in Frankfort to address concerns, request and program implementation.

The commission has the authority to take any action it may consider necessary or proper to assist the conservation districts in carrying out their functions, powers, duties, responsibilities and programs in accordance with KRS 262. Commission responsibilities include program administration of the State Cost Share Program, Ag District establishment, equipment and infrastructure loans, direct aid, districts in good standing, incentive per diem, filling conservation district vacancies and approve creation of watershed conservancy districts.

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts Employees (KACDE)

KACDE is a non-profit 501c3 organization whose primary function is to help develop, promote and strengthen conservation district employees and their programs in the state of Kentucky. The Association's governing body is an Executive Committee and Board of Representatives consisting of elected officers and a representatives from all nine areas. KACDE works to promote a means for personal development of the organizational members and district employees and to assist them in preparing to execute their duties.

KACDE primarily operates on annual dues paid by district employees, conservation districts and other entities. They also hold fund raising events to help fund other opportunities that they provide for district employees. KACDE offers several multi day training opportunities for district employees, they provide cost saving bulk printings of the art and writing contest material, t-shirts, master conservationists signs etc. They also have means to provide cost saving computer software.