

JOINT MEETING MINUTES

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts

Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Thursday January 11, 2018 – 9:00 am

In Attendance for KACD: Mr. David Rowlett, President; Mr. Shane Wells, Vice-President; Mr. Allan Bryant, Secretary-Treasurer; Mr. Ted Jessup; Mr. Rodney Dick; Ms. Ava Adams, KACDA; Mr. Kevin Jeffries; Mr. Linville Martin; Mr. Randy McCallon; Mr. Ethan Brown; Ms. Crystal Renfro, KACD Executive Director; and Mr. Steve Coleman.

In Attendance for SWCC: Mr. Ray Adams, SWCC Chair; Mr. Scotty Parsons; Mr. Danny Shipley; Mr. Sam Hughes; Ms. Denise Hoffman; Mr. Don Minton; Mr. Mike Farmer; and Mr. Marc Hult.

Others Present: Mr. Danny Hall, Executive Director, Department for Natural Resources, Acting Director of Division of Conservation; Ms. Paulette Akers, Director of Compliance Assistance; Ms. Amanda Moore, Acting State Conservationist and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Mr. Brent Burchett, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; Ms. Kayleigh Evans, KACDE; Sec. Charles Snavelly, EEC; Dr. Steve Higgins, UK; Mr. Tim Hughes, KDA; Ms. Johnna McHugh, DOC; Mr. Jay Nelson, DOC; Mr. Steve Kull, Division of Forestry; and Jeff Gravitt, DOC.

Quorum was met.

Call to Order - at 9:00 a.m. by Mr. Ray Adams, Chair SWCC, and KACD President David Rowlett.

SWCC Minutes from the November 20, 2017 Meeting - Motion to approve minutes was made by Mr. Scotty Parsons and was seconded by Mr. Sam Hughes. **Motion carried.**

KACD Minutes from the November 12, 2017 Meeting – Motion to approve minutes was made by Mr. Steve Coleman. Motion was seconded by Mr. Allan Bryant. **Motion carried.**

Mr. David Rowlett introduced KACD's new Executive Director, Ms. Crystal Renfro to all in attendance.

KACD Treasurer's Report – Mr. Allan Bryant presented the report with copies distributed.

Mr. Allan Bryant made the motion to approve the report. Mr. Rodney Dick seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

SWCC Correspondence – Mr. Ray Adams turned the discussion over to Ms. Johnna McHugh. Ms. Johnna McHugh presented the board with 73 letters asking for the remaining 20% of the State Cost Share that was held by the SWCC to be released. Mr. Charles Snavelly, EEC Secretary, approved the release to all district counties. Motion to approve the release of funds was made by Mr. Danny Shipley and was seconded by Mr. Marc Hult. **Motion carried.**

KACD Correspondence - Mr. David Rowlett informed the board that he received a bill in the amount of \$11.95 from United Bank. Mr. Allan Bryant will contact United Bank and ask for more clarification and update the board at the next meeting. Motion to approve Mr. Allan contacting United Bank was made by Mr. Steve Coleman and was seconded by Mr. Marc Hult. **Motion carried.**

Mr. David Rowlett stated that the 4H is requesting \$500.00 in yearly funding. This was in the same amount as previous years. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Steve Coleman and was seconded by Mr. Shane Wells. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Steve Coleman discussed FFA's request for a donation in the amount of \$150.00. This will help cover the land judging team expenses. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Kevin Jeffries and was seconded by Mr. Rodney Dick. **Motion carried.**

Equipment Loan Report – Ms. Johnna McHugh, DOC, presented the report with copies distributed.

Statement of Operations – Assistant Director Johnna McHugh gave an overview of the year to date equipment fund report. Motion to approve the release of funds was made by Mr. Danny Shipley and was seconded by Mr. Marc Hult. **Motion carried.**

- **Approval of Equipment Loan Requests** –
 1. The Muhlenberg County Conservation District is requesting a loan for a 12 foot pull type lime spreader. Cost of the equipment would be in the amount of \$16,358.00. The district will be paying \$5,452.67 to complete the 1/3 down payment. The district is requesting a loan amount of \$10,905.33. Motion to approve loan request was made by Mr. Jeff Rice and was seconded by Mr. Sam Hughes. **Motion carried.**
- **Approval of Infrastructure Loan Requests** - There were no new loan requests.

Vacancy Petitions for Conservation District Supervisors Appointments – Exe. Director, Mr. Danny Hall presented the report.

- **Approval vacancy petitions**
 - Barren County – Mr. Donald Wilson to serve the unexpired term of Charles Button (2020)
 - South Logan – Mr. Zachary to serve the unexpired term of William Henderson (2018)

Mr. Danny Shipley made a motion to approve. Mr. Jeff Rice seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

- **Incentive Pay for Supervisors**
 - Bullitt County
 - Leon Dawson – Area meeting, one special training and 9 ten minute training.
 - George Henderman – Area meeting, one special training and 9 ten minute training.
 - Norman Philpot - Area meeting, one special training and 9 ten minute training.
 - Don Samuel - Area meeting, one special training and 9 ten minute training.
 - Lewis Skidmore - Area meeting, one special training and 9 ten minute training.
 - HYTE Rouse IV - Area meeting, one special training and 9 ten minute training.
 - Lee County
 - Ronnie Brandenburg – Ten minute special training by field representative, 10 ten minute training sessions.
 - David Jennings - Ten minute special training by field representative, 10 ten minute training sessions.
 - Owsley County
 - Denise Hoffman – Special 10 minute training by field representative, 11 ten minute training sessions.
 - Jerry McIntosh – Special 10 minute training by field representative, 11 ten minute training sessions.
 - Holly Shouse – Special 10 minute training by field representative, 8 ten minute training sessions.

Mr. Sam Hughes moved to approve. Mr. Don Minton seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Danny Hall received a letter from the Floyd County District, asking for the approval of a Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual meeting act as a qualifying event for supervisors for incentive per diems. A motion was made by Mr. Danny Shipley to approve and was seconded by Mr. Scott Parsons. **Motion carried.**

Agriculture District Program - Assistant Director Johnna McHugh, DOC, presented the report with copies distributed. Three (3) new petitions were presented to the Commission for consideration for a total of 550.60 acres.

- **Breckinridge County** (Petition No. 014-05 (A1)) – 87.95 acres. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman. Motion seconded by Mr. Don Minton. **Motion carried.**

Ms. Johnna McHugh presented 9 petitions for recertification.

COUNTY	PETITION NO.	ACRES	COMMENTS
Bullitt	015-03	75	
Bullitt	015-07	760	
Bullitt	015-10	191	Remove 10 acres.
Bullitt	015-12	12	Remove 1,639.94 acres.
Hart	050-01	351.78	
Kenton	059-01	792.16	
Kenton	059-03	567.04	
Montgomery	087-02	908	
Montgomery	087-05	789	

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Marc Hult. Motion seconded by Mr. Don Minton. **Motion carried.**

NACD Director’s Report – Mr. Kevin Jeffries updated the board on the following items:

- Government affair priorities.
- Grants to districts.
- NACD convention.
- RCPP 2018 projects.
- Conservation Boot Camp training 2018.
- Update on the Farm Bill.

Mr. Kevin Jeffries asked the board to allow district areas to be prioritized in order to allow counties to work together in the acquiring of EQIP funds. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Steve Coleman and was seconded by Mr. Sam Hughes. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Kevin Jeffries asked the board to allow the NRCS State Funding Formula resolution to be sent to NACD.

- Original Wording -
Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the National Association of Conservation Districts, working on behalf of all local conservation districts and state conservation agencies, work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to continue to improve the TA funding allocation formula to states for the Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) Program to include consideration of local and state programs as a part of their workload. Our programs (regardless of funding source), serve the American people better when they are complimentary, not competitive.
- Proposed Wording -
NACD supports continuing to improve the TA funding allocation formula to states for the Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) Program to include consideration of local and state programs as a part of their workload.

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Kevin Jeffries and was seconded by Mr. Shane Wells. **Motion carried.**

KACD Convention – KACD Convention will be held in Owensboro, Kentucky at the Convention Center. Mr. David Rowlett stated that two payments have already been made to the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Mr. Steve Coleman asked the board to approve the allocation of \$500.00 to purchase award plaques for the upcoming convention award ceremonies. Motion was made by Mr. Steve Coleman and was seconded by Mr. Linville Martin. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Steve Coleman presented the KACD collaboration survey project summary report and project update with copies distributed. Mr. Steve Coleman discussed the six collaborative indicators and twenty sub factors.

Executive Session – Mr. Ray Adams called for a SWCC Executive Session. Mr. Danny Shipley made a motion to approve and motion was seconded by Mr. Jeff Rice. **Motion carried.** The KACD/SWCC joint meeting was suspended at 10:40 A.M. and entered a closed session. The KACD/SWCC was called back to order at 11:04 A.M. Mr. Ray Adams called for a motion to approve Ms. Paulette Akers as the new Director of the Division of Conservation. Mr. Danny Shipley made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Scotty Parsons. **Motion carried.**

KACD Auxiliary Report – Ms. Ava Adams talked about the new quilt project, and how it is coming together nicely. The raffle tickets for the quilt are now available for purchase.

Division of Conservation Report – Mr. Danny Hall discussed the following:

- Area Meetings - Currently holding on areas to decide on date and times.
- Environmental Grants – Mr. Danny Hall presented grants submitted for approval.

A subcommittee was formed to review the program of establishing a ranking system for grants. The following will make up the subcommittee:

- Mr. Ray Adams
- Mr. Scotty Parsons
- Mr. Jeff Rice
- Mr. Marc Hult

Agency Reports

- Kentucky Department for Natural Resources – Secretary Charles Snively discussed how smaller agencies have been overlooked, and how they're trying to do more to make sure they're fulfilling their mission and give more time to these agencies. Secretary. Snively discussed the innovative ways agencies are coming up with to spend funds more efficiently. Secretary. Snively shared concerns of DOC being short two field reps and how he fully intends to fill those positions. Secretary.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service – Ms. Amanda Moore discussed the USDA reorganization and gave this update:
 - We are still waiting for Bill Northey to be confirmed as the Under Secretary for the new Farm Production and Conservation Mission Area. Meanwhile, the formation of the new FPAC Business Center has been announced. The FPAC Business Center will provide administrative services including HR, procurement, grants and agreements, leasing, fleet management, financial management, budget planning/execution, etc., as well as operational services including strategic planning, public affairs, legislative affairs, performance management, etc., to NRCS, FSA and the Risk Management Agency. These functions are being moved from the agencies to the FPAC mission area. Senior staff have been identified to develop and implement the new Business Center. It remains to be seen what the impacts of this change will be.

In addition, multi-agency groups are working to address a variety of issues at the request of the Secretary. Those include:

- Office Space/Leasing; Fleet Management; and Workload Based Staffing. With regard to office space, the agencies are evaluating instances where NRCS and FSA are not co-located. In addition, there may be concern over NRCS paying for office space for conservation districts. Individual agency fleets will be combined into a single FPAC fleet and the number of vehicles is being reduced. KY lost 30 vehicles through this process. We are evaluating vehicle locations and working to redistribute as needed within KY; going forward, offices may no longer have assigned vehicles for staff or a vehicle for every staff person. Staff will need to schedule use of vehicles and also prioritize vehicle usage. NRCS NHQ is working on a national workload analysis that will be used to allocate staff if a FTE cap is imposed. The short term WLA is based on workload associated with Conservation Planning (40%), Practice Implementation (EQIP, CSP, CRP – 45%), Conservation Compliance, Easement Monitoring, and Watershed Dam O&M (combined, 15%). The longer term WLA will combine workload with the time it takes to complete tasks for a more robust view
- Kentucky Department of Agriculture – Mr. Tim Hughes spoke about #KYAG365, featuring farmers and their products. Mr. Hughes discussed the current state of industrial hemp and the 12,800 acres that have been approved for hemp farming. The Department of Agriculture will be having a breakfast at the annex with commodity groups on Feb. 16. They will also have a presence at the Farm Machinery Show. Mr. Hughes spoke briefly about the Ag in the Classroom program.
- University of Kentucky -Dr. Steve Higgins updated the group on the projects that the Commission has funded. The project at St. Catherine has started. Morehead State University is working on a barn to alleviate the current run off issue. The situation in Montgomery County is ongoing, and Dr. Steve Higgins noted that he will be attending town hall meetings in Mount Sterling. He reported that he might be working on a new demonstration site soon, as Eastern Kentucky University has asked for his help.
- Kentucky Division of Forestry – No report given.
- KACDE – Ms. Kayleigh Evans said KACDE is updating their directory and should be completed by next week. Ms. Evans suggested they could speak at area meetings about what has been going on.

Adjournment – 12:16 P.M.

Upcoming SWCC/KACD Meeting –

- SWCC – March 19th, 2018 @ 9:00 AM at 300 Sower Blvd.
- KACD – March 25th, 2018 @ 9:30 AM at 300 Sower Blvd.