

JOINT MEETING MINUTES

Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

And

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts

Friday February 19, 2021 – 9:00 AM

Zoom meeting ID: 845 5362 3580 Passcode: SWCC

In attendance for SWCC: Mr. Danny Shipley, Chair; Mr. Jeff Rice, Vice Chair; Mr. Bill Harned; and Mr. Jim Morris; Mr. Don Minton; and Mr. Lenville Martin.

In attendance for KACD: Mr. Shane Wells, President; Mr. Allan Bryant, Vice President; Mr. Ted Jessup, Treasurer; Mr. Steve Coleman; Mr. Rhodes Hester; Mr. Randy McCallon; Mr. Ernie Ezell; Mr. Jeff Rice; Mr. Bill Harned; Mr. Lenville Martin; Mr. Doug Hensley; Ms. Jennifer Burgan; Mr. David Rowlett; and Ms. Crystal Renfro, KACD, Executive Director.

Others Present: Ms. Paulette Akers, Division of Conservation; Ms. Johnna McHugh, Division of Conservation; Mr. Brandon Howard, Kentucky Division of Forestry; Ms. Sonya Keith, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Mr. Tim Hughes, NRCS, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Senior Trade Advisor; Mr. Greg Stone, NRCS; Ms. Kathleen Saunier, OLS, EEC; Mr. John Chism, Department of Ag; Ms. Debbie Wakefield, Farm Service Agency; Ms. Natalie Browning, KACDE; Ms. Lisa Mullins, KACDA; and Mr. Jeff Gravitt, Division of Conservation.

Quorum was met.

Call to Order and Introduction – by Mr. Danny Shipley, Chair; (SWCC) and Mr. Shane Wells, President, (KACD). Introductions were made.

SWCC Minutes from the November 16, 2020 Meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Lenville Martin to approve the November meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Jim Morris seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

KACD Minutes from the November 17, 2020 Meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Allan Bryant to approve the November meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Steve Coleman seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

KACD Correspondence – Ms. Crystal Renfro asked that all correspondence should be forwarded to 103 Lakeview Court, Frankfort.

SWCC Correspondence – Ms. Paulette Akers received a request from Warren County to change their current environmental grant over to fund its Backyard Conservation Program. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Bill Harned and was seconded by Mr. Jim Morris. **Motion carried.**

Ms. Paulette Akers received a request from Henry County and other counties that environmental grant monies be good for 2 years. Districts should be sure that they are expending those funds for their directed purpose within that time period. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Jim Morris and was seconded by Mr. Bill Harned. **Motion carried.**

Ms. Paulette Akers received a request from Casey County asking the Commission to approve a local producer (Mr. Garryd Buis) for contingency funds for stream bank stabilization. The total cost will be \$86,000. Mr. Garry Buis is asking to be approved for \$20,000 at 75% cost share and he will be responsible for the remaining balance. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Jim Morris and was seconded by Mr. Bill Harned. **Motion carried.**

Equipment Loan Statement of Operations – Ms. Johnna McHugh provided an overview of the Equipment Loan State of Operations with copies of report distributed to all board members. Mr. Jim Morris made a motion to approve the report as stated. Mr. Lenville Martin seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

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

- **Approval of Equipment Loan Requests** –
 - The Nelson County Conservation District is requesting a loan for a John Deere 1590 No Till Drill. Cost of the equipment would be \$40,913.39. The contractor will be placing one third down in cash, for \$3,274.07. A trade in allowance in the amount of \$9,000 is given. The district is requesting a loan amount of \$28,639.52. The length of loan is for 4 years. Mr. Bill Harned made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Jim Morris. **Motion carried.**

Conservation District Supervisors – Ms. Johnna McHugh presented the reports with copies provided to the board:

- **Approval of vacancy petitions** –
 - Campbell County- Charles Kevin McCormick to fill vacancy from Charles Kenneth McCormick (2022)
 - Crittenden County - Tyler Guess to fill unexpired vacancy (2024)

- Franklin County - Eddie Harrod to fill vacancy from Ricky Bailey (2024)
- Fulton County- Patrick Linder to fill vacancy from Robert Garrigan (2024)
- Graves County- Kimberly Mathis to fill unexpired vacancy (2024)
- Jessamine County- Gary Burdine to fill unexpired vacancy (2024)
- Johnson County- Myron Evans to fill vacancy from Charles Evans (2022)
- Magoffin County- Debroah Helton to fill vacancy from Wilton Helton (2024)
- Menifee County - Elizabeth Pugh to fill vacancy from Hattie Williams (2022)
- Rowan County- Anthony Anderson to fill vacancy from Yvonne Thompson (2022)
- Shelby County - Philip McCoun to fill vacancy from Jana Scott (2022)
- South Logan County - Bob Allen to fill unexpired vacancy (2024)
- Wolfe County- Lou Ellen Brewer to fill vacancy from Carroll Amyx (2024)
Tim Ferguson to fill unexpired vacancy (2024)

Mr. Jeff Rice made a motion to approve vacancy petitions. Mr. Bill Harned seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

- Incentive Pay for Supervisors – None to report.

Agriculture District Program – Ms. Johnna McHugh presented the report with copies distributed:

Five (5) new petitions were presented to the Commission for a total of 1,084.70 acres.

- Bracken County (Petition No. 012-12) – 596.63 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Jeff Rice. Motion seconded by Mr. Jim Morris. **Motion carried.**
- Campbell County (Petition No. 019-04 (A15) – 16.29 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Bill Harned and was seconded to Ms. Jim Morris. **Motion carried.**
- Campbell County (Petition No. 019-11 (A13) – 81.39 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Jeff Rice and was seconded by Mr. Jim Morris. **Motion carried.**

- Campbell County (Petition No. 019-14 (A6) – 252.19 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Bill Harned was seconded by Mr. Jim Morris. **Motion carried.**
- Henry County (Petition No. 052-01 (A12) – 138.20 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Jeff Rice was seconded by Mr. Bill Harned. **Motion carried.**

Ms. Johnna McHugh presented twenty-three (23) petitions for recertification. Petitions are as follows:

| COUNTY | PETITION NO. | ACRES |
|-----------|--------------|----------|
| Campbell | 019-14 | 1,034.68 |
| Fleming | 035-10 | 3,743.12 |
| Fleming | 035-15 | 534.16 |
| Fleming | 035-16 | 415.25 |
| Fleming | 035-18 | 1,390.44 |
| Fleming | 035-19 | 647.31 |
| Fleming | 035-22 | 215.06 |
| Fleming | 035-23 | 128.74 |
| Fleming | 035-24 | 384.76 |
| Fleming | 035-25 | 295.95 |
| Fleming | 035-27 | 972.40 |
| Fleming | 035-28 | 242.00 |
| Green | 044-04 | 298.00 |
| Jackson | 055-01 | 745.66 |
| Jackson | 055-02 | 547.36 |
| Jackson | 055-06 | 256.30 |
| Jackson | 055-08 | 203.50 |
| McCracken | 073-02 | 1,793.32 |
| Shelby | 106-08 | 112.77 |
| Taylor | 109-04 | 437.00 |
| Taylor | 109-09 | 348.40 |
| Union | 113-01 | 93.22 |
| Wayne | 116-02 | 267.71 |

A motion to approve the Twenty-three (23) agricultural districts for recertification was made by Mr. Jeff Rice and was seconded by Mr. Jim Morris **Motion carried.**

NACD Director's Report – Mr. Jeff Rice and Mr. David Rowlett updated the board about these items:

- The Spring Fly In will be a virtual event starting the week of March 22nd. KACD would like to work the NRCS to develop a one-page fact sheet to be able to discuss with Congressional Leaders that week.
- The 2022 Annual Meeting will be in Orlando, FL & 2023 New Orleans, LA
- NACD is offering an Urban Grant, more information on the NACD Webpage.

Old Business – None to report from SWCC or KACD.

New Business –

- NACD Spring Fly-in – Ms. Crystal Renfro informed the board that it will be a virtual meeting running the full week of March 22 – 26th.
- KACD Area meeting updates – Ms. Crystal Renfro informed the board of the following:
 - Area Meetings will be held virtually this year. There will be 4 informational meetings that any area can join in and eight brief night virtual meetings for voting. Due to the cancelation of many area meetings last year elections will be held in Areas 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9. Areas 1, 4, 7 & 8 will need new directors. Directors in Areas 3, 5, 6 & 9 are eligible to continue their position if nominated again.
 - Dates for these meetings are TBD.
- 2021 KACD Annual Meeting - Ms. Crystal Renfro discussed the following with the board:
 - KACD Legislative Reception: Buffalo Trace February 18, 2021
 - Currently planning to have the event. A final determination will be made in future.
- 2021 Division of Conservation State Cost Share approval – Ms. Paulette Akers discussed the following State Cost Share information with the Commission before the Commission decides which option to approve:
 - The Kentucky General Assembly allocated \$2,500,000 in state cost share funding for the fiscal year 2021. Due to canceled practices, past allocations lower than appropriations and other funding issues, \$6,360,831.52 is currently unallocated.
 - Approximately \$566,001.67 remains obligated from the 2018 ranking that was awarded February 2019. Applicants will have until 3/1/2021 to complete these practices.
 - Approximately \$813,133.34 remains obligated from the 2019 ranking that was awarded in July 2019. Applicants have until 8/1/2021 to complete these practices.

- Approximately \$2,875,742.65 remains obligated from the 2020 ranking that was awarded in January 2020. Applicants have until 2/1/2022 to complete these practices.
- \$250,000 must be held in a contingency fund to pay Ag Water Quality Act violations.
- Districts submitted 1179 applications requesting \$12,455,872.40 in state cost share, although many applications requested funds greater than those allowed for the practice or multiple applications for the same applicant. When practice caps were corrected and multiples removed, total funds requested were 1152 individuals for \$11,684,439.95 with an average request of \$10,142.74.
- 134 individuals requested more than the new practice cap of \$20,000.
- The majority of applications were for the Livestock Pastureland practices (869 applications). 249 applications were for Cropland practices, 25 for Livestock AFO and 9 Forestland.
- The previous cut off was 40.

Ms. Paulette Akers made the following recommendations:

- Option 1 - Applicants with scores of 55 or higher be funded for a total allocation of \$5,345,441.46 to 540 applicants. Of the 540 applications over 55, 131 are cropland, 22 animal feeding operations, and 387 pastureland.
- Option 2 – Applicants with scores of 54 or higher be funded for a total allocation of \$5,623,589.59 to 567 applicants. Of the 567 applications over 54, 137 are cropland, 23 animal feeding operations, and 407 pastureland.
- Option 3 - Applicants with scores of 53 or higher be funded for a total allocation of \$5,920,643.90 to 592 applicants. Of the 592 applications over 53, 146 are cropland, 23 animal feeding operations, and 423 pastureland.

Establish a cut-off for the next round of funding at November 15, 2021. FY22 funds will be available plus any unused funds from FY18 and FY19.

After discussing all three options the Commission decided on option three (3). A motion to approve was made by Mr. Jim Morris and was seconded by Mr. Jeff Rice. **Motion carried.**

- 2021 Division of Conservation Environmental Grants - Ms. Paulette Akers discussed the following Environmental Grants information with the Commission before the Commission decides which option to approve:
 - Environmental Grants are funded out of the KY Department of Agriculture pesticide funds and limited to \$7,500 per district per year. The KDA has been supporting this program at \$300,000 per year. The current balance in the account is \$1,320,442.97. We currently have allotment to spend \$670,000. Last year \$669,560 was awarded.
 - The current funding level allotment pulls \$370,000 each year from old funds. Funding at this pace will allow the program to proceed for 3 years, before it is limited to \$300,000 per year.

Ms. Paulette Akers made the following recommendations:

- Option 1 – Fund all of the requests as submitted. Funds 77 counties \$568,200 with \$101,800 moving forward.
- Option 2 – Fund only Dead Animal Removal. Funds 49 counties for \$365,000 with \$305,000 moving forward.

After discussing both options the Commission decided to fund option one (1). A motion to approve was made by Mr. Bill Harned and was seconded by Mr. Jim Morris. **Motion carried.**

Agency Reports

- Division of Conservation Report – Ms. Paulette Akers discussed the following with the board:
 - New and Existing Supervisor training dates for March set.
 - Area elections to held on following dates:
 - Area 1 – March 2nd
 - Area 2 – March 4th.
 - Area 7 – March 9th.
 - Area 9 – March 11th.
 - AWQP E-Book currently being worked on by IT Staff and will be ready for March rollout and training to be held in April.
 - 73 Letters of Warning or Notices of Violation were sent out by Division of Water last year to agriculture facilities.
- KACD Treasurer’s Report - Treasurer Ted Jessup presented the KACD Treasurer’s Report with copies emailed. Mr. Ted Jessup made the motion to approve the report as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Allan Bryant. **Motion carried.**

- KACD – Ms. Crystal Renfro discussed the following with the board:
 - KACD will be working with Ms. Jennifer Elwell on a new logo for KACD and Kentucky Envirothon.
 - KACD has been working with the Governor’s Office of Ag Policy trying to assist new county conservation districts who are thinking about administering the CAIP Program, most recently Clinton and Jefferson Counties.
 - KACD will host a Zoom Meeting on February 24th with the District Staff to discuss tips and ideas of how offices are handling business during COVID.
 - Ms. Johnna McHugh updated the board on the status of the state Envirothon competition and the art & writing Contest
 - Mr. Steve Coleman made a motion to upgrade the KACD Zoom Account to be able to host up to 300 participants. This is needed for future meeting and the Kentucky Envirothon. Seconded by Ms. Jennifer Burgan. **Motion carried.**
 - The KACD Executive Committee held a meeting with Representative Attica Scott to discuss conservation districts and what we do. The Executive Committee thought it was a very beneficial meeting and look forward to work with Representative Scott more in the future.
 - Mr. Steve Coleman made a motion to purchase a Quicken program for use on the KADC Foundation Account, and Mr. Lenville Martin seconded the motion to approve. **Motion carried.**
 - KACD has a new mobile phone: Number 502-682-1770
 - The equipment loan program was discussed. KACD is going to work with Legislators to determine what is needed to work on the language in the KRS that cover this program.
 - The KACD Foundation can now receive donations from Amazon Smile. Please choose them to be your recipient when shopping on Amazon.
 - The KACD Executive Committee needs to schedule a date to review the remaining district award applications for 2020. Due to COVID this has been a difficult task.
 - NRCS/KACD Technical Position Agreement
 - KACD currently has 17 signed contracts for these positions. 5 are current 50/50s and 12 new hires.
 - Mr. Steve Coleman made the motion to add Mr. Crystal Renfro to the KACD Foundation bank accounts at First Federal Savings Bank and have the authority to perform any banking transactions or operations, including online banking. Motion seconded by Mr. Doug Hensley. **Motion carried.**
 - KACD is currently working to finalize the official agreement that will be signed between KACD and the districts. These will be forwarded out to the Districts as soon as approved.

Mr. Allan Bryant discussed the allocation of \$2,500 by KACD for Kentucky Ag. In the classroom program. Mr. Allan Bryant made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Steve Coleman. **Motion carried.**

- KACDE – Ms. Natalie Browning updated the board on these items:
 - KACDE has signed a contract for their Annual Meeting at Lake Barkley State Park: Sept 14-16
 - New Master Conservationist Signs are available for \$25.
 - March 11th is the KACDE Mid-Year Meeting in Frankfort.

- KACD Auxiliary – Ms. Lisa Mullins updated the board on the following:
 - The KACD Auxiliary quilt is currently being worked on and should be ready for the July Annual Meeting.
 - Scholarships are due soon, so the Auxiliary will be choosing the recipients soon.

- Natural Resources Conservation Service – Mr. Greg Stone updated the board on following items:
 - Budget is looking stable for NRCS this year.
 - New roofed feeding areas will be included in EQIP in the future. There will be many guidelines that go with this practice.
 - CSP renewal had a great signup.
 - Ahead of schedule with EQIP at this time.

- Farm Service Agency – Ms. Debbie Wakefield had to leave meeting. Ms. Johnna McHugh updated the board on these items:
 - FSA programs update.
 - They are continuing to provide services to their customers virtually and over the phone during COVID.

- Department for Natural Resources – No report given.
- Kentucky Department of Agriculture - Mr. John Chism and Mr. Tim Hughes updated the board on these items:
 - A thank you from the Commissioner’s office to all districts and KACD for the hard work we have been doing.
 - Dr. Katie Flynn has been hired as the new State Vet.
 - Updated on the AgTag Program.
 - Talked about the Kentucky Leopold Award. Applications are due April 1, 2021.
 - GOAP has given money to KDA to help with meat processing facilities.
 - Update on AG Ed trailers.
 - Importance of the Environmental Grants (dead animal removal).
 - Discussed Carbon Credits.

- University of Kentucky, CAFE – Not attended.

- Division of Forestry – Mr. Brandon Howard updated the board on these items:
 - Fire season began February 15th.
 - KDF has been helping the National Guard during the winter storm events.
 - Hemlock treating program.
 - Discussed Carbon Credits.
 - Update on National Association of State Foresters.
 - Update on the Laurel Wilt and current level of the state nursery.

- Kentucky Farm Bureau – No report given.

- Governor’s Office of Ag Policy – No report given.

- Kentucky Farm Bureau – No report given.

(SWCC) - A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Bill Harned and was seconded by Mr. Jim Morris. **Motion carried.**

(KACD) - A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ted Jessup and was seconded by Mr. Randy McCallon. **Motion carried.**

Next SWCC meeting is April 19th at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom.

Nest KACD meeting is March 18th at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.