

JOINT MEETING MINUTES

Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

And

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts

Monday February 22, 2023 – 9:00 AM

In attendance for SWCC: Mr. Danny Shipley, Chair; Mr. Bill Harned; Ms. Denise Hoffman; Mr. Keith Tingle and Mr. Lenville Martin.

In attendance for KACD: Mr. Allan Bryant, President; Mr. Steve Coleman, Secretary-Treasurer; Mr. David Rowlett, Kentucky NACD Director; Mr. Shane Wells, Past President; Mr. Doug Hensley; Mr. Doug DeRossett; Mr. Roy Reynolds; Ms. Crystal Renfro, Executive Director; Mr. Rod Murphy; Mr. Vincent Thompson; Mr. Doug McLaren; Ms. Jennifer Burgan; and Dr. Ernie Ezell.

Others Present: Ms. Paulette Akers, Division of Conservation; Ms. Johnna McHugh, Division of Conservation; Ms. Melinda Murphy, Division of Conservation; Mr. John Chism, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; Ms. Dawn Baase, Department of Natural Resources; Mr. Steve Beam, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Ms. Michelle Estes, Simpson County Conservation District; Ms. Dorothy Leanne Coleman, Pike County Conservation District; Ms. Lesia Birchfield, Pike County Conservation District; Ms. Sarah Bryant, Kentucky Office of Ag Policy; Ms. Vivian Ross, Woodford County Conservation District; Ms. Bridget Abernathy, Division of Forestry and Mr. Jeff Gravitt, Division of Conservation.

Quorum was met.

Call to Order and Introduction – by Mr. Danny Shipley, Chair (SWCC) and Mr. Steve Coleman, Secretary-Treasurer (KACD). Introductions were made.

SWCC Minutes from the November 21, 2022, Meeting – A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes was made by Mr. Bill Harned. Ms. Denise Hoffman seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

KACD Minutes from the November 17, 2022, Meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Doug DeRossett to approve the November meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Vincent Thompson seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Agency Reports –

- Division of Forestry – Ms. Bridget Abernathy discussed the following -
 - Kentucky is currently in its fire season. Over 70 fires scattered around the state. Mainly in the Eastern portion of Kentucky.
 - Update on state forestry's and nursery's.
 - Forestry health, disease, insect topics, education.
 - Arbor Day Celebration is on 04-06-2023.
 - Community recovery events.
 - Partnership with Arbor Day Foundation to provide 500 trees to affected area (\$13,000.00 in value) of 2021 tornados.
- Division of Conservation – Ms. Paulette Akers discussed the 5 million dam funding from the last budget bill. Ms. Paulette Akers stated that the funds will be grant funding. Ms. Paulette Akers introduced an application based on things the Commission previously said the wanted to be included. Ms. Paulette Akers asked the Commission to move to approve the application. Mr. Keith Tingle made a motion to approve the application and Mr. Bill Harned seconded the motion. **Motion carried.** Ms. Paulette Akers will work with the Cabinet's legal and budget staff to develop an example contract to be used with the watershed dam funds.
 - Ms. Paulette Akers introduced the Division of Conservations new employee, Ms. Melinda Murphy to the attendees.
 - Ms. Paulette Akers discussed a modification to the audit contracts. This will include the special audits for FY 2020 – 2022. Invoices were sent out in the amount of \$3,000.00 per year for districts that had more than \$500,000.00 received or sent out.
- KACD – Ms. Crystal Renfro turned the discussion over to Mr. Steve Coleman.
 - Mr. Steve Coleman presented the KACD Treasurers Report and asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Vincent Thompson made a motion to approve and Mr. Roy Reynolds second the motion. **Motion carried.**
 - Mr. Steve Coleman presented the Foundation account report. Mr. Steve Coleman asked for a motion to approve. Mr. Doug DeRossett made a motion to approve, and Mr. Roy Reynolds seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**
 - There are 33 technical assistant positions filled with 3 positions that are open statewide.
 - 75 Sponsorship letters have been sent out.
 - Executive Committee to review existing contract with Ms. Crystal Renfro and supply a recommendation at the next meeting. The KACD board agreed by consensus that this would be acceptable.
 - Mr. Tom Bennett has approached KACD to partner with them on a wetland mitigation credits program.
 - Mr. Steve Coleman asked for a motion to approve a payment to Estill County in the amount of \$19,564.19. A motion to approve the payment was made by Mr. Steve Coleman and was seconded by Ms. Jennifer Burgan. **Motion carried.**

- KACDE – Ms. Natalie Browning discussed the following –
 - Surplus of soil stewardship materials, offering 40% discount.
 - T-Shirt/Art and writing contest.
 - Training costs.
 - Mr. Steve Coleman made a motion to approve a donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 to sponsor KACDE training and Mr. David Rowlett seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**
- KACD Auxiliary – Mr. Steve Coleman stated Ms. Lisa Mullins is currently setting up an account to transfer funds.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service – Mr. Steve Beam discussed the following –
 - Mr. Steve Beam introduced himself as the new NRCS assistant state conservationist for partnerships.
 - Watershed rehab operations.
 - State Conservationist position has been advertised.
 - NRCS budget levels for 2023.
 - Dam hazards and funds allocated.
 - Eastern Kentucky flooding.
- Farm Service Agency – Not attended.
- Department for Natural Resources – Ms. Dawn Baase discussed the following –
 - Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill relating to Division of Oil and Gas / Abandoned Mine Lands.
 - Initial grant for \$25 million with \$74 million in total over the next 15 years.
 - Total of 14,000 orphan wells.
 - Hiring 40 new employees.
 - AML economic revitalization project.
 - \$35 million allocated for 2023.
- Kentucky Department of Agriculture – Mr. John Chism and Ms. Sarah Bryant discussed the following –
 - Current legislature and the reorganization of Animal Health Division.
 - Current State Deputy Veterinarian will step down March 1st.
 - Avian flu.
 - Mental Health Division of the Department of Agriculture.
- University of Kentucky, CAFE – Not attended.
- Kentucky Farm Bureau – Not attended.

KACD Correspondence – Ms. Crystal Renfro discussed the following –

- Kentucky FFA has requested sponsorship for range judging and land judging teams. Mr. Steve Coleman made a motion to approve a sponsorship in the amount of \$500.00 (\$250.00 per team). Mr. Vincent Thompson seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**
- Ms. Crystal Renfro turned the discussion over to Mr. Steve Coleman. Mr. Steve Coleman discussed the approval of \$1,500.00 for the Leopold Award. Mr. Vincent Thompson made a motion to approve the funds and Mr. Doug DeRossett seconded the motion. **Motion carried.** Mr. Steve Coleman **abstained.**

SWCC Correspondence – Ms. Paulette Akers discussed the following –

- Breckinridge County requests to change their environment grant funds from dump cleanup to soil testing. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Lenville Martin and was seconded by Mr. Bill Harned. **Motion carried.**
- Carlisle County requests to use leftover grant funds from recycling be used for outdoor trash receptacles. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Lenville Martin and was seconded by Mr. Keith Tingle. **Motion carried.**
- Clark County has asked the Commission for time to complete a heavy use area gateway and a grade stabilization structure. The statute does not allow for more time to be allowed. Ms. Denise Hoffman made a motion to deny the request and Mr. Bill Harned seconded the motion. **Motion denied.** Ms. Denise Hoffman suggested the landowner be asked to reapply.

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

- 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. Bill Harned made a motion to approve the report as stated. Mr. Lenville seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**
- Approval of Equipment Loan Requests – None presented.

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

- Approval of vacancy petitions – Ms. Johnna McHugh presented the following requests.
 - Brecken County - John Goecke to fill unexpired term of Tony Ramsey (2024) (1 petition received)
 - Clark County - Harold David Rupard to fill unexpired term of Jack Wise (2026) (1 petition received)
 - Crittenden County–
 - Denis Hodge to fill unexpired term (2026) (2 total petitions received)
 - Robert Glinke to fill unexpired term (2026) (2 total petitions received)
 - Garrard County - Jamie Barker to fill unexpired term of Wayne Day (2024) (1 petition received)
 - Grant County–
 - Tisha Woodyard to fill unexpired term (2026) (1 petition received)
 - Timothy Henry to fill unexpired term (2026) (1 petition received)

- Fayette County - Aaron Clark to fill unexpired term of Christopher Rowe (2024) (1 petition received)
- Fleming County - Emery Clark to fill unexpired term (2026) (1 petition received)
- Jefferson County - David Kaelin to fill unexpired term of Jennifer Chappell (2024) (1 petition received)
- Jessamine County - Kay DeMoss to fill unexpired term (2024) (1 petition received)
- Lee County - Sandra Gay to fill unexpired term of Ronnie Brandenburg (2024) (1 petition received)
- Lewis County -
 - Stella Hull to fill unexpired term (2026) (3 total petitions received)
 - Nancy Powell to fill unexpired term (2024) (3 total petitions received)
 - William Bertram to fill unexpired term (2026) (3 total petitions received)
- Nelson County - Mary Katherine Houghlin to fill unexpired term of Thomas Hart (2024) (1 petition received)
- Nicholas County -
 - Denise Matthews to fill unexpired term of Randy Warner (2026) (3 total petition received)
 - Jimmy Martin to fill unexpired term of Michael Watkins (2024) (3 total petition received)
- Powell County -
 - Beth Stevens to fill unexpired term of JW Stephens (2024) (2 total petition received)
 - David Neal to fill unexpired term (2026) (2 total petition received)
- Scott County -
 - Phillip Howard to fill unexpired term (2026) (2 petitions received)
- Trimble County -
 - Jonathan Turner to fill unexpired term (2026) (2 total petitions received)
 - Glenn Fisher to fill unexpired term (2026) (2 total petitions received)
- Woodford County -
 - Michael Duckworth to fill unexpired term (2026) (1 petition received)

A motion to approve the above vacancy petitions was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Bill Harned. **Motion carried.**

- Incentive Pay for Supervisors – None presented.

Agriculture District Program - Ms. Johnna McHugh presented the report with copies distributed. Seven (7) new petitions were presented to the Commission for consideration for a total of 2,594.71 acres.

1. Breckinridge County (Petition No. 014-13) – 602.00 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Bill Harned and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. **Motion carried.**
2. Campbell County (Petition No. 019-21 (A3)) – 227.06 acres. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Keith Tingle. **Motion carried.**
3. Hopkins County (Petition No. 054-15 (A1)) – 139.41 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Mr. Bill Harned. **Motion carried.**
4. Mason County (Petition No. 081-08) – 438.49 acres. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Keith Tingle. **Motion carried.**

5. Montgomery County (Petition No. 087-02 (A2)) – 209.82 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Lenville Martin and was seconded by Mr. Bill Harned. **Motion carried.**
6. Scott County (Petition No. 105-08 (A1)) – 616.31 acres. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. **Motion carried.** Mr. Keith Tingle abstained.
7. Scott County (Petition No. 105-09) – 361.62 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Bill Harned and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. **Motion carried.** Mr. Keith Tingle abstained.

Twenty-six (26) new agricultural districts have been submitted to the commission for five-year recertification for a total of 15,713.89 acres.

COUNTY	PETITION NO.	ACRES
Bullitt	015-07	688.62
Bullitt	015-10	137.00
Green	044-02	730.94
Green	044-03	839.93
Hardin	047-02	79.65
Hardin	047-05	264.08
Hardin	047-07	321.00
Hardin	047-08	222.62
Kenton	059-01	566.61
Kenton	059-03	560.43
Mercer	084-04	1,185.53
Montgomery	087-02	893.77
Montgomery	087-05	804.61
Nelson	090-01	376.26
Nelson	090-02	277.28
Nelson	090-05	221.80
Nelson	090-06	1,014.60
Nelson	090-07	406.06
Nelson	090-08	232.34
Nelson	090-09	234.49
Nelson	090-11	290.25
Nelson	090-12	272.04
Shelby	106-02	3,598.59
Shelby	106-04	209.01
Whitley	118-05	224.27

A motion to approve the above 26 recertifications was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Bill Harned. **Motion carried.**

One recertification was discussed separately from the others, as comments were received from the Hardin County Planning and Development Commission. This Ag district includes acreage identified as an industrial arena in the future planning of the county's comprehensive plan.

Hardin	047-06	350.11
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A motion to approve 047-06 from Hardin County was made by Mr. Bill Harned and was seconded by Mr. Keith Tingle. **Motion carried.**

NACD Director's Report - Mr. David Rowlett discussed the following -

- Annual NACD meeting in New Orleans.
- Fly-In in Washington DC to be held on March 22 and 23rd.
- NACD dues collection – Kentucky is currently 10th, formerly 9th in US for dues submitted.
- National Conservation Foundation fundraising for Envirothon.
- New officer team currently in effect.
 - Gary Blair – Vice President.
 - Bill Houser – Second Vice President.
 - Mark Master – Secretary Treasurer.
- PL566 Dam rehabilitation.
- Summer meeting to be held in North Dakota.

Old Business –

Mr. Allan Bryant discussed the following –

- House Bill 116 dealing with commission appointments and age limit for supervisors (18 age limit).
- House Bill 130 dealing with equipment revolving loan funds was passed from committee.
- Senate Bill 50 and House Bill 50 dealing with elections, which would make conservation supervisor races partisan.

New Business -

- NACD Spring Fly-in – Ms. Crystal Renfro stated meeting will be held on March 22nd – 23rd.
- KACD Area meeting update – Ms. Crystal Renfro states that the agenda will be forthcoming for the KACD Area meetings.
- 2023 State Cost Share approval – Ms. Paulette Akers presented the 2023 State Cost Share recommendation options. The commission decided that applicants with a score of 62 or higher will be funded for a total allocation of \$4,203,631.62 to 345 applicants. Of the 345, 276 were pastureland, 16 AFO, 52 cropland, and 1 forestland. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Bill Harned and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. **Motion carried.**

Ms. Paulette Akers asked the Commission to establish a cut-off for next round of funding to be November 15th, 2023. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Bill Harned and was seconded by Ms. Denise Hoffman. **Motion carried.**

- 2022 Environmental Grants - Ms. Paulette Akers presented the 2023 environmental grant recommendation options. The Commission decided to fund the requests where districts that have balances less than currently \$10,000.00. This funds 73 districts with \$537,865.00. Ms. Paulette Akers asked the Commission to establish a cut-off for the next round of funding to be November 15th. A motion to approve the funding and cut-off date was made by Ms. Denise Hoffman and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. **Motion carried.**

Adjourn -

A motion to adjourn the SWCC meeting was made by Mr. Keith Tingle and was seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. **Motion carried.**

A motion to adjourn the KACD meeting was made by Mr. Doug Hensley and was seconded by Mr. Rod Murphy. **Motion carried.**

Next SWCC meeting is April 24th at 9:00 am with virtual option.

Next KACD meeting is March 23rd at 9:30 am