

MEETING MINUTES

Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Monday, March 20th 2016

300 Sower Blvd. Room 216

In Attendance for SWCC: Mr. John Denton, Chairman; Mr. Jack Roberts, Vice-Chair; Mr. Ray Adams, Secretary; Mr. Scotty Parsons; Mr. Marc Hult; Mr. Danny Shipley; and Mr. Billy Doolin.

Others Present: Ms. Kim Richardson, DOC Director; Ms. Johnna McHugh, DOC Assistant Director; Ms. Amanda Moore, NRCS; Mr. Charles Snaveley, Secretary of EEC; Mr. Bruce Scott, Deputy Secretary of EEC; Ms. Ava Adams, KACD Auxiliary President; Ms. Kayleigh Evans, KACDE President; Mr. Tim Hughes, KDA; Mr. Bill Steele, Director of Forestry; Mr. Jay Nelson, DOC; and Mr. Jeff Gravitt, DOC.

Quorum was met.

Meeting Called to Order – 9:00 am by Mr. John Denton, Chairman.

SWCC Minutes from the February 9th, 2017 Meeting - Motion to approve minutes was made by Mr. Jack Roberts and was seconded by Mr. Billy Doolin. **Motion carried.**

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

- **Statement of Operations** – Ms. Johnna McHugh gave an overview of the year to date equipment fund report. Mr. Scotty Parsons made the motion to approve this report. Mr. Ray Adams seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**
- **Approval of Equipment Loan Requests.**
 1. The Butler County Conservation District is requesting a loan for a new 10' 2300 No-Till Drill. Cost of equipment would be \$29,350.00. No trade-in. The district will be placing 1/3 down in cash at \$9,783.33. The district is requesting a loan amount of \$19,566.67. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Ray Adams and was seconded by Mr. Billy Doolin. **Motion carried.**
- **Approval of Infrastructure Loan Request.** No approvals were requested.

Vacancy Petitions for Conservation District Supervisor's Appointments - Ms. Kim Richardson presented the requests.

- **Vacancy petitions.**
 - Boyd- Michael Bowling to serve unexpired term of David Grubb (2020)
 - Pike- Charlie Pinson to fill vacancy
 - Bath- Valerie Ousley to serve the unexpired term of Betty Bailey (2018)
 - Russell-Shane Roy to serve unexpired term of Charles Scott (deceased) 2020
 - Trimble – Zachary Ellis to serve unexpired term
 - Warren- Rhodes Hester to serve unexpired term of John Westbrook (2020)
 - Warren - Troy Ellis to serve unexpired term
- **Incentive Per Diem** – No per diems were up for approval.

Agriculture District Program - Ms. McHugh presented the report with copies distributed. Four (4) new petitions were presented to the Commission for consideration for a total of 959.15 acres.

1. Campbell County (Petition No. 019-02 A4) – 68.63 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Scotty Parsons and was seconded by Mr. Ray Adams. *Note: This is upon validation that this will be used as 1 farm.* **Motion carried.**
2. Campbell County (Petition No. 019-08 A4) – 77.55 acres. *Holding on more information.*
3. Mason County (Petition No. 081-06 A2) – 603.34 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Marc Hult and was seconded by Mr. Ray Adams. **Motion carried.**
4. Pendleton County (096-02 A4) – 209.63 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Marc Hult and was seconded by Mr. Danny Shipley. **Motion carried.**

Six (6) new agricultural districts have been submitted to the commission for five-year recertification for a total of 3,670.71 acres. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Scotty Parsons and was seconded by Mr. Ray Adams. **Motion carried.**

COUNTY	PETITION NO.	ACRES
Barren County	005-14	530.00
Campbell County	019-06	1,003.51
Oldham County	093-05	530.00
Oldham County	093-07	91.30
Oldham County	093-08	750.03
Oldham County	093-09	765.87

Discussion of Spring Area Meeting

- Area 1 – Mr. Scotty Parsons said the Calloway County meeting had good attendance with watersheds being discussed. Mr. Scotty Parsons and Mr. Steve Caraway were nominated for SWCC.
- Area 2 – Ms. Kim Richardson said the area meeting was well attended with Mr. Jeff Rice and Mr. Darrell Luttrell as SWCC nominations. Mr. John Denton will not be seeking re-election.
- Area 5 – Mr. Marc Hult said the area meeting was well attended. Mr. Allan Bryant was re-elected to KACD.
- Area 6 – Mr. Billy Doolin stated that overall attendance was down but still had very informative discussions of what districts were doing.
- Area 7 – Mr. Rodney Dick was re-elected and said it was a very good meeting even though overall attendance was down. Mr. Don Minton and Mr. Skipper Todd were nominate for SWCC. Mr. Jack Roberts did not seek re-election.
- Area 8 – Was held in Montgomery County with Rep. John Blanton attending.
- Area 9 – Was held at Buckhorn with Ms. Angie Muncy, Mr. Jim Lacy, and Mr. Bobby Brown as the nominees for SWCC.

Division of Conservation Report – Ms. Kim Richardson updated the board about these items:

- Senate Bill 249 was passed by both houses and is awaiting signature by the Governor.
- Mr. Jay Nelson said that with the Green River CREP, they've been doing renewals of existing acres and that 4,000 acres have been taken out. They are looking at keeping the 100,000 acres as the cap and offering new contracts to get up to that acreage.
- Hart County Conservation District requested approval for a state cost share practice that was installed prior to the landowner finding out he was approved for state cost share. After discussion of how the practice was installed, Mr. Scotty Parsons moved to defer action until confirmation of correct installation comes back. Mr. Jack Roberts seconded. **Motion carried.**
- The biennial budget process has begun.
- Ms. Johnna McHugh asked for the consideration of alternate incentives to be used for sending people to training.

Agency Reports

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Ms. Amanda Moore in place of Ms. Karen Woodrich updated the board about these items:
 - Ms. Woodrich attended Areas 1,2,5,6, and 8 KACD Spring meetings
 - Conservation Planning and Contracting for EQIP and SCP continue to be priority for our field offices.
 - There is an increase in conservation noncompliance issues on both HEL and Wetland acres across the state.
 - In order to be eligible for crop insurance, all land must be in compliance with the HEL and WC provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act.
 - Hiring Freeze is still in place and no indication when this might change, currently there are 28 vacancies and 3 additional retirements will take place in April. NRCS is requesting to bring on 12 summer interns for upcoming summer.
 - No updates on when new Agriculture Secretary will be confirmed; no updates on potential to name new Chief of NRCS
 - United States Government is operating under a Continuing Budget Resolution (CR) until April 28, 2017.
 - Field staff are being trained to load and use the Rainfall Simulators. As soon as training is completed NRCS will notify districts on how to reserve/schedule for use at field/demo days.
 - USDA State Technical Committee listening session will be March 30th at 9:30 am at the NRCS State Office in Lexington.
- **Kentucky Department for Natural Resources** – Secretary Snavely informed commission that the Secretary's office is looking at raising the current DOC funding from SCS from 5% to a possible 10 to 15%. This would be used to fund a second field rep as well as for new SCS software. This would be in the long term, with the change coming in 2018.
- **Kentucky Department of Agriculture** – Mr. Tim Hughes updated the board about these items:
 - SB218 Hemp bill which will help Department of Agriculture in clarification has passed.
 - Poster Essay contest has a deadline of April 7th, with the awards being June 16th.
- **Agriculture Education/FFA State Advisor**- Not attended
- **Farm Service Agency** – Not attended.
- **University of Kentucky** – Not attended
- **Division of Forestry** – Mr. Bill Steele updated the board about these items:
 - Currently the Division of Forestry is one month into the fire season.
 - Forestry is working with conservation officers on law enforcement.
 - The Division of Forestry has sent 12 people to Oklahoma to help out with existing forest fires.
 - There will be an Arbor Day celebration at the 300 building.
 - The nursery has not been profitable, but they are looking at having 2 million for sale next year to break even.
 - Looking at keeping part of their seasonal help on full time. Could be upwards of 75 people.

- **KACDE** – Ms. Kayleigh Evans updated the board about these items:
 - Board is interested in the breakout sessions.
 - Benefits of the Share Fair.
 - Could have new employee training at the convention.
 - Asked for a convention session on how to prepare for audits.
 - KACDE will be having a reception Sunday the 19th.
 - Soil Stewardship material order forms will be mailed out.
 - KACDE Convention plans.

Election of SWCC Officers – Elections are as follows:

- **Chair**
 - Mr. Danny Shipley nominates Mr. Ray Adams. Mr. Marc Hult seconds nomination. Mr. Scotty Parsons moves Mr. Adams be elected by acclamation, and Mr. Danny Shipley seconds Mr. Ray Adams abstains.
- **Vice Chair**
 - Mr. Jack Roberts nominates Mr. Scotty Parsons. Mr. Marc Hult seconds nomination. Mr. Danny Shipley moves that Mr. Scotty Parsons be elected by acclamation, and Mr. Jack Roberts seconds.
- **Secretary**
 - Mr. Scotty Parsons nominates Mr. Danny Shipley. Mr. Jack Roberts seconds nomination. Mr. Ray Adams moves that Mr. Danny Shipley be elected by acclamation. Mr. Billy Doolin seconds.

Next Board Meeting – 2017 Meeting Schedule: Third Monday at 9:00a.m.

May 15, 2017

July 9, 2017 – KACD Convention

September 18, 2017

November 20, 2017

Adjourned - Mr. Jack Roberts made motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Mr. Ray Adams. **Motion carried**