

## Meeting Minutes

### Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Monday, November 16, 2015 9:00 am

### Two Hundred and Ninety-Seventh Meeting

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In Attendance: Mr. John Denton, Chairman; Mr. Jack Roberts, Vice-Chairman; Mr. Ray Adams, Secretary; Mr. Scotty Parsons; Mr. Danny Shipley; and Ms. Peggy Conway.

Others Present: Assistant State Conservationist Reed Cripps, NRCS; Coleman Gussler, NRCS; Commissioner Steve Hohmann, DNR; Deputy Commissioner Sandy Gruzsky; Becky Thompson, Kentucky Cattleman's Association; Dave Maples, Kentucky Cattleman's Association; and Dr. Steve Higgins, UK.

Also in attendance were Division of Conservation employees: Director Kim Richardson and Assistant Director Johnna McHugh.

Quorum was met.

**Meeting Called to Order** - at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman John Denton.

**SWCC Minutes From Last Meeting – September 21, 2015** - Motion to approve minutes was made by Mr. Scotty Parsons. Motion seconded by Mr. Jack Roberts. **Motion carried.**

**Equipment Report** - Assistant Director Johnna McHugh, DOC, presented the report with copies given.

**Statement of Operations** - Motion to accept the Statement of Operations report as presented was made by Mr. Ray Adams. Motion seconded by Ms. Peggy Conway. **Motion carried.**

**Approval of Equipment Loan Requests** – No new loans were requested at this time.

**Approval of Infrastructure Loan Requests** – No new infrastructure loans were requested at this time.

**Vacancy Petitions for Conservation District Supervisor's Appointments** - Director Kim Richardson, DOC, presented the report with copies given.

#### **Anderson County**

Susan Burge to serve unexpired term of James B. Grider (2016)

#### **Campbell County**

Debbie Buckley to serve unexpired term of Gretchen Vaughn (2016)

#### **Fayette County**

Angie Quigley to serve unexpired term of Billye Haslette (2016)

#### **Grant County**

Edna Cummins to serve unexpired term of K.G Cummins (2018)

**Menifee County**

Dorothy Spears to fill unexpired term of Alan Peck (2016)

**Pendleton County**

Martha Gosney to serve unexpired term of Robert M. Jones (2018)

**Todd County**

Don Laster to serve unexpired term of Bradley McKinney (2018)

Ryan Turner to serve unexpired term of Jeff Penick (2016)

**Webster County**

Jerry McGill to serve unexpired term of Ken Hammack (2016)

Motion to accept the vacancy petitions was made by Mr. Danny Shipley. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ray Adams. **Motion carried.**

**Per Diem**

**Calloway County**

Randy McCallon- area 1 meeting, 10 minute trainings & KACD convention

Don Overbuy- area 1 meeting, 10 minute trainings

Marty Carraway- area 1 meeting, 10 minute trainings

Mark Wilson- area 1 meeting, 10 minute trainings

Henry Armstrong- area 1 meeting, 10 minute trainings

Eddie Workman- area 1 meeting, 10 minute trainings

Steve Carraway- area 1 meeting, 10 minute trainings

**Perry County**

Bobby Brown- 2015 Convention, 11 ten trainings

Anthony Mullins-3 ten minute trainings

Stephen Barker-9 ten minute trainings

Peggy Conway- 2015 Convention, 8 ten minute trainings

Chuck Mullins-9 ten minute trainings, area 9 meeting

Doug Hensley-10 ten minute trainings

Joyzette Fields-10 ten minute trainings, area 9 meeting

**Simpson County**

Larry Gomer -8 out of 10 ten minute trainings, attended area two meeting

Bruce Akin -8 out of 10 ten minute trainings, attended area two meeting

Joe Cushenberry -8 out of 10 ten minute trainings, attended area two meeting

Buster Estes-8 out of 10 ten minute trainings, attended area two meeting

Chad Konow -8 out of 10 ten minute trainings, attended area two meeting

Anthony Denning-8 out of 10 ten minute trainings, attended area two meeting

**Whitley County**

Lee Eddy Seats-Area 7 meeting, KACD Convention, 10 out of 12 supervisor’s trainings

Harold Prewitt-NACD Convention, KACD Convention, 10 out of 12 supervisor’s trainings

Jack Clark- NACD Convention, KACD Convention, 10 out of 12 supervisor’s trainings

Jim Jones- area 7 meeting, KACCD Convention, 10 out of 12 supervisor’s trainings

Motion to approve incentive per diem requests was made by Mr. Jack Roberts. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ray Adams.

**Motion carried.**

DOC Director Kim Richardson presented information about the Ag Partnership meetings that occurred in October. She informed the board the different agencies that were present and gave a brief overview of their presentations. Mr. Scotty Parsons moved to count these meetings as a qualifying event for incentive per diem. Mr. Ray Adams seconded the motion.

**Motion carried.**

**Agriculture District Program** - Assistant Director Johnna McHugh, DOC, presented the report with copies given. Four (4) new petitions are presented to the Commission for consideration totaling 992.00 acres.

**Bracken County**- 012-10 (A3) for 120.0 acres

Motion to approve Bracken County’s new agriculture district amendment was made by Mr. Danny Shipley. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ray Adams. **Motion carried.**

**Harrison County**-0495-0201 for 338.00 acres

Motion to approve Harrison County’s new agriculture district was made by Mr. Ray Adams. Motion was seconded by Mr. Scotty Parsons. **Motion carried.**

**LaRue County**-062-11 for 264.0 acres

Motion to approve LaRue County’s new agriculture district pending no negative comments by Planning and Zoning are received by Dec. 12 was made by Mr. Scotty Parsons. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jack Roberts. **Motion carried.**

**Taylor County**-109-19 for 270.0 acres

Motion to table Taylor County’s new agriculture district until the next meeting was made by Mr. Scotty Parsons. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jack Roberts. **Motion carried.**

Four (4) Agricultural Districts have been submitted to the Commission for five-year recertification for a total of 2,460.34 acres.

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Jack Roberts. Motion seconded by Mr. Ray Adams. **Motion carried.**

| COUNTY | AG. District # | Acres | Number of Acres Removed |
|--------|----------------|-------|-------------------------|
|        |                |       |                         |

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|---------|--------|--------|--------------|
| Bracken | 012-10 | 965.64 | Removed 9.64 |
| Bracken | 012-11 | 964.00 | Removed 10.0 |
| Mercer  | 084-01 | 587.70 | Removed 12.0 |
| Mercer  | 084-02 | 264.00 |              |

**Division of Conservation Report** - Director Kim Richardson, DOC, presented the report.

Ms. Richardson gave an updated about state cost share. The districts have until December 4 to get all their applications entered into the computer system. Ms. Richardson and Jay Nelson will be reviewing and starting the ranking on December 5. They will be prepared for the commission to approve at the January meeting.

Ms. Richardson presented the environmental grant applications to the commission. Mr. Jack Roberts moved for a committee of 3 Division of Conservation employees to consider the applications. Each county shall receive a maximum grant amount of \$10,000, and only water quality related practices should be approved. Mr. Scotty Parsons seconded the motion. Motion carried. The commission would like for counties to encourage their landowners to seek alternatives to the dead animal removal program, such as composting.

The annual legislative reception will be held at the Kentucky State University farm on January 14. The joint meeting of KACD and SWCC will be held on January 15, location to be determined.

**Agency Reports**

**Natural Resources Conservation Service** - The report was presented by Assistant State Conservationist Reed Cripps, NRCS. Mr. Cripps updated the commission regarding NRCS's office move. They have moved from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the building that their offices were already in. Although the federal legislature passed an omnibus bill funding the government, the governmental agencies remain under a Continuing Resolution until Dec. 11. After Dec. 11, the agencies will be able to know more about their budgetary position.

There are 8 districts that now have a 50/50 technical position. These are Fleming, Johnson, Webster, Scott, Todd, Breckinridge, Ballard, and Calloway Counties.

In the RCPP program, 2 proposals were chosen to submit applications (Scott County Conservation District for Eagle and Elkhorn Creek Permanent Ground Cover and the University of Kentucky or Overgrazing and Soil Degradation on Horse Farms). Additionally, there were 2 national proposals that include parts of Kentucky that will be submitting applications (the Nature Conservancy for Lower Mississippi River Valley Water Quality and the Illinois Corn Growers Association for Precision Conservation Management).

**Kentucky Department for Natural Resources** –The report was presented by Deputy Commissioner Sandy Gruzesky. She announced that Commissioner Steve Hohmann is retiring, and his last day in the office will be November 25. There will be a reception in his honor on November 24.

Ms. Gruzesky asked Ms. Richardson to update the commission on the Tobacco Oversight Committee. Ms. Richardson referred the commission to the presentation that was sent to the members prior to the meeting. She also reviewed the questions she received and spoke about the issues that the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy is facing.

The Agriculture Water Quality Authority has been developing a strategic plan. The Authority may approach the Commission on its priorities. As part of the planning process, the Authority is required by statute to update the Commission. Ms. Gruzesky reminded the Commission that the AWQA is an open meeting and anyone is welcome to attend.

Agriculture Education/FFA State Advisor - Mr. Brandon Davis was not in attendance.

Farm Service Agency - Mr. John McCauley, State Executive Director, was not in attendance.

University of Kentucky – Dr. Steve Higgins presented the report. He discussed the problems with water engineering in our area, specifically about the fact that Kentucky gets more precipitation than evaporation. This is particularly a problem in the winter, and as a result he introduced a possible BMP of open winter confinement. These winter feeding and bedding structures would be contained within a structure that resembles a hoop house but with a permanent structure inside so that the confinement area could not be used for other purposes. The commission asked Dr. Higgins and Ms. Richardson to prepare documentation for the next meeting with numbers and specifics. As winter feeding structures are more expensive than thought when the state cost share cost list was prepared, Mr. Scotty Parsons moved to double the payments on winter feeding structures. Mr. Ray Adams seconded. **Motion carried.**

Division of Forestry - Ms. Leah MacSwords, Director, was not in attendance.

KACDE - Ms. Leslie Fourqurean was not in attendance.

Commissioner Steve Hohmann stopped by the meeting to thank the commission for all their hard work and to let them know that he enjoyed his time working with the commission.

**Next Board Meeting** - will be held January 15<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the location is to be determined.

**Adjournment** – Mr. Ray Adams moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Jack Roberts seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:52 am. E.T.

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