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## Water rescue units merge

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Campbell County Water Rescue Inc. is merging into the Boone County Water Rescue to serve Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties under a new agreement.

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The Boone County and Campbell County fiscal courts have approved the agreement between them, Boone County Water Rescue, the Kenton County Fiscal Court and Campbell County Water Rescue.

Boone County Administrator Jeff Earlywine said the proposal will save money and avoid duplication of services and equipment within Northern Kentucky.

"And we think it provides really a strong team that will provide water rescue, public safety related services along the Ohio River and our waterways through a kind of an united, regional effort," he said.

Under the agreement, Boone County Water Rescue was scheduled to start providing water rescue for Campbell County on March 9. The Campbell County Fiscal Court will pay the Boone County Fiscal Court \$36,000 each fiscal year. The Kenton County Fiscal Court will pay the Boone County Fiscal Court \$35,000 each fiscal year but its amount will be reduced by the amount paid directly to the Boone County Fiscal Court by any Kenton County city, according to the agreement.

The Campbell County Fiscal Court will allow Boone County Water Rescue to use the Campbell County Water Rescue's headquarters at 1567 Race Track Road near Alexandria as a training facility and headquarters.

The Boone County Fiscal Court will take possession of all of the Campbell County Water Rescue's assets for Boone County Water Rescue to use.

Both water rescues are volunteer. Kenton County does not have its own water rescue unit. Boone County Water Rescue is under the jurisdiction of the Boone County Fiscal Court while the Campbell County Water Rescue was a separate nonprofit organization that contracted with the Campbell County Fiscal Court.

"This is a meshing of the two teams to reduce overall duplication, and save taxpayers money," said Campbell County Water Rescue Chief Joe Davis.

Campbell County's team of volunteers will continue their work, even if the familiar Campbell County name will end, Davis said.

"Our legacy will continue on for the greater good of Northern Kentucky," he said.

Boone County voted to approve the deal on March 3. Campbell County did the same on March 4. It's not known when the Kenton County Fiscal Court will consider the issue.

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