

MEETING MINUTES

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts

May 21, 2020

Electronic Zoom Meeting

In Attendance: Mr. Shane Wells, President; Mr. Allan Bryant, Vice President; Mr. Ted Jessup, Secretary-Treasurer; Mr. David Rowlett, Past President; Mr. Jeff Rice, NACD Representative; Mr. Doug Hensley; Mr. Steve Coleman; Mr. Mike Farmer; Mr. Rodney Dick; Mr. Rhodes Hester and Ms. Jennifer Burgan

Also, in Attendance: Mr. Greg Stone, State Conservationist, NRCS; Ms. Sonya Keith, Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships, NRCS; Ms. Paulette Akers, Director, KY DOC; Mr. Warren Beeler, Executive Director, GOAP; Mr. James Wright, Director, KDF; Mr. John Chism, KDA; Mr. Kyle Kelly, KYFB; Dr. Ernie Ezell, District Supervisor, Logan County; Ms. Kayleigh Evans, President, KACDE; and Ms. Crystal Renfro, Executive Director, KACD.

Quorum was met.

Meeting Called to Order - at 9:30am by KACD President Mr. Shane Wells.

KACD Minutes of the Last Meeting – March 12, 2020 –Mr. Steve Coleman made a motion to approve minutes from the meeting, and Mr. Mike Farmer seconded the motion to approve. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Ted Jessup presented the KACD Treasurer's Report with copies emailed. Mr. Allan Bryant made the motion to approve the report as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Doug Hensley. **Motion carried.**

Correspondence – All correspondence should be forwarded to 103 Lakeview Court, Frankfort.

- Mr. David Rowlett made a motion to sponsor the KY Leopold Award \$1,500, and Mr. Ted Jessup seconded the motion to approve. **Motion carried.** Mr. Steve Coleman abstained.
- Ms. Terri Shaw presented to the Board of Directors a filing cabinet she would like to purchase for KACD records. A motion was made by Mr. Ted Jessup, and seconded by Mr. Allan Bryant. **Motion carried.**

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

- NACD will be offering the NACD/NRCS Technical Assistance Grants again for 2020. Any interested District will need to let KACD know by May 25th if they would like to apply.
- NACD will have the soil stewardship educational information on their website soon.
- NACD is collecting success stories about NACD TA Grant recipients for an upcoming newsletter.
- NACD will hold a virtual business meeting on July 20th.

KACD Auxiliary Report – Ms. Crystal Renfro updated the board on the following:

- The Webster County Conservation District has volunteered to take over all aspects of the Auxiliary, and the KACD Board has accepted their offer. Crystal will be working with them in the upcoming months to transfer all the Auxiliary supplies and program information to them.

KACD Spring Area Meetings

All the PowerPoint Presentations that were given at each of the Area Meeting prior to the Covid-19 Quarantine will be placed on the KACD Website for review.

2020 KACD Annual Meetings

- This meeting has been canceled by the KACD Board of Directors and the venue due to the Covid-19 situation. No money was exchanged between the two parties. A new contract will be written for the 2021 Annual Meeting.

2021 KACD Annual Meetings

- July 11-13, 2021 Marriott Griffin Gate Resort, Lexington, KY

NRCS/KACD Technical Position Agreement

NRCS & KACD has been working toward getting this agreement finalized. Two statewide conference calls have been scheduled for Districts to join in a Q & A session about the new program. These are mainly for the areas that we were not able to join at the Area Meetings due to the COVID situation. All counties are invited to participate. We want to make sure that every district is aware of this program and how it could assist in getting more conservation on the ground in their areas. KACD will be working toward hiring Ms. Crystal Renfro as a full-time employee as we move forward with this agreement and program. Mr. Greg Store shared with the board that he has increased the agreement from \$1.5 million to \$1.8 million a year. KACD is honored to work with NRCS on this grant for the next 5 years.

KACD Executive Director Report – Ms. Crystal Renfro updated the board on these items:

- NACD is offering grants again this year for District Employees to attend NRCS Boot Camp. If a District is interested in sending an employee, please contact Crystal ASAP. Each application must go through KACD.
- Updates on District Success Stories, KACD is still needing Success Stories from all Districts. All District Success Stories can be found on the KACD website.
- KACD will accept Annual District Award Applications until May 1. (Due to the COVID-19 situation this deadline has been moved to July 1)
- KACD Dues Reminders will be send out to District who have not submitted their payment to date.

Agency Comments

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Mr. Greg Stone updated the board on these items:
 - NRCS staff is working to reopen offices and have a plan in place that must be carried out. At the moment, the majority of the staff is teleworking. He reported that everyone was doing an amazing job to get work accomplished.
 - EQIP had 2,100 applications for requests totaling \$44 million. \$4 million in request for RCPP. This was their largest signup in history.
 - Local workgroup meeting will begin in the next few months. They will be held virtually via zoom. Please encourage all districts to join in these meetings. .

- **KY Division of Conservation** – Ms. Paulette Akers updated the board on these items:
 - The DOC will host 2 Supervisor Training Zoom Meetings on June 2nd & June 4th. These meetings will be identical and can be counted as a qualifying event for the supervisor’s incentive per diem.
 - Area 8 will hold a virtual business meeting on June 9th. This will be a chance for them to have nominations for the Soil and Water Conservation Commission.
- **Department for Natural Resources** –
- **Farm Service Agency** –
- **Energy and Environment Cabinet** –
- **KY Division of Forestry** – Mr. James Wright updated the board on these items:
 - Update on KDF Programs
- **Kentucky Department of Agriculture** – Mr. John Chism updated the board on these items:
 - The USDA Disaster Program update.
 - Spoke about livestock and the COVID situation.
- **KACDE** – Ms. Kayleigh Evans updated the board on these items:
 - Currently KACDE is in the planning their Annual Convention in Jabez. They hope they will be able to host this event. (Has since been canceled due to COVID-19)
- **Governor’s Office of Ag Policy** – Mr. Warren Beeler updated the board on these items:
 - GOAP Budget Update
 - Expanding the meat processing abilities with a new meat processing program. Information recently released.
 - County Council Boards have until October 31st to replace outgoing members.
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- **KY Farm Bureau** – Mr. Kyle Kelly updated the board on these items:
 - The most recent Legislative Session update. A one year state budget was passed opposed to the 2 year originally planned due to the COVID-19 situation.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Rhodes Hester at 11:20 am. Motion seconded by Mr. Ted Jessup. **Motion carried, meeting adjourned.**

Next KACD Board Meeting –

- July 7, 2020 9:30am Virtual Zoom Meeting