

MEETING MINUTES

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts

March 16th, 2017

300 Sower Blvd. Room 216

In Attendance: Mr. David Rowlett, President; Mr. Shane Wells, Vice President; Mr. Allan Bryant, Secretary-Treasurer; Mr. Kevin Jeffries; Mr. Steve Coleman; Mr. Randy McCallon; Mr. Ted Jessup; Mr. Rodney Dick; Mr. Lenville Martin; Mr. Bobbie Wilson; and Ms. Ava Adams.

Also in Attendance: Ms. Kim Richardson, Director, DOC; Ms. Johnna McHugh, Asst. Director, DOC; Mr. Ray Adams, SWCC; Kayleigh Evans, President, KACDE; Mr. Brent Burchett, KDA Mr. Bill Steele, Director, DOF; and Mr. Jeff Gravitt, DOC.

Quorum was met.

Meeting Called to Order - at 9:27am by KACD President David Rowlett.

KACD Minutes of the Last Meeting – February 9th, 2017 – Ms. Kim Richardson asked for the Sand County Foundation to be inserted in place of the KY Foundation on page 3 of 5. The removal and insertion was made to the February minutes. Mr. Steve Coleman made a motion to approve minutes as updated, and Mr. Allan Bryant seconded the motion to approve. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Allan Bryant presented the KACD Treasurer's Report with copies given. Mr. Allan Bryant made the motion to approve the report as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodney Dick. **Motion carried.**

Legislative Reception – Mr. Allan Bryant discussed the KSU catering bill and that it was reduced from \$4,200.00 to \$1600.14, a 63% savings. Ms. Kim Richardson discussed future possible catering services and different locations for next year.

A suggestion was made to donate \$500.00 to the KSU Scholarship fund. The remaining balance of the budgeted expenses will be held over for next year. Mr. Steve Coleman made motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Ted Jessup. **Motion carried.**

Correspondence – The Jackson County High School FFA has asked for a donation of \$150.00 to help with the expenses of the FFA land judging team in traveling to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Mr. Rodney Dick made a motion to approve, and Mr. Steve Coleman seconded motion. **Motion carried.**

NACD Director's Report - Mr. Kevin Jeffries updated the board about these items:

- The NACD meeting had many attend from Kentucky. Mr. Kevin Jeffries spent most of his time in board and committee meetings discussing NACD policy and resolutions. Mr. Kevin Jeffries then chaired the SE Board meeting on Sunday afternoon and saw all SE States present except for Puerto Rico.
- KACD provided a homemade jewelry box for the auction. The auction was a success with a total of \$89,000.00 being raised for legislative activities.
- The NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative applications are due by May 15, 2017.
- As of January 31, a total of 82 districts in Kentucky have paid their dues with \$33,000 having been received
- A Conservation Boot Camp is offered to employees. This is fully funded and at no cost to the individual. The Boot Camp will last a total of three weeks. There are openings available for the May, June, July and September camps.
- The NACD is looking to highlight women that are forest landowners.
- A discussion was held on how the President's proposed budget will affect agriculture, with a possible 20.7% decrease from the 2017 continuing resolution level.
- NACD is preparing for the next farm bill. Mr. Kevin Jeffries will be a member of the task force.

- Senate Bill 364 and HR1163 have been introduced. These bills will change the SAMS/DUNS process so that landowners will not have to sign up every year.
- President Trump signed executive order doing away with Waters of the United States proposed rule.
- The NACD SE summer meeting will be held on August 6th – 9th in Greenville, SC.

KACD Auxiliary Report – A report was given by Ms. Ava Adams. The scholarships are being printed and will be going out to the judges soon. The quilt that will be auctioned off at the convention was started back in February and is going well.

2017 KACD Convention –Crowne Plaza, July 9th-11th

- **Agenda** –
 - If Lake Jericho tour falls through, a tour of the Frankfort compositing facility would be a possibility.
 - KACDE is looking at a possible tour on Tuesday afternoon; however, they do not want to take people away from sessions that they should be attending.
 - Mr. Kevin Jeffries is going to check to see if the NACD officers will attend.
 - A breakout session on grant writing will be available.
 - Possibly add a discussion of feral hogs.
 - Possibly add a discussion of Tree Farms, either in conjunction with the Forestry presentation or on its own.
- **Registration** – The registration will be same as previous year with no changes to be made.
- **Entertainment** – Mr. David Stahl is being looked at to again fill in as the entertainment for the convention.
- **Corporate Sponsorship** - KACD is looking at other corporate sponsorship for the convention. Mr. David Rowlett said that sponsorship should be made a priority.

Report on Spring Area Meetings

- **Area 1** – Mr. Randy McCallon said the meeting was well attended, and they had a presentation on watersheds, discussing issues and possible repairs. Mr. Randy McCallon was re-elected as KACD director.
- **Area 2** – Mr. Ted Jessup said the meeting was well attended and had a presentation on watersheds, discussing issues and possible repairs. Mr. Jeff Rice and Mr. Darren Luttrell both were nominated for SWCC.
- **Area 5** – Mr. Allan Bryant said the meeting was well attended and he was re-elected.
- **Area 6** – Mr. Steve Coleman said the meeting was well attended, and he had four districts present success stories in their area. The area voted on a resolution asking to work with DOW about permits for watersheds.
- **Area 7** – Mr. Rodney Dick said the meeting was well attended and he was re-elected and that each county in the district had been represented. Mr. Rodney Dick stated that Mr. Don Martin and Mr. Skipper Todd were nominated for SWCC.

2017 NACD Fly-In, Washington DC – A decision was made not to attend this year, but local meeting will be held in place of Fly-In.

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

- Senate Bill 249 has been passed by both houses and is currently waiting on the Governor’s signature.
- The SWCC has an upcoming meeting, Monday, March 20th at 9:00am.
- DOC is currently working on hiring a Field Representative for the London area and once the funding issue is addressed, a Representative could be hired for the Frankfort area.
- The research committee will be asking all supervisors to review their AWQP.
- A discussion about asking NRCS to send more employees to meetings.
- Mr. David Rowlett said he received an email from the Secretary. Secretary Snavelly wants to increase the 5% in SCS funds that go to DOC to a 10 to 15 percent.

Agency Comment

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service** – 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 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.

- **Department of Natural Resources** – Not attended
- **Farm Service Agency** – Not attended
- **Energy and Environment Cabinet** – Not attended.
- **University of Kentucky** – Not attended.
- **Kentucky Department of Agriculture** – 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 existing forest fires.
 - There will be an Arbor Day celebration at the 300 building.
 - The nursery has not been profitable but 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** – 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 convention session on how to prepare for audits.
 - KACDE will be having a reception Sunday the 9th.
 - Soil Stewardship material order forms will be mailed out.
 - KACDE Convention plans.

Comments –

- Mr. Ray Adams invited everyone to attend the Commission meeting this upcoming Monday, March 20, 2017.
- Mr. Steve Coleman is currently working on SAMS/DUNS for the KACD and Foundation.
- Mr. David Rowlett, Mr. Allan Bryant, and Ms. Kayleigh Evans will be working on congressional meetings in Harrison County. Mr. Rodney Dick will work on Somerset, and Mr. Ray Adams will be working on Louisville.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Randy McCallon. Motion seconded by Mr. Shane Wells. **Motion carried**, meeting adjourned.

Next Board Meeting –2017 Meeting Schedule: Third Thursday at 9:30 am

- May 11th (NEW DATE)
- July 9-11 KACD Convention – Louisville
- September 21st
- November 16th