

## MEETING MINUTES

### Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts

March 8, 2016

9:30 AM

University Plaza Holiday Inn, Bowling Green

Two Hundred and Ninety-Eighth Meeting

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In Attendance: Mr. David Rowlett, President; Mr. Shane Wells, Vice –President; Mr. Allan Bryant, Secretary-Treasurer; Mr. Kevin Jeffries; Mr. Orville Bennett; Mr. Bobbie Wilson; Mr. Ted Jessup; Mr. Randy McCallon; Mr. Rodney Dick; State Conservationist Karen Woodrich, NRCS and Ernie Ezell.

Also in Attendance were the following KY DOC employees: Director Kim Richardson

Quorum was met.

**Meeting Called to Order** - at 9:30 am by KACD President David Rowlett.

**KACD Minutes of the Last Meeting – Sept. 8, 2015** – Mr. Allan Bryant made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Lenville seconded the motion. **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.**

Kim Richardson informed the board that KACD was out of seals and gold leaves that are used for awards on the state level and can be purchased by districts for use at the local level. Allan Bryant made the motion to spend up to \$2,500.00 to purchase the seals and leaves. Motion seconded by Ted Jessup. **Motion carried.**

**Correspondence**-A thank you letter from the 4-H Foundation was read.

**NACD Director’s Report** - Mr. Kevin Jeffries was not in attendance, so Mr. David Rowlett presented the report. Mr. Jeffries, Mr. Rowlett and Mr. Martin attended the NACD Convention in Reno, NV in January. There was a lot of discussion about NACD’s budget. NACD is no longer printing Soil Stewardship information due to the budget crisis. Brent Van Dyke was chosen as the President-elect of NACD. Information about the “Friends of NACD” was presented. Southeast NACD will be July 31-August 2, 2016 in Cherokee, NC.

**KACD Auxiliary Report** - Ms. Betty Barrick reported that she will step down as Auxiliary President at the end of convention in July due to health issues. Scholarships will be judged in May. They will continue to host a breakfast at convention and provide a craft class. The quilt is being quilted and a big thanks goes to the Breckinridge County Conservation district for taking care of this. A letter will be sent to the counties requesting items for the auction. The NACD Poster Contest was a success for Kentucky. 2-3 winners received national recognition. Mr. Rowlett thanked Ms. Barrick for her dedicated service.

**Other Business**-Due to some conflicts in his schedule, Mr. Shane Wells, Vice President of KACD, has asked the board to consider changing the meeting dates. Motion made by Mr. Jeff Rice to move the KACD Board of Directors meetings to the third Thursday beginning in May. Motion seconded by Mr. Alan Bryant. Motion passed.

Mr. Rowlett requested nominees for the Southeast NACD Hall of Fame. Mr. Allan Bryant nominated Jeff Rice. Mr. Ted Jessup seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**2016 KACD Convention**-July 10-12, 2016. Ms. Richardson asked for items for the agenda. Ted Jessup has requested to do a Watershed Conservancy District breakout session. Ideas also discussed for breakout sessions 319 Non-Point Source Program, Services Available to Conservation Districts, Advocacy Training and Funding Sources for Conservation Districts.

For the agenda: Registration will remain at \$125 which will include a luncheon ticket.

Tours: Ideas included contacting Donald Dunn, Warren County FSA CED, Lajuanna Wilcher's farm (Karen will speak to Ms. Wilcher), Jackson's Orchard, Chaney's Dairy Farm, Western Kentucky University Farm, and Shaker Village.

Soil Stewardship Program-Mr. David Stahl will provide the music. Mr. Alan Bryant will lead the meeting.

Monday Morning-Supervisor Leadership Breakfast-Congressman Brett Guthrie was requested.

Opening Session-Mr. David Rowlett will lead this. Warren County Conservation District has secured the color guard and singer of the national anthem. Commissioner Ryan Quarles will be asked to speak during this time as well as Warren Beeler from Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy.

2<sup>nd</sup> Morning Session-Ms. Richardson will work to secure Secretary Snavley or Commissioner Allen Lutrell to speak. Mr. Rowlett is also working with Ms. Woodrich to secure Chief Jason Weller to come speak. Chief Weller hasn't made a visit to Kentucky. It was also discussed to have the candidates for Congressional District 1.

Resolutions Committee will be on Monday as well as the Kentucky Association of Conservation District Employees Association Luncheon.

Monday Evening Awards-All inside awards (honoring conservation districts, supervisors, etc.) will be given during this session. All awards given to outside (no-till heroes, Leopold, etc.) Mr. Ted Jessup and Mr. Lenville Martin direct this session.

Tuesday Morning-Auxiliary and RC&D Breakfast will continue. Mr. John McCaulley has asked for 15 minutes for the new USDA Regional Outreach Coordinator, Amanda Robertson to speak.

Forestry Awards- Ms. Richardson will check with Director William Steele of KY Division of Forestry to see if this will continue. Shane Wells will preside over this session.

Tuesday Luncheon-The Board of Directors decided to forgo a keynote speaker due to the length of the program. It was suggested that we invite someone to do quick "welcome" speech.

KACDE will do a tour of the Corvette Museum after the luncheon.

**Spring Area Meetings**-Area directors from 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8 gave a report. Ted Jessup from Area 2 was re-elected as well as Lenville Martin from Area 8. In Area 4, Mr. Larry Butler will replace Joe Paul Mattingly who has served to his limit.

**NACD Fly-In**-March 14-16 representatives will be meeting with each of the Congressman as well as Senator's McConnell and Paul.

### **Agency Comment**

**Division of Conservation**- KACD Committee Conference Calls are ongoing. Participation has increased due to the moving of the calls. We are waiting on the budget to come out. We are facing a 4 ½% cut for FY2016. We have cut state travel to our field representatives and they are now attending every other meeting. We do currently have a vacancy that we cannot fill. Commissioner Luttrell is preparing the department for proposed cuts for the fiscal years 2017 and 2018. State cost share money looks to remain intact for the biennial.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service** –State Conservationist Karen Woodrich, NRCS, presented the report.

Ms. Woodrich informed the board that there is a new state forester, Mr. Cliff Drouet. It has taken almost 2 years for this process to occur.

**Regional Conservation Partnership Program**-3 projects were funded in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of funding. Scott County Conservation District was one project dealing with cover crops and streambank

buffers. UK received one on small equine operations. The last was in combination with Illinois and their Corn Growers Association. The third round of funding will be announced soon.

EQIP has been obligated. Designs and implementation continue.

Agreements have been made with districts. This is made with multiple districts and by figuring workload. Some will be renewed, some will not.

Additional funds have been secured for Emergency Watershed Program.

KY NRCS is working on the nation's largest Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program, \$9.5 million with the Nature Conservancy.

NACD and NRCS are entering into several agreements including Urban Conservation. A request for proposals will come out soon. Also there is an effort to send conservation district employees to apply and attend Conservation Boot Camp.

**Leopold Conservation Award**- The board had a long discussion about KACD's interaction with the Leopold Award. Mr. Alan Bryant made the motion to make a \$1,500 sponsorship to the Leopold Award. Motion seconded by Mr. Lenville Martin. **Motion carried.**

Kentucky Department for Natural Resources – No one from the department was in attendance, but Ms. Richardson let the board know that Ms. Sandy Gruzesky was no longer with DNR.

Farm Service Agency – No report was presented.

University of Kentucky – No report was presented.

Kentucky Department of Agriculture – No report was presented.

Division of Forestry –

KACDE – No report was presented.

**Adjournment** - A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Rodney Dick. Motion seconded by Mr. Shane Wells. **Motion carried**, meeting adjourned at 11:42 p.m.

**Next Board Meeting** -

The 2016 Meeting Schedule is as follows:

May 12<sup>th</sup>

July 10-12 (KACD Convention at Holiday Inn in Bowling Green)

September 15<sup>th</sup>

November 17<sup>th</sup>

*Unless otherwise indicated all meetings will be held at 2 Hudson Hollow Road (DNR Building) in Frankfort beginning at 9:30 a.m.*