

MEETING MINUTES

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts

November 15, 2016

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. Orville Bennett; Mr. Steve Coleman; Mr. Randy McCallon; Mr. Ted Jessup; Mr. Rodney Dick; Mr. Lenville Martin; Mr. Jeff Rice; and Ms. Ava Adams.

Also in Attendance: Ms. Kim Richardson, Director, DOC; Ms. Johnna McHugh, Asst. Director, DOC; Ms. Karen Woodrich, NRCS; Dr. Steve Higgins, UK; Mr. Jacob Bowman, FSA; Mr. Brent Burchett, Dept. of Ag; Mr. Charles Snavely, Secretary, EEC; Ms. Kayleigh Evans, KACDE; Mr. Dan Ellison; Mr. John Horne, EEC; and Mr. Jeff Gravitt, DOC.

Quorum was met.

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

KACD Minutes of the Last Meeting – September 20, 2016 – Mr. Steve Coleman made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Jeff Rice 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.**

KACD Budget – Mr. Allan Bryant presented the proposed budget for 2017-2018. Mr. Allan Bryant moved to approve the budget as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Shane Wells. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Allan Bryant moved to pay Ms. Terri Shaw \$595 for keeping KACD's financial information. Motion seconded by Mr. Kevin Jeffries. **Motion carried.**

KACD Correspondence – An invitation was received for the Farm Bureau Convention. It will be held November 30 – December 3.

NACD Director's Report - Mr. Kevin Jeffries gave an update on the activities of NACD. Lee McDaniel has sent a congratulatory letter to President-Elect Trump. It is not yet known how things will change in the new administration. A Farm Bill survey was sent to conservation districts across the country. From the results of the survey, the primary natural resource concerns are soil health, water quality/quantity and farm land protection. The desired priorities for NACD from the survey were funding, technical assistance and conservation planning.

Mr. Jeffries spoke about the upcoming annual meeting. There is a \$1,000 scholarship for supervisors attending for the first time. Mr. Allan Bryant will be applying for the scholarship. Proposed resolutions and amendments to the by-laws are due by November 29. Mr. Jeffries has not yet purchased the auction item for the annual meeting.

Bills that NACD is keeping an eye on include SB3288/HR5451, which would eliminate SAMs and DUNs requirements for landowners. NACD will be sending letters to Senator McConnell regarding this.

NACD has just completed a financial audit.

The NACD Nominating Committee is working on the slate for new offices. This will come out in early December.

KACD Auxiliary Report – A report was given by Ms. Ava Adams. Under her leadership as president, she is hoping to keep the auxiliary growing and fun. She reported that each scholarship is well over \$30,000 now.

2017 Legislative Reception – The legislative reception will be held February 8. KACD has sent letters to frequent partners asking for sponsorships. Any excess sponsorship funds will be rolled to the reception next year. Specifics about this will be discussed at the February KACD meeting. Mr. Kevin Jeffries moved to have different levels of sponsorship this year. The levels would be <\$500 – name would appear on program; \$500 - \$1,000 – display space; >\$1,000 – display space and an opportunity to speak. Mr. Allan Bryant seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

2017 NACD Fly-In, Washington DC – No date has been set as of yet. KACD would like to take a spokesperson for every congressional district. The board will discuss this further at the February meeting.

2017 KACD Convention – The convention will be held July 9-11 at the Crowne Plaza in Louisville. The previous levels of sponsorship will be continued. Possible speakers suggested include Dr. Steve Higgins (general session); Jefferson County Urban Conservationist (break-out session); former aide of Sen McConnell Eric King (leadership breakfast); and Heritage Lands (break-out session). Possible Sunday Tour would be Lake Jericho. The stewardship program can be held at the lake. Mr. Jeff Rice suggested contacting Matt Caslin for speaking at the stewardship event.

2018 KACD Convention – Ms. Kim Richardson reviewed all the received bid proposals. Mr. Kevin Jeffries moved to accept the bid from Owensboro for the 2018 convention. Mr. Steve Coleman seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Area 4 Director – Larry Butler from Jefferson County did not seek reelection. As of January 1, he will no longer be on his local board, so he will not be able to serve as KACD Director. The Area 4 Alternate is currently serving in Iraq. The director position will remain open until the spring area meeting.

Agency Comment

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Ms. Karen Woodrich updated the board about these items:
 - Kentucky is currently in the process of hiring a watershed engineer. This person will be focused on dam operations and maintenance.
 - Conservation Innovation Grants have been announced, and up to \$2 million is available. The deadline for proposals is May 10.
 - Signups for CSP have started and will go through February 3.
 - The first ranking cut-off for EQIP will be November 18.
 - The enrollment acres for ACEP are up.
 - NRCS currently has funding to fill some of their 23 vacancies.
 - Jefferson County has hired a new Urban Conservation Planner. This person will work closely with the new state Urban Conservationist, Kurt Mason. Although Mr. Mason is based in Jefferson County, he will work with urban areas across the state.
 - 2017 has been named the Year of the Process. They are focusing on the reinvigoration of locally-led conservation and trying to figure out local needs to make sure the programs are addressing those needs.
 - Mr. Ted Jessup asked about combining work groups.
 - Mr. Shane Wells asked for help with materials for the fly-in
- **Department for Natural Resources** – Ms. Kim Richardson updated the board on the wildfire situation, which has put a stop to a lot of other things in the Department. There are approximately 25,000 acres burning right now. Ms. Karen Woodrich pointed out that NRCS can provide help with clean up and reclamation.
- **Farm Service Agency** - Mr. Jacob Bowman brought a message from John McAuley that he has really enjoyed working with this group. FSA is having the same employment problems as NRCS. For conservation practices, their barriers are acreage, not funding. There will be a second ranking for CRP grasslands on November 18 and a third ranking in mid-December.
- **Energy and Environment Cabinet** – Mr. Charles Snively told the board he is dedicated to learning about the conservation community.
- **University of Kentucky** - Dr. Steve Higgins spoke about the Eden Shale Farm, and different types of solutions that they have implemented. They are doing a lot of research with grasses, weed control, feeding practices, water harvesting, etc. The Kentucky Beef Network's Facebook page has videos of farm practices for anyone interested in learning more.

- **Kentucky Department of Agriculture** – Mr. Brent Burchett told the board that they are getting a lot of calls about the drought. More of these calls are coming from the center of the state than the west. A hay shortage is anticipated.
- **Division of Forestry** - No report given.
- **KACDE** – Ms. Kayleigh Evans reported that KACDE has just finished conferences for the year. They learned more about technical things at the annual meeting in Jabez. The members who attended the Southeast meeting got a lot of education ideas to share. KACDE has \$250 in their budget for the legislative reception.

Partnership survey – Mr. David Rowlett talked about the collaboration survey with Dr. Kendall Tyree. There will be a conference call with the committee named at the last meeting to start the process. NRCS and KACDE will also be adding participants to the committee. Dr. Tyree will be on the agenda at the convention to talk about this effort.

Farm Bureau Task Force – Mr. David Rowlett and Ms. Kim Richardson are serving on a task force through Farm Bureau that will be looking at the next Farm Bill. They will keep the board updated on this effort.

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

Next Board Meeting –February 9 (joint meeting with SWCC)