

MEETING MINUTES

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts

November 19, 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. Steve Coleman; Mr. Mike Farmer; Ms. Jennifer Burgan; Mr. Doug Hensley; Mr. Lenville Martin; Dr. Ernie Ezell; Mr. Rhodes Hester; Mr. Randy McCallon and Ms. Lisa Mullins, President, KACD Auxiliary.

Also, in Attendance: Mr. Greg Stone, State Conservationist, NRCS; Ms. Sonya Keith, Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships, NRCS; Commissioner Gordon Slone, EEC/DNR; Ms. Johnna McHugh, Assistant Director, KY DOC; Mr. Dorsey Ridley, Executive Director, GOAP; Mr. John Chism, KDA; Mr. Brandon Howard, Director, KDF; Ms. Jennifer Farmer, Kentucky FSA; Ms. Natalie Browning, President, KACDE; Ms. Kayleigh Evans, Past President, KACDE; and Ms. Crystal Renfro, Executive Director, KACD.

Quorum was met.

Meeting Called to Order - at 9:30am by KACD Vice President Mr. Allan Bryant.

KACD Minutes of the Last Meeting – September 17, 2020 –Mr. Lenville Martin made a motion to approve minutes from the meeting, and Mr. Steve Coleman seconded the motion to approve. **Motion carried.**

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

Mr. Steve Coleman made the motion to pay Ms. Terri Shaw her yearly payment of \$595. Motion seconded by Mr. David Rowlett. **Motion carried.**

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

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

- NACD 2021 Annual Meeting registration open now, \$50. Mr. Steve Coleman made the motion to pay the NACD 2021 Annual Meeting registration for any interested Directors. Motion seconded by Mr. Ted Jessup. **Motion carried.**
- The 2022 Annual Meeting will be in Orlando, FL & 2023 New Orleans, LA
- NACD Resolutions are due for 2021 by December 31st.
- NACD is offering an Urban Grant, more information on the NACD Webpage.

KACD Auxiliary Report – Ms. Lisa Mullins updated the board on the following:

- KACD Auxiliary Scholarships for 2021 will be mailed to the Webster County Conservation District

2021 KACD Legislative Reception: Buffalo Trace February 18, 2021

- Currently, we are still planning to have the event. A final determination will be made in January.

Resolution from KACD Area 9: Perry County

- Mr. Doug Hensley, KACD Area 9 Director talked to the Board about the resolution from Perry County dealing with ginseng. After a lengthy discussion Mr. John Chism, KDA, informed the Board that they have someone with the KY Department of Ag who is spearheading the ginseng program in Kentucky, Mr. Doug Hensley made a motion to forward this resolution to KDA with a letter noting that KACD recommends the updates and proposals in the document, and Mr. Steve Coleman seconded the motion to approve. **Motion carried.**

NRCS/KACD Technical Position Agreement

- KACD received 33 letters of intent for the TA Grant program
- KACD is currently working to finalize the official agreement that will be signed between KACD and the Districts. These will be forwarded out to the Districts as soon as approved.

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

- The KACD Area Meetings were discussed and the possibility of them being virtual. A decision will be made early next year.
- KACD has been working on updating Conservation District Legislative Priorities for 2021 and will forward those out to the Districts ASAP along with a request to make contact with state legislators and discuss the provided talking points.
- Taylor Co Junior Board has requested their award money for winning Junior Board of the year for 2020. These awards are planned to be given out at the 2021 Annual meeting. Ms. Jennifer Burgan made a motion to forward the \$500 prize to the Taylor Co Junior Board for their current budget, and Mr. Steve Coleman seconded the motion to approve. **Motion carried.**
- Mr. David Rowlett made a motion to allow Crystal to obtain a mobile phone and non-profit mobile phone plan through Verizon, and Mr. Lenville Martin seconded the motion to approve. **Motion carried.**
- The KACD Foundation can now receive donations from Amazon Smile. Please choose them to be your recipient when shopping on Amazon.
- The KACD Executive needs to schedule a date to review the remaining district award applications for 2020. Due to COVID this has been a difficult task.

Agency Comments

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Mr. Greg Stone updated the board on these items:
 - NRCS offices are functioning with a great deal of employees still teleworking due to the COVID 19 situation.
 - Budget is looking good for upcoming year for NRCS.
 - Working to develop a tool to help keep track of SCS activities.
 - General program updates.
- **KY Division of Conservation** – Ms. Johnna McHugh updated the board on these items:
 - The DOC has held supervisor training virtually and had a great attendance. They plan on offering other trainings next year using this format.
 - Environmental Grants are due December 15th.
 - The Ag Water Quality Authority is working on a new tool for producers to use.
 - Danny Shipley is the new Chair of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission

- DOC Equipment loans are only accepted for District equipment now.
- **Department for Natural Resources –**
- **Farm Service Agency –** Ms. Jennifer Farmer updated the board on these items:
 - FSA programs update.
 - CFAP Program Deadline December 11th, over \$75 million paid our already.
 - General CRP signup will be February 4- February 12.
 - Their offices are open but still not customer facing, and unsure of when this status will change.
- **Energy and Environment Cabinet –**
- **KY Division of Forestry –** Mr. Brandon Howard updated the board on these items:
 - Their offices are closed to in person traffic but are available by phone or email.
 - The Morgan County nursery was closed for 2 weeks due to COVID.
 - At the nursery White Oak is looking goof for 2021 and White Pine in 2022.
 - Hemlock treating program.
- **Kentucky Department of Agriculture –** Mr. John Chism updated the board on these items:
 - A thank you from the Commissioners office to All Districts and KACD for the hard work we have been doing.
 - Updated the status of the North American Livestock Show
 - GOAP has given money to KDA to help with meat processing facilities.
- **KACDE –** Ms. Natalie Browning updated the board on these items:
 - Ms. Kayleigh Evans introduced Ms. Natalie Browning as the new KACDE President. Kayleigh has been elected as the President of the SE Region Employees Association.
 - KACDE is looking for a new facility to hold their Annual Meeting. They are checking with State Parks.
- **Governor’s Office of Ag Policy –** Mr. Dorsey Ridley updated the board on these items:
 - We need to contact our Legislators now to discuss the Budget for 2021-2022.
 - State Cost Share and Direct Aid most recently has been Ag Development dollars, we want to keep them the same if possible, in 2021-2022.
 - The Governor’s new tag line is “Let’s Get Growing” to go along with the new AgriTech and other programs.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lenville Martin at 11:16 am. Motion seconded by Mr. Steve Coleman. **Motion carried, meeting adjourned.**

Next KACD Board Meeting –

- February 19, 2021 9:00am Zoom Meeting