

MEETING MINUTES

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts

March 15th, 2018

Owensboro Convention Center / Owensboro, KY

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

Also in Attendance: Ms. Paulette Akers, Director, DOC; Ms. Karen Woodrich, State Conservationist, NRCS; Mr. Ray Adams, Chairman, SWCC; Kayleigh Evans, President, KACDE; and Ms. Crystal Renfro, Executive Director, KACD.

Quorum was met.

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

KACD Minutes of the Last Meeting – January 11, 2018 – Mr. David Rowlett noted a numerical error in the prior minutes. The correction was made to the January minutes. Mr. Steve Coleman made a motion to approve minutes as updated, and Mr. Randy McCallon 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.**

Correspondence – All future correspondence should be forwarded to the Lakeview Drive, Frankfort address.

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

- The NACD Fly In March 20, Breakfast will be in the Rayburn House Office Building 2044/2045 8-9 am
- Thank everyone that helped with the Grants to Districts. Kentucky received two positions in the Hopkins County Work Unit and one position in the Fleming County Work Unit.
- South East first quarter membership report
- NACD Convention update: There was a large turnout from KY. One of the larger conventions NACD has held for several years. Close to 1000 attendees from across the country. We had one resolution from KY and it passed.
- Farm Bill Task Force is moving forward, now that Mr. Northey has been appointed to under secretary for Conservation and FSA is hopeful that other appointments will start moving forward. We are hopeful that a NRCS chief will be appointed soon. Kevin is continuing to serve on the NACD Legislative committee and the Farm Bill Task Force. If you have any thought or concerns about the upcoming Farm Bill let Kevin know and he will pass them on to the committee.
- Farm Groups are ramping up to fight Wotus in court.
- National Envirothon Competition July 22-15, Idaho State University
- NACD summer board meeting and SE regional meeting Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, VA
- Discussion on NACD Board Member appointment

KACD Auxiliary Report – A report was given by Ms. Ava Adams. All of the Auxiliary quilt blocks are with the quilter and ready to begin. Scholarship applications that were received will be reviewed next week.

KACD 2018 Convention –Owensboro Convention Center, July 8th-10th

- **Agenda** – Many suggestions were made of possible speakers for the event. A Convention Committee was set up to work on plans and report back at the May KACD Meeting.
- **Registration** – The registration will be same as previous year with no changes to be made.
- **Entertainment** – A gentleman that works for NRCS in one of the offices close to Owensboro has been contacted about performing at the Soil Stewardship Program, and other local groups are being looked at for possible entertainment throughout the convention.
- **Corporate Sponsorship** - KACD is looking at other corporate sponsorship for the convention.

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. One resolution was presented.
- **Area 2** – Mr. Ted Jessup said the meeting was well attended, the program was informational, and Logan County provided a nice lunch. One resolution was presented.
- **Area 5** – Mr. Allan Bryant said the meeting was well attended. One resolution was presented.

2017 NACD Fly-In, Washington DC – The Fly-In will take place March 19-21. Representing Kentucky will be: David Rowlett, KACD, Allan Bryant, KACD, Randy McCallon, KACD & Karen Woodrich, NRCS

Division of Conservation Report – Ms. Paulette Akers updated the board about these items:

- The SWCC has an upcoming meeting, Monday, March 19th at 9:00am.
- DOC is currently in the process of updating the SCS Manual; sign-ups will follow once completed.
- Information about the Governors budget and the future funding situation at the DOC
- DOC is committed to continue working along with KACD in the future, including programs, projects and awards.

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

- Appointments are currently being made for the NACD Fly-In
- Planning for KACD Area Spring Meetings and those are underway with 6 remaining to attend.
- Created 3 social media accounts: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and have been building a fan base as well as sharing information.
- Working on sponsorship listing for KACD Convention
- Trying to get organized with correct emails lists and other clerical duties to create form letters, documents and organizational items
- Starting to network with local district offices looking for tips and ideas to help make communication better across the state
- Brainstorming and KACD Convention planning beginning

Agency Comment

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Ms. Karen Woodrich updated the board about these items:
 - RCPP is in its third funding cycle, with 5 projects approved this year. One being for Knox County Conservation District. This program uses a separate pot of EQIP funds.
 - Conservation Planning and Contracting continue to be priority for field offices.
 - NRCS State Conservationists recently met in Oklahoma for a Vision and Strategic Planning Session.
 - Hiring Freeze released to hire 150 people nationwide. Kentucky will have the opportunity to hire 3. Hiring will be based on workload analysis, with the goal of making the federal workforce smaller.
 - There is currently not a clear direction of the National Office until a new Chief is announced.

- **Department for Natural Resources** – Not attended
- **Farm Service Agency** – Not attended
- **Energy and Environment Cabinet** – Not attended.
- **University of Kentucky** – Not attended.
- **Kentucky Department of Agriculture** – Brent Burchett forwarded a report.
 - Commissioner Quarles continues to work on budget and other legislative issues at the State Capitol.
 - KDA was proud to staff the Kentucky Farm Bureau Beef Expo on March 2-4 The Expo recorded sales of just over \$1 million, crossing seven figures for the seventh consecutive year in its 32nd edition at the Kentucky Exposition Center.
 - The Commissioner’s fight against hunger continued in recent weeks, with his “Serving Up Solutions” dinner with US Ambassador Kelly Craft and Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Board Chair Joe Craft raising \$39,000 for two anti-hunger local organizations.
 - KDA has been using his social media platform to encourage farmers to apply for the Leopold Conservation Award, due April 15.
- **Division of Forestry** – Not attended.
- **KACDE** – Kayleigh Evans 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.
 - KACDE will be having a reception Sunday the 8th.
 - KACDE Convention plans.
 - KACDE will work on updating the list of Supervisors Years of Service statewide.

Comments –

- Mr. Ray Adams invited everyone to attend the Commission meeting this upcoming Monday, March 19, 2018.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ted Jessup at 12:34pm. Motion seconded by Mr. Randy McCallon. **Motion carried**, meeting adjourned.

Next Board Meeting –2018 Meeting Schedule: Third Thursday at 9:30 am

- May 10th (NEW DATE)
- July 8-10 KACD Convention – Owensboro
- September 20th
- November 15th