

MEETING MINUTES

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts

March 12, 2020

Marriott Griffin Gate Resort / Lexington, KY

In Attendance: Mr. Shane Wells, President; Mr. Allan Bryant, Vice President; Mr. Ted Jessup, Secretary-Treasurer; Mr. Steve Coleman; Mr. Mike Farmer; Mr. Lenville Martin; Mr. Doug Hensley; Mr. Rhodes Hester and Ms. Jennifer Burgan

Also, in Attendance: Mr. Greg Stone, State Conservationist, NRCS; Ms. Sonya Keith, Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships, NRCS; Ms. Paulette Akers, Director, KY DOC; Mr. Warren Beeler, Executive Director, GOAP; Mr. James Wright, Director, KDF; Mr. John Chism, KDA; Mr. Brian Lacefield, State Executive Director, FSA; Dr. Ernie Ezell, District Supervisor, Logan County; Ms. Kayleigh Evans, President, KACDE; Ms. Leigh Dalton, Marriott; Mr. Bryan Jacobs, NRCS; and Ms. Crystal Renfro, Executive Director, KACD.

Quorum was met.

Meeting Called to Order - at 9:30am by KACD President Mr. Shane Wells.

KACD Minutes of the Last Meeting – January 2020–Mr. Rhodes Hester made a motion to approve minutes from the meeting, and Mr. Allan Bryant seconded the motion to approve. **Motion carried.**

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

- Mr. Ted Jessup made a motion to move \$20,000 from the Foundation Account to the General Account. \$10,000 will go to Environmental Education and \$10,000 to general funds, and Mr. Steve Coleman seconded the motion to approve. **Motion carried.**

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

- Mr. Steve Coleman made a motion to nominate Mr. Allan Bryant to serve on the Ag Water Quality Authority as the KACD representative with Mr. Steve Coleman being the alternate, and Ms. Jennifer Burgan seconded the motion to approve. **Motion carried.**

NACD Director's Report - Mr. Steve Coleman updated the board about these items:

- An update was given about the NACD 74th Annual Meeting in Las Vegas.
- The NACD Spring Fly-in will be held next week. Kentucky will not be attending this year. Direct contact with Leaders will be the top priority.
- NACD will be offering the NACD/NRCS Technical Assistance Grants again for 2020. Any interested District will need to let KACD know by May 25th if they would like to apply.
- Mr. Steve Coleman made a motion to nominate Mr. David Rowlett as the 2020 NACD SE Region Hall of Fame Inductee from Kentucky. Mr. Allan Bryant seconded the motion to approve. **Motion carried.**

KACD Auxiliary Report – Ms. Crystal Renfro updated the board on the following:

- Ms. Bridget Pile has stepped down as the President of the KACD Auxiliary.
- The Webster County Conservation District has volunteered to take over all aspects of the Auxiliary, and the KACD Board has accepted their offer. Crystal will be working with them in the upcoming months to transfer all the Auxiliary supplies and program information to them.

KACD Spring Area Meetings

KACD Areas 1, 2, 3 & 5 have met so far this spring. All the meetings were greatly attended with most of the districts having at least one representative and was successful with great participation. Each meeting had speakers from NRCS, DOC, KACD, KACDE & district partners. The only election that was held was for Area 2 Director.

- Area 2: Dr. Ernie Ezell was nominated as Area 2 Director. His term will begin following the 2020 Annual Meeting.

2020 & 2021 KACD Annual Meetings

- KACD will work with the Marriott Griffin Gate Resort over the next few weeks to determine the best plan for the 2020 Annual Meeting due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic. The KACD Executive Committee will make a determination.
- The 2021 & 2022 Annual Meetings cannot be set until KACD meets with the current hotel for the 2020 Meeting. Depending on the outcome of that meeting will determine when the location will be moved.
- A motion was made by Mr. Doug Hensley to have the KACD Annual Meeting in Bowling Green in 2021 & 2022 (or 2022 & 2023 depending on the 2020 situation). Seconded by, Mr. Steve Coleman. **Motion carried.**

NRCS/KACD Technical Position Agreement

NRCS & KACD has been working toward getting this agreement finalized. A statewide conference call was held to allow districts to voice questions and concerns about the new proposed program. Also, at each KACD Area Meeting supervisors and staff have a chance to ask questions. We want to make sure that every district is aware of this program and how it could assist in getting more conservation on the ground in their areas. The KACD Executive Committee will be working with NRCS prior to the next meeting to work on more details about the agreement. KACD will be working toward hiring Ms. Crystal Renfro as a full-time employee as we move forward with this agreement and program.

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

- NACD is offering grants again this year for District Employees to attend NRCS Boot Camp. If a District is interested in sending an employee, please contact Crystal ASAP. Each application must go through KACD.
- Updates on District Success Stories, KACD is still needing Success Stories from all Districts. All District Success Stories can be found on the KACD website.
- 50 Sponsorship letters has been mailed out for the 2020 calendar year. If anyone knows of a business or individual that would be interested in sponsoring KACD programs, please let us know.
- KACD will accept Annual District Award Applications until May 1. (Due to the COVID-19 situation this deadline has been moved to July 1)
- KACD Dues Reminders will be send out to District who have not submitted their payment to date.
- Keynote and headliner speaker invitations have been mailed out for the 2020 Annual Meeting.

- HB 591 was discussed. This bill was introduced into the House and addresses Soil Health. KACD was not approached or consulted about this bill prior to it being introduced.

Agency Comments

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Mr. Greg Stone updated the board on these items:
 - NRCS staff is currently transitioning to a new computer software, please be patient while they are learning the updates.
 - NRCS Program update
 - Mr. Bryan Jacobs, NRCS District Conservationist, addressed the board about the importance of the partnership technical employees that are currently working in the field.
- **KY Division of Conservation** – Ms. Paulette Akers updated the board on these items:
 - Jim Claypool Art and Conservation Writing Award Winners have been notified and their entrees as well as their check will be mailed to the Districts.
 - The 2 Envirothon Trainings have been canceled. More information about the regional and state competitions will be released ASAP.
- **Department for Natural Resources** –
- **Farm Service Agency** – Mr. Brian Lacefield updated the board on these items:
 - FSA program update
- **Energy and Environment Cabinet** –
- **KY Division of Forestry** – Mr. James Wright updated the board on these items:
 - KDF Budget Update
 - White Oak project will be taken over by the University of Kentucky, Darren Morris Specialist.
 - KDF is currently updating their statewide communication system.
- **Kentucky Department of Agriculture** – Mr. John Chism updated the board on these items:
 - Concerns about markets moving forward
 - No-Till Tobacco Project
- **KACDE** – Ms. Kayleigh Evans updated the board on these items:
 - KACDE has been attending all KACD Area Meeting this year
 - Planning for KACDE Conference in Jabez, September.
 - KACDE is going to be gathering information about the Districts through an anonymous survey. KACD will help to also get the information out and encourage Districts to participate. The information gathered will be very helpful moving forward.
- **Governor’s Office of Ag Policy** – Mr. Warren Beeler updated the board on these items:
 - GOAP Budget Update
 - Asking for suggestions on how to improve GOAP Programs. They are always looking for ways to make this money new with innovative projects.
 - Tobacco Settlement money update
- **KY Farm Bureau** –

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Rhodes Hester at 12:51 pm. Motion seconded by Mr. Ted Jessup. **Motion carried, meeting adjourned.**

Next KACD Board Meeting –

- May 21, 2020 9:30am Virtual Zoom Meeting