

MEETING MINUTES

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts

July 7, 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. Jeff Rice, NACD Representative; Mr. Doug Hensley; Mr. Steve Coleman; Mr. Mike Farmer; Mr. Rodney Dick; Ms. Jennifer Burgan; Mr. Lenville Martin and Mr. Randy McCallon.

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. Steve Kull, KDF; Mr. John Chism, KDA; Dr. Ernie Ezell, District Supervisor, Logan County; Ms. Kayleigh Evans, President, KACDE; 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 – May 21, 2020 –Mr. Steve Coleman 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 emailed. Mr. Ted Jessup made the motion to approve the report as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. David Rowlett. **Motion carried.**

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

- Mr. Allan Bryant made a motion to purchase virus protection software for Ms. Terri Shaw, and Mr. Steve Coleman seconded the motion to approve. **Motion carried.**
- A letter of interest for the KACD Technical Assistance Grant Program was received from the Franklin County Conservation District.

NACD Director's Report - Mr. Jeff Rice updated the board about these items:

- The NACD South East Regional Meeting in Alabama is postponed unto 2021.
- NACD will hold a virtual business meeting on July 20th. M. Jeff Rice will be the voting delegate for Kentucky.
- Mr. Steve Coleman nominated Mr. Phil Needham for the NACD Friend of Conservation Award, and Mr. Jeff Rice seconded the nomination to approve. **Motion carried.**
- Mr. Jeff Rice nominated Mr. Kevin Jeffries for the NACD Distinguished Service Award, and Mr. Ted Jessup seconded the nomination to approve. **Motion carried.**
- The Olin Sims Award was discussed and a nomination of Mr. Steve Coleman was made by, Mr. Ted Jessup, and Mr. Doug Hensley seconded the nomination to approve. **Motion carried.** After contacting NACD about this award we have learned that NRCS submits the nomination at a later date closer to the NACD Annual Meeting.

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

- All the Auxiliary supplies and finished quilt squares have been delivered to Ms. Lisa Mullins with the Webster County Conservation District.

2021 KACD Annual Meetings

- July 11-13, 2021 Marriott Griffin Gate Resort, Lexington, KY

2022 & 2023 KACD Annual Meetings

- Holiday Inn, Bowling Green, KY

NRCS/KACD Technical Position Agreement

NRCS & KACD has been working toward getting this agreement finalized. One remaining statewide conference call is scheduled for July 23rd for Districts to join in a Q & A session about the new program. All counties are invited to participate. 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.

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

- Prepared a presentation for Mr. Allan Bryant to present to the Watershed Coordinators about general information about KACD and Kentucky Conservation Districts.
- 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.
- The KACD Executive Committee will meet at a later date to review the District Awards. The winners will be recognized at the 2021 Annual Meeting in Lexington.
- All tree bag invoices have been sent out to the Districts.
- KACD Dues Reminders will be send out to District who have not submitted their payment to date.

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.
 - EQIP is taking the majority of the time of the staff currently
 - Covered Feeding Areas will be offered in the 2021 EQIP. Strict guidelines will be enforced.
 - Update on local working group meetings.
- **KY Division of Conservation** – Ms. Paulette Akers updated the board on these items:
 - Area 8 held a virtual meeting and 2 nominations for the Soil and Water Conservation Commission was made.
 - State budget cuts discussed
 - Direct Aid will be sent out in late September to the Districts. The state budget cuts will not change the amount of Direct Aid since it comes from the Tobacco Settlement Funds.
 - The online supervisors training in early June was successful. Additional training are being planed for later in the year.
- **Department for Natural Resources** –
- **Farm Service Agency** –
- **Energy and Environment Cabinet** –

- **KY Division of Forestry** – Mr. Steve Kull updated the board on these items:
 - Thank you to the Conservation Districts who purchased tree seedlings in 2020. The new order form should be out soon for the upcoming year.
 - Currently working on Forest Action Plans
- **Kentucky Department of Agriculture** – Mr. John Chism updated the board on these items:
 - Looking forward to the Kentucky State Fair and livestock competitions.
 - Upcoming budget cuts in State Government and cuts to in state travel
 - Express support of the new KACD TA District Grant Program
- **KACDE** – Ms. Kayleigh Evans updated the board on these items:
 - The 4-H Camp at Jabez had announced that they are closing their facility and cancelling all current contracts. The 2020 KACD Annual Conference has been cancelled.
 - South East Region Employees Association have not determined if they will host their conference in November
 - Shared results for the District Employee benefit survey. The Board has asked KACDE to do a presentation at the 2021 KACD Annual Meeting sharing these results.
- **Governor’s Office of Ag Policy** – Mr. Warren Beeler updated the board on these items:
 - GOAP Budget Update
 - Discussed the upcoming Legislative Session concerning the State Budget. Encourages all districts to work aggressively to ensure Direct Aid and State Cost Share in included.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Randy McCallon at 11:30 am. Motion seconded by Mr. Ted Jessup. **Motion carried, meeting adjourned.**

Next KACD Board Meeting –

- September 17, 2020 9:30am Zoom Meeting
- November 19, 2020 9:30am