

## MEETING MINUTES

### **Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts &**

### **Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts Foundation**

**May 18, 2023**

### **Sloan Convention Center - Bowling Green, KY & Electronic Zoom Meeting**

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In Attendance: Mr. Allan Bryant, President; Mr. Ted Jessup, Vice President; Mr. Steve Coleman, Treasurer; Mr. Shane Wells, Past President; Mr. Doug McLaren; Dr. Ernie Ezell; Mr. Doug Hensley; Ms. Jennifer Burgan; Mr. Rodney Dick; Mr. Doug Derossett; Mr. Vincent Thompson; Mr. Rod Murphy; Mr. David Rowlett, NACD Representative; Ms. Lisa Mullins, President, Auxiliary.

Also, in Attendance: Mr. Casey Schrader, NRCS; Mr. Steve Beam, NRCS; Ms. Natalie Browning, President, KACDE Mr. John Chism, KY Department of Ag; Mr. Danny Shipley, Chairman SWCC; Mr. Kyle Kelly, KYFB; Ms. Debbie Boyd, Auxiliary and Ms. Crystal Renfro, Executive Director, KACD.

Quorum was met.

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

**KACD Minutes of the Last Meeting – February & March** – Minutes from the February 22, 2023, and March 23, 2023 Meetings were presented. A motion to approve both sets of minutes was made by Ms. Jennifer Burgan. Motion seconded by Mr. Doug Hensley. **Motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report** – The KACD Treasurer's Report was presented with copies emailed. Mr. Steve Coleman made the motion to approve the report as presented. Motion seconded by Dr. Ernie Ezell **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Mr. Ted Jessup for the approval of the KACD Foundation Account Treasures Report. Seconded by Mr. Doug Derossett. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Mr. Doug Derossett to pay the bill from MCM accounting firm for completing the proper IRS forms for KACD. Seconded by Mr. Vincent Thompson. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Mr. Steve Coleman to pay KY Ag Council dues of \$250. Seconded by Mr. Ted Jessup. **Motion carried.**

**Correspondence** – KACD received a resolution from Fayette County concerning the removal of a supervisor. The KACD Board of Directors will work with the Fayette County Conservation District to assist with their resolution and a possible solution.

### **Agency Comments**

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Mr. Casey Schrader updated the board on NRCS Business.
  - Budget Updates
  - Currently 41 positions open in the state and will be hiring.
  - He spoke of the fully funded 75/25 Agreement through the 5 years + a 1-year extension.
  - Increasing funding for outreach, partnering the KY Farm Bureau for outreach.
  - Updated EQIP application numbers

- **KY Division of Conservation –**
- **Department for Natural Resources –**
- **Farm Service Agency –**
- **Energy and Environment Cabinet –**
- **KY Division of Forestry –**
- **Kentucky Department of Agriculture –** Mr. John Chism updated the board on the following:
  - New State Vet hired.
  - Discussed labor issues everywhere.
  - Livestock looking good going into Spring.
  - Boxed beef sets new records.
- **KACDE –** Ms. Natalie Browning updated the board on the following:
  - Discussed the KACDE Area trainings. They were well attended.
  - Currently working on the KACDE Annual Conference, will be held in Elizabethtown.
  - Draft agenda for KACDE Conference will be out soon.
- **KYFB –** Mr. Kyle Kelly updated the board on the following:
  - Currently working on policy development with conservation being one of their top priorities.
  - Update and advice on HB & SB 50 for next year.
  - Told us to educate General Assembly members now about conservation and ask Conservation Districts to start reaching out to Legislators.
- **KOAP –**

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

- A motion was made by Mr. Steve Coleman to pay \$1,000 for NACD Dues. Seconded by Mr. Doug Derossett. **Motion carried.**
- The NACD SE Meeting will be held August 6-8 in Savannah, GA.
- A new liaison has been hired between NACD and NRCS.
- The Summer Meeting will be held in Bismarck, ND.
- A motion was made by Mr. David Rowlett to pay registration and travel for Mr. Shane Wells to attend the NACD SE Meeting as the Hall of Fame inductee. Seconded by Mr. Steve Coleman. **Motion carried.**

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

- The quilt is currently being quilted. Tickets will be \$1 each or 6 for \$5. They are working on a theme for next year.
- Currently accepting auction items and donations for the Auxiliary.
- Received 53 applications for scholarships.
- A craft session will be held at the convention. Encourage participation.

**Watershed Rehab Discussion**

- Update on the watershed coordinator position.
  - Working with Representative Heath on a long-term commitment to watershed.

### KACD Annual Meeting

- The Annual Meeting will be held July 9-11, 2023, in Bowling Green.
- 2024 and 2025 Annual Meetings were discussed. A committee of the KACD Executive Team, Jennifer Burgan and Doug Derossett was formed. They will visit possible locations for the upcoming years and bring their suggestion back to the July meeting.
- A motion was made by Mr. Steve Coleman to name Representative Richard Heath Conservation Person of the Year and Representative Amy Neighbors Distinguished Service Award. Seconded by Mr. Ted Jessup. **Motion carried.**
- After a lengthy discussion it was decided that KACD start a new award for Conservation Employee of the Year. All members of the Conservation Partnership will be eligible for this award and in the future nominations will be received. A motion was made by Mr. Vincent Thompson to name Ms. Patty Fugate the first recipient of this award. Seconded by Mr. Doug Derossett. **Motion carried.**

### KACD Legislative Items-

- HB & SB 50 will more than likely come back next year for consideration.
- For the upcoming year KACD will be requesting \$12,000,000 for SCS program.

### KACD/NRCS TA Grant Program

- We currently have 37 partner technicians in the field.
- KACD is still looking for 13 additional employees.

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

- Update on the Monthly District Share Zoom Sessions. Looking for new ideas that we can cover.
- We have been having website issues with new formatting, but we are working on it.
- Shirts and other promotional district materials were discussed. We will bring this back up at the September Meeting.
- Provided lunch at the East & West Envirothon Competitions.
- Attended and spoke at the NRCS Area 1 Meeting in early May to discuss the 75/25 Program.
- Working mainly on the Annual Meeting at this point. Everything is coming together.
- Mr. Roy Reynolds has accepted a position with a Conservation District and has resigned from the KACD Board of Directors. Mr. Rodney Dick, his alternate will step in and finish out his term.

**Adjournment** - A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Vincent Thompson at 12:00pm. Motion seconded by Mr. Ted Jessup. **Motion carried, meeting adjourned.**