

MEETING MINUTES

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts

May 20, 2021

Hybrid Meeting: Marriott Griffin Gate Resort & 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. Bill Harned; Ms. Jennifer Burgan; Mr. Doug Hensley; Mr. Lenville Martin; Dr. Ernie Ezell; 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; Ms. Paulette Akers, Director, KY DOC; Ms. Debbie Wakefield, FSA; Mr. Brian Lacefield, Executive Director, KOAP; Mr. John Chism, KDA; Mr. Brandon Howard, Director, KDF; Ms. Natalie Browning, President, KACDE; Mr. Kyle Kelly, KYFB; Mr. Adam Jones, NRCS; Mr. Allan Arthur, NRCS; Mr. Chris Slone, NRCS 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 – March 18, 2021 – 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. David Rowlett. **Motion carried.**

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

A motion was made by Mr. David Rowlett to pay NACD Dues for 2021 at \$1,000. Seconded by, Mr. Bill Harned. **Motion carried.**

Time reports from Ms. Crystal Renfro was reviewed. A motion to approve by Mr. Steve Coleman. Seconded by, Mr. Bill Harned. **Motion carried.**

An invoice from the Estill County Conservation District for the KACD agreement with them was reviewed. A motion was made by Mr. Steve Coleman to approve the invoice. Seconded by Ms. Jennifer Burgan. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Ted Jessup shared a list of counties who have not paid their KACD dues.

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 Summer Meeting will be July 24-27, 2021, in Chicago, IL

- The NACD SE Meeting will be August 8-11, 2021, in Gulf Shores, AL
- NACD is currently taking applications for their TA Grant

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

- The Auxiliary quilt is finished
- Making plans for the auction at the Annual Meeting and quilt raffle

2021 KACD Annual Meeting

- KACD will be hosting an in person Annual Meeting July 11-13 at the Marriott Griffin Gate in Lexington.
- The Marriott Hotel staff met with us (Ms. Sarah Thacker & Ms. Leigh Dalton) They have asked for KACD to provide them with a close number of how many people plan to attend and how many room nights we will have. They are willing to work with us on attrition due to the pandemic but will need close numbers to be able to do that.
- The hotel is currently under construction but is set to be completed by June 20th. With a full-service restaurant, and new pool area.
- After a lengthy discussion about registration prices and the virtual meeting option a motion was made by Mr. David Rowlett to turn all the remainder of the planning of the Annual Meeting to the KACD Executive Committee. Seconded by, Mr. Bill Harned. **Motion carried.**
- A motion was made by Mr. Ted Jessup to hire Mr. David Stahl to provide musical entertainment for the Annual Meeting. Seconded by Mr. David Rowlett. **Motion carried.**
- A motion was made by Mr. Lenville Martin to purchase a small printer to be able to use at the Annual Meeting, not to exceed \$400. Seconded by Mr. Doug Hensley. **Motion carried.**
- The Annual Meeting Breakout Sessions were discussed in detail.

KACD/NRCS TA Grant Program

- Moving forward working with the 28 Districts who have been approved for this program.
- KACD is still looking for 22 additional employees.
- We have 4 interested counties that need to find partners in their Work Units.

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

- A motion was made by Mr. Steve Coleman to write a letter to WesBanco to have Mr. Allan Bryant, Mr. Ted Jessup, and Ms. Crystal Renfro to have full access to the account and signing authority. Ms. Terri Shaw needs to have access to the account for informational purposes only. Seconded by Mr. Bill Harned.
- A discussion about the Envirothon then took place. KACD carried over registration from 2020 to 2021 due to COVID. This was a one time carry over. Any additional funds that were not carried over in 2021 are now nonrefundable.
- Update on the Monthly District Share Zoom Sessions. Looking for new ideas that we can cover.
- A motion was made by Mr. Ted Jessup to continue with the Health Insurance option for KACD to offer to the districts. Seconded by Ms. Jennifer Burgan. **Motion carried.** (We have found out that NACD is going to offer health insurance to Districts, at this time we are waiting to see what they offer before we move forward)
- Working on the NACD SE Region Hall of Fame Presentation, Due July 15th.
- Emails will be sent out in the next week concerning the KACD Standing Committees. We plan to update the committees in 2022.
- New name tags will be ordered for new Directors who have joined the board since Spring of 2020

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.
 - If Conservation District Board Meetings are after work hours they may start meeting back in the offices (subject to change)
 - The KY NRCS 2020 Annual Report was presented
 - Mr. Greg Stone has been able to visit with many Districts in Kentucky virtually
 - Hiring is going great in the state: Updated numbers given
- **KY Division of Conservation** – Ms. Paulette Akers updated the board on these items:
 - Soil and Water Conservation Commission nominees completed for Areas 7&9. They will hold another meeting at the KACD Annual Meeting to try to get nominations for Areas 1&2.
 - Paul Laurence Dunbar won the Kentucky Envirothon. South Warren was the FFA Team winner.
 - The AWQ Workbook is almost ready to be released
 - Field Reps are planning on starting to be back to in person board meetings, but DOC is waiting on official guidance from SCS.
- **Department for Natural Resources** –
- **Farm Service Agency** – Ms. Debbie Wakefield updated the board on these items:
 - The American Rescue Plan for socially disadvantaged individuals
 - ECP – some counties have been approved
 - Crop reports have a July 15th deadline.
- **Energy and Environment Cabinet** –
- **KY Division of Forestry** – Mr. Brandon Howard updated the board on these items:
 - Working a lot on outreach currently
 - Over 700,000 tree seedlings sold this year, 90% of those were for Conservation Districts
 - Looking for requests on new species of tree seedlings
 - Starting to do Forest Stewardship Plans in person again.
- **Kentucky Department of Agriculture** – Mr. John Chism updated the board on these items:
 - The Frankfort staff is starting to come back into the office.
 - KY State Fair is moving forward with a full fair planned
 - Update on ginseng resolution from Perry Co CD
- **KACDE** – Ms. Natalie Browning updated the board on these items:
 - The KACDE Annual Meeting will be September 14-16, 2021, at Lake Barkley State Park. Registration for this meeting will be coming out soon.
 - Joining with KACD on Monthly District Zoom Meetings.
- **KYFB** – Mr. Kyle Kelly updated the board on these items:
 - 2018 Farm Bill Update
 - Update on State Budget
- **KOAP** – Mr. Brian Lacefield updated the board on these items:
 - Introduced the change over to the Kentucky Office of Agriculture Policy.
 - Expecting more funding from the Master Settlement Agreement
 - Update on new staff members.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ted Jessup at 12:45pm. Motion seconded by Mr. Doug Hensley. **Motion carried, meeting adjourned.**

Next KACD Board Meeting –

- September 9, 2021, 9:30am eastern