

MEETING MINUTES

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts &

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts Foundation

November 16, 2023

Franklin County Conservation District - Frankfort, KY & Electronic Zoom Meeting

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 Ezel; Ms. Jennifer Burgan; Mr. Rodney Dick; Mr. Vincent Thompson; Mr. Doug Derossett and Mr. David Rowlett, NACD Representative.

Also, in Attendance: Mr. Steve Beam, NRCS; Ms. Johnna McHugh, KY DOC; Ms. Natalie Browning, President, KACDE 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 – September – Minutes from the September 29, 2023, Meeting were presented. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Rodney Dick. Motion seconded by Mr. Steve Coleman. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report – The KACD Treasurer's Report was presented with copies emailed. Mr. David Rowlett made the motion to approve the report as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Ted Jessup. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Mr. Rodney Dick for the approval of the KACD Foundation Account Treasures Report. Seconded by Ms. Jennifer Burgan. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Mr. Doug McLaren to pay annual membership dues to the NCF Envirothon for \$450. Seconded by Mr. Doug Derossett. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Mr. Steve Coleman to reserve \$20,000 out of the General Account: To be used for \$10,000 for the 2024 Annual Meeting and \$10,000 for the 2025 Annual Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Vincent Thompson. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Mr. Vincent Thompson to reserve \$10,000 out of the Foundation Sponsorship Account to be used for the 2022-2023 Federal Audit. Seconded by Mr. David Rowlett. **Motion carried.**

Correspondence – KACD received a Thank You Card from the Breathitt County Conservation District in regard to the donations collected for the KY flood victims.

Agency Comments

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Mr. Steve Beam updated the board on NRCS Business.
 - A new State Conservationist has been named. Mr. Eric Allness should be starting in mid-January.
 - The NRCS Chief has expressed his priority on outreach.
 - Update on RCPP Projects in Kentucky.

- **KY Division of Conservation** – Ms. Johnna McHugh updated the board on the following:
 - A draft of the new equipment regulations has been released. Comment period ends Nov 20.
 - State Cost Share and Environmental Grant Application were due Nov 15.
 - Art and Writing contest is wrapping up. The statewide judging will be January 30, 2024.
 - A director of the division should be named soon.

- **Department for Natural Resources** –
- **Farm Service Agency** –
- **Energy and Environment Cabinet** –
- **KY Division of Forestry** –
- **Kentucky Department of Agriculture** –
- **KACDE** – Ms. Natalie Browning updated the board on the following:
 - Discussed the SECDEA Conference that was held in Tennessee last week. 19 employees from Kentucky attended.
 - Thank you to KACD for the donation for the Presidents Reception at SECDEA Annual Conference.
 - Working on the design of the Art & Writing shirts. Should be ready to order in December.
 - KACDE will host a meeting at the Franklin County Conservation District on Dec 6.

- **KYFB** –
- **KOAP** –

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

- Update on Annual Meeting.
- A motion was made by Mr. Steve Coleman to spend \$350 on Kentucky’s NACD Auction item. Seconded by Mr. Vincent Thompson. **Motion carried.**
- NACD Southeast Meeting will be June 15-18, 2024, in Gainesville, FL.
- Vincent Thompson has an interview for the NGLI program.
- The NACD Spring Fly-In will be held March 21, 2024. KACD has decided to do a virtual Fly-in again because we have had great success in meeting with the Congressional Leaders via Zoom. j

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

- Reminded Directors that we need additional auction items for the Auxiliary Auction in 2024. We will be doing a big push on this as the Annual Meeting gets closer.
- Currently reviewing and updating the Scholarship Application. A suggestion was made to list the Scholarship Applications to the Central Kentucky Community Foundation.
- They are currently also working on receiving their quilt blocks.

KACD Area Spring Meetings

- The KACD Directors are going to be working on scheduling the KACD Area Spring Meetings. We hope to have these scheduled by the end of the year so everyone can get them on their calendar.

KACD Legislative Items-

- KACD has determined the 2024 Legislative Priorities are as follows:
 - Direct Aid: Requesting \$1.5 million
 - State Cost Share: Requesting \$2.5 million

- Conservation District Audit Limit with the Department of Local Government to be increased to \$750,000 from \$500,000.
- Request additional watershed rehab funds: \$5 million.
- Opposed to Conservation District Supervisors being a partisan election.
- The KACD Legislative Reception will be held at The Elizabeth on January 16, 2024, from 6-8pm. Districts can begin setting up their displays at 4:30pm.
- A motion was made by Mr. Steve Coleman to use All the Way Shoppe to cater the event for \$3,500. Seconded by Mr. Vincent Thompson. **Motion carried.**
- Representative Amy Neighbors will be in attendance to receive her award from the KACD Annual Meeting. She was unable to attend in July.
- KYFB has asked KACD to support a change in the Kentucky Ag District Program. The change would reduce the required acres from 250 to 50. A motion was made by Mr. Steve Coleman to support this change. Seconded by Mr. David Rowlett. **Motion carried.**
- KACD will host a Virtual Meeting for all Conservation District Supervisors and Staff on January 4th at 7:00pm eastern time to discuss Legislative Priorities and plans of actions for the 2024 Legislative Session.

KACD/NRCS TA Grant Program

- We currently have 27 partner technicians in the field. 6 are new hires at this time.

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.
- Updated the board on the NACD Executive Directors Conference and the SECDEA Conference.
- The KACD Foundation received a donation from Schwab Charitable on behalf of the Clifford and Hazel Pash Charitable Fund in the amount of \$1,000.
- Kentucky is #8 this year in paying NACD Dues. We are up from #9 last year.
- A motion was made by Mr. Steve Coleman to approve Crystal's Time Report for October 2023. Seconded by Mr. Vincent Thompson. **Motion carried.**
- The Art & Writing Contest Judging will be held January 30th at the KYFB Office in Louisville. KACD must have 5 judges.
- A discussion was held on possible conservation youth programs and talk of a Youth Program Committee was had. This is something the board will be looking into in the near future. The possibility of partnering with NRCS, KY Fish and Wildlife and other groups was also discussed.
- We are working on our sponsorship letters for 2024. If you know of any group or business that would like to sponsor KACD or the Kentucky Envirothon in 2024 please send their information to Crystal.
- The possibility of KACD working with a new contracted employee was discussed. The Executive Committee will be working on a job description and job timeline to be presented to the KACD Board at the January 17th Meeting.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ted Jessup at 11:25pm. Motion seconded by Mr. Steve Coleman. **Motion carried, meeting adjourned.**