

MEETING MINUTES

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts &

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts Foundation

March 18, 2023

Franklin County Conservation District & 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 Ezell; Mr. Doug Hensley; Ms. Jennifer Burgan; Mr. Roy Reynolds; Mr. Doug Derossett; Mr. Vincent Thompson; and Mr. David Rowlett, NACD Representative

Also, in Attendance: Mr. Michael Zachary, NRCS; Ms. Paulette Akers, Director, DOC; Ms. Natalie Browning, President, KACDE Mr. Steve Kull, KY Department of Forestry; Mr. John Chism, KY Department of Ag; 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 – Feb 22– The February 22, 2023, minutes will be presented at the May meeting.

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

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

A motion was made by Mr. Steve Coleman to reimburse Mr. David Rowlett for the NACD Auction Items. Seconded by Mr. Vincent Thompson. **Motion carried.**

Correspondence –

Agency Comments

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Mr. Michael Zachary updated the board on NRCS Business.
 - Watershed updates
 - Working on projects for tornado and flood areas of the state
 - Flood plain easement updates
 - Update on funding

- **KY Division of Conservation** – Ms. Paulette Akers updated the board on DOC Business:
 - Closing out FY 2021 State Cost Share Program
 - Ag Water Quality Authority Meeting in May will be in Morgan County at the tree nursery.
 - The Envirothon currently has 24 teams registered, but they have until the end of the month.

- **Department for Natural Resources –**
- **Farm Service Agency –**
- **Energy and Environment Cabinet –**

- **KY Division of Forestry –** Mr. Steve Kull updated the board on the following:
 - KDF is hiring a new employee for stewardship program
 - 83 counties participated in the tree seeding program. They sold 134,000 trees with 100,000 of those going to conservation districts.

- **Kentucky Department of Agriculture –** Mr. John Chism updated the board on the following:
 - Legislative Update
 - KY Beef Expo had a great turn out this year.

- **KACDE –** Ms. Natalie Browning updated the board on the following:
 - KACDE is currently working on their regional training across the state.
 - Thank you to KACD for the donation to KACDE.

- **KYFB –**

- **KOAP –**

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

- The NACD Fly-In will be held next week and KACD will be meeting with Kentucky’s Congressional Leaders via Zoom.
- Kentucky has requested to remain on the NACD Legislative Committee in the upcoming year.
- Nominees for the NACD Southeast Region Hall of Fame for 2023 were discussed.

KACD Auxiliary Report – The Auxiliary will be working on opening a checking account for their general account.

Watershed Rehab Discussion

- The DOC is currently working on an application for the program and will be presented at the April Soil and Water Conservation Commission Meeting. Also, they are working on terms and agreements on the program.
- Working with Representative Heath on a long-term commitment to watershed.
- A discussion was had on updates for the possibility of hiring a Watershed Coordinator.

KACD Area Spring Meeting-

- 7 of the 9 KACD Areas have met with good attendance at each of the meetings.
- To date we have not received any resolutions.

KACD Annual Meeting

- The Annual Meeting will be held July 9-11, 2023 in Bowling Green.
- A motion was made by Mr. Steve Coleman to hold the May 18th Board of Directors Meeting at the Holliday Inn University Plaza in Bowling Green to work on Annual Meeting preparations. Seconded by Mr. Vincent Thompson. **Motion carried.**
- If anyone has any suggestions for sponsors for the upcoming Fiscal Year please let Crystal know.
- A motion was made by Mr. Steve Coleman to keep the Annual Meeting registration the same as 2022 with the exception of meal rate, which are determined by the hotel. Seconded by, Mr. Doug McLaren. **Motion carried.**
- A motion was made by Mr. Roy Reynolds to have Mr. David Stahl provide the music for the 2023 Annual Meeting. Seconded by, Mr. Doug DeRossett. **Motion carried.**
- We have included 15 nights for Saturday and ADA approved rooms for the Annual Meeting

KACD Legislative Items-

- HB 30 was signed by the Governor.
- 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.
- A motion was made by Mr. Steve Coleman to purchase a new printer for Ms. Terri Shaw for Annual Meeting work with a spending limit of \$350. Seconded by Mr. Roy Reynolds. **Motion carried.**
- A motion was made by Mr. Vincent Thompson to pay the Estill County Invoice covering the 1st quarter of the Executive Directors salary and to be paid out of the Foundation Account. Seconded by Mr. Steve Coleman. **Motion carried.**
- Crystal will speak at the NRCS Area 1 Meeting in early May to discuss the 75/25 Program.
- The possible agreement with Mr. Tom Bennett's company to do yearly reporting on certain nature preserves in Kentucky was discussed. The Board has decided to move forward with him on this project.

Closed Session: A motion was made by Mr. Ted Jessup to go into closed session. Seconded by, Mr. Steve Coleman. **Motion carried.**

Following closed session, a motion was made by Mr. Vincent Thompson to renew the Executive Directors contract and increase pay rate with a list of suggestion to make to the contract. Seconded by Mr. Roy Reynolds. **Motion carried.** Her new pay rate will begin the first payroll in April.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Steve Coleman at 11:44am. Motion seconded by Ms. Jennifer Burgan. **Motion carried, meeting adjourned.**