

MEETING MINUTES

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts

September 17, 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. Steve Coleman; Mr. Mike Farmer; Mr. Rodney Dick; Mr. Lenville Martin; Dr. Ernie Ezell 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; Mr. Dorsey Ridley, Executive Director, GOAP; Mr. Travis Chick, Kentucky FSA; 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. Allan Bryant. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer Ted Jessup presented the KACD Foundation Treasurer's Report with copies emailed. Mr. Ted Jessup made the motion to approve the report as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Steve Coleman. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer Ted Jessup presented the KACD Budget for 2020-2021 with copies emailed. Mr. Ted Jessup made the motion to approve the budget as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Steve Coleman. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer Ted Jessup presented the KACD Foundation Budget for 2020-2021 with copies emailed. Mr. Ted Jessup made the motion to approve the budget as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Allan Bryant. **Motion carried.**

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

- Mr. David Rowlett made a motion to pay the \$250 annual dues for the Kentucky Ag Council, and Mr. Steve Coleman seconded the motion to approve. **Motion carried.**
- Mr. Shane Wells discussed the possibility of offering Annual Rye Grass as a cover crop in cost share programs in Kentucky. This is something that KACD will research further and work with NRCS & the University of Kentucky to see if this can be a possibility.

NACD Director's Report – Mr. Jeff Rice & Mr. David Rowlett updated the board about these items:

- NACD is still planning on holding their 2021 Annual Meeting, any yet to be determined if it will be virtual
- KACD needs to encourage all Kentucky Conservation Districts to pay their Annual NACD Dues.
- NACD Resolutions are due for 2021 by December 31st.

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

- Introduction of Ms. Lisa Mullins, new KACD Auxiliary President
- KACD Auxiliary Scholarship Winners for 2020:
 - George Crafton Scholarship: Ms. Andrea Searcy, Carroll County
 - Natural Resources: Ms. Taylor Sharp, Boyle County

2021 KACD Legislative Reception: Buffalo Trace February 18, 2021

- Mr. Allan Bryant will contact the caterer that KACD has used for this event in the past. They are already approved as a caterer at the Buffalo Trace facility.

Resolution from KACD Area 9: Perry County

- Mr. Allan Bryant made a motion table this resolution until the November KACD Meeting so that Mr. Doug Hensley can talk to the board about it in more depth, and Mr. Steve Coleman seconded the motion to approve. **Motion carried.**

NRCS/KACD Technical Position Agreement

- KACD will accept letters of intent from any interested Districts for the 75/25 Technical Assistance Grant until November 2nd.
- Mr. Crystal Renfro will now be hired full time to administer this new program as well as her current duties. Her salary, travel and benefits were approved in the Budget for current year. Once she is able to leave her current position with the Estill County Conservation District she will be transitioned over. Starting in January 2021 KACD will contract with the Estill County Conservation District for this position, and Ms. Renfro will stay on their payroll. They will be reimbursed monthly/quarterly by KACD.

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

- Mr. Crystal Renfro has been representing KACD at the Kentucky Farm Bureau AgriTech Discussion Group which includes all commodity groups in Kentucky.
- Working with Districts who are interested in the 75/25 TA Grant. Answering questions and working on figures for hiring this new staff.
- KACD sent a thank you letter to all Legislators for their support for Conservation Districts during the 2020 Budget Session
- The KACD Foundation can now receive donations from Amazon Smile. Please choose them to be your recipient when shopping on Amazon.
- New Flickr Page
- 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.
 - NRCS is wrapping up their Fiscal year that ends September 30th.
 - Spoke about the recent agreement signed between NRCS and KACD.
- **KY Division of Conservation** – Ms. Paulette Akers updated the board on these items:
 - The Governor’s Conference on Energy & Environment will be held Oct 13& 14th virtually.
 - The DOC is working to pay out and finalize the 2017 State Cost Share Projects.
- **Department for Natural Resources** –
- **Farm Service Agency** – Mr. Travis Chick updated the board on these items:
 - FSA programs update
 - Their offices are open but still not customer facing, and unsure of when this status will change.
- **Energy and Environment Cabinet** –
- **KY Division of Forestry** –
- **Kentucky Department of Agriculture** –
- **KACDE** – Ms. Kayleigh Evans updated the board on these items:
 - Art & Writing tabloids have been printed and they are getting those out to the Districts
 - KACDE will hold their Annual Business session via Zoom on September 29th
- **Governor’s Office of Ag Policy** – Mr. Dorsey Ridley updated the board on these items:
 - Introduction as the new Executive Director of GOAP

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lenville Martin at 11:10 am. Motion seconded by Dr. Ernie Ezell. **Motion carried, meeting adjourned.**

Next KACD Board Meeting –

- November 19, 2020 9:30am Zoom Meeting