

## MEETING MINUTES

### Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts &

### Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts Foundation

November 18, 2021

### Electronic Zoom Meeting

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In Attendance: Mr. Shane Wells, President; Mr. Allan Bryant, Vice President; Mr. David Rowlett, Past President; Mr. Steve Coleman; Mr. Rod Murphy; Mr. Doug Hensley; Mr. Roy Reynolds; Dr. Ernie Ezell; Mr. Rhodes Hester; and Mr. Jeff Rice, NACD Representative

Also, in Attendance: Mr. Scott Schneider, NRCS State Engineer; Mr. Steve Kull, KDF; Ms. Natalie Browning, President, KACDE; Ms. Leann Waters, Accountant; 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 – September 9th** – Mr. Steve Coleman made a motion to approve minutes from the meetings, and Mr. Allan Bryant, seconded the motion to approve. **Motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report** – The KACD Treasurer's Report was presented with copies emailed. Mr. Ted Jessup 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. Steve Coleman. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Mr. Steve Coleman to pay National Envirothon Dues for 2022. Seconded by Mr. Jeff Rice. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Mr. Roy Reynolds to donate \$250 to the SE Region Employees Association Meeting. Seconded by Mr. Doug Hensley. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Mr. Steve Coleman to pay KACDE Dues for 2022. Seconded by Mr. Jeff Rice. **Motion Carried.**

A motion was made by Mr. Steve Coleman to pay Ms. Terri Shaw \$595 for her assistance throughout the year. Seconded by Mr. Doug Hensley. **Motion carried.**

A motion was made by Mr. Steve Coleman to approve the quarterly time reports for Mr. Crystal Renfro. Seconded by Mr. Allan Bryant. **Motion carried.**

### **Correspondence** –

- A letter was received from the Simpson County Conservation District expressing a concern about their NRCS office being closed in the future. After discussions with NRCS, KACD has tabled this letter until more information is received in the future.

**Accounting Update-** Ms. Leann Waters met with the board to discuss the accounting procedures of KACD and KACDF. Due to our Federal Grant KACDF is required to file more complex reports with the IRS as well as an annual audit once we start to receive over \$750,000 per year. Ms. Waters is going to plan a meeting with Ms. Crystal Renfro and Mr. Steve Coleman to start organizing our records in the manner they will need for the more complex reports. This meeting will take place in early 2022.

A motion was made by Mr. Rhodes Hester to have the Executive Committee move forward with Ms. Waters to start this process. Seconded by Mr. Roy Reynolds. **Motion carried.**

**NACD Director's Report** - Mr. Jeff Rice updated the board about these items:

- NACD Annual Meeting will be February 12-16 in Orlando, FL
  - A motion was made by Mr. Roy Reynolds to pay for the travel of any Directors wishing to attend. Seconded by Mr. Doug Hensley. **Motion carried.**
  - A motion was made by Mr. Steve Coleman to have Jeff acquire an auction item for the NACD Annual Meeting not to exceed \$250. Seconded by Mr. Allan Bryant. **Motion carried.**
- The NACD SE Region HOF inductee needs to be determined earlier than usual to make sure the recipient has the required documents to travel to the Puerto Rico meeting.

**KACD Auxiliary Report** – Ms. Lisa Mullins was unavailable.

#### **2022 KACD Area Spring Meetings**

- KACD will move forward with a plan for hybrid spring meetings.
- KACD Directors will oversee finding a location and date for their meeting. An agenda will be formed to be consistent for each area.
  - One agenda topic discussed was watershed dams.
- Crystal will forward out a list of counties in each of the areas for the Directors to reference. They are going to reach out to each county in hopes of having a quorum in each meeting, and especially in those who have a Soil and Water Conservation Commission appointment nomination.

#### **KACD Legislative Items-**

- A motion was made by Mr. Ted Jessup to send out the KACD Legislative Priority Fact Sheet out to the districts along with a list of statute changes KACD is trying to make. Seconded by Mr. David Rowlett. **Motion carried.**
- The KACD Agriculture Legislative Reception was discussed with the dates of January 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> on the table. A motion was made by Mr. Ted Jessup to allow the Executive Committee to move forward on this event. Seconded by Mr. Jeff Rice. **Motion carried.**

#### **KACD/NRCS TA Grant Program**

- We currently have 25 partner technicians in the field.
- KACD is still looking for 25 additional employees.
- We have 3 newly interested counties that we are starting to work with.
- A new Employee Handbook was developed by NRCS for these partner employees. This is a wonderful document that we feel will be very useful for the current and upcoming new 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.

- New PDF software was purchased to help with the 75/25 monthly reports.
- We will be working on a new format for the standing committees for next year. If anyone has any ideas on how to make them more uniform, we are very open to ideas.

### **Agency Comments**

- **Natural Resources Conservation Service** – Mr. Scott Schnider updated the board on these items:
  - NRCS has hired 25 new employees
  - The EQIP program has \$20 million available for Kentucky
  - NRCS has had a record breaking year with their CSP and EQIP Programs.
- **KY Division of Conservation** –
- **Department for Natural Resources** –
- **Farm Service Agency** –
- **Energy and Environment Cabinet** –
- **KY Division of Forestry** – Mr. Steve Kull updated the board on these items:
  - Updates on trees seedling sales: to date 77 Conservation Districts have ordered a total of 120,000+ trees.
- **Kentucky Department of Agriculture** –
- **KACDE** – Ms. Natalie Browning updated the board on these items:
  - The KACDE Board is looking for a new location for their Annual Meeting.
  - Discussed hosting regional meetings in the spring for employee training.
- **KYFB** –
- **KOAP** –

**Adjournment** - A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Roy Reynolds at 11:51pm. Motion seconded by Mr. Allan Bryant. **Motion carried, meeting adjourned.**

### **Next KACD Board Meeting** –

- January 24, 2022 9:00am Eastern Time.