



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**April 29, 2015 – 9:30 A.M.**  
**Camp Wood, Elmdale, Kansas**

**Board of Directors Present**

Bill Simshauser, President  
Bevin Law, Vice President  
Allen Roth, Secretary-Treasurer  
Ron Brown, Director  
Jerry Clasen, Director

**Guests Present**

Eric Banks, State Conservationist, NRCS  
Scott Carlson, Assistant Director, DOC  
Wayne Lukert, Supervisor, Shawnee County  
Larry Biles, Kansas State Forester  
Gayla Speer, KACD Employees Organization  
Tom Meeks, KACD Youth and Education Committee/Envirothon

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by president William Simshauser at 9:30 a.m. at Camp Wood near Cottonwood Falls, Kansas.

**ADDITIONS TO THE MEETING AGENDA**

Allen Roth moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Ron Brown and the motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ron Brown moved to accept the minutes of the February 24, 2015 meeting; Jerry Clasen seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Bevin Law moved to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2015 meeting; Ron Brown seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Allen Roth moved to approve the minutes of the November 23 and November 25, 2014 meetings during convention; Jerry Clasen seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Jim Krueger presented the budget and financial documents for the period of January 1, 2015 through April 29, 2015. Allen Roth moved to approve the financial reports; Jerry Clasen seconded the motion and the motion carried. Jim reported that 12 counties have

not paid their dues as of April 29<sup>th</sup> and 29 counties had paid the maximum club dues. He discussed with the board the education grants that KACD had been doing with counties needing assistance in order to acquire an understanding of established procedure for handling the requests.

### **SCC REPORT**

Scott Carlson, Department of Agriculture Department of Conservation, (DOC) Assistant Director reported on activities at the DOC. They met with the State Conservation Commission Board on April 13<sup>th</sup> and were honored with the presence of Jackie McClaskey, Secretary of Agriculture, where a healthy discussion was held regarding how the conservation districts of Kansas and their organizations could work together with the Department of Agriculture to provide benefits for all of Kansas Agriculture. One item specifically discussed was working with the Ag Marketing section of the department to assist in disseminating information to the agricultural media of Kansas. Scott reported that Megan Brown had been hired as a new program coordinator to assist Dave Jones in office reviews. Megan will be covering the South half of Kansas and Dave will cover the North half. They will each try to review 15 counties per year. Scott reported that the Annual Financial Review checklist presented at the Spring Meetings had been approved and will be used this year. Scott reported that the Spring Workshops had a total attendance of 238 people, including 70 supervisors. A discussion of several RCPP projects was discussed that various partners are working on. The DOC is interested in the program as more information on the mechanics of the program is available. Scott reported that the Poultry Litter program had minimal participation in Southeast Kansas. He also provided a legislative update for the board. Scott also reported on a project they are cooperating in with Kansas State University and Teeter Irrigation for five irrigation demonstration sites in western Kansas.

### **NRCS REPORT**

Eric Banks, NRCS State Conservationist presented a report including new hires, reassignments, and retirements. Eric reported on the Local Support Structure, (LSS) reorganization the NRCS was conducting including that Gaye Benfer is now the Assistant State Conservationist for Management and Strategy, (ASTC-MS) and Loren Graff is now the Financial Resource Specialist on Gaye's staff. The Public Affairs position has been advertised, closed, and the appointment is pending. He reported the Kansas NRCS budget is in good shape for fiscal 2015. Eric reported on program activities in the Conservation Stewardship Program, the Easement Programs, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Watershed Rehabilitation Program. Eric reported on activities of the different technical sections of the state office staff. He added that Lody Black from Clay Center is the winner of USDA's NRCS National Earth Team Individual Award.

### **KACD EO REPORT**

Gayla Speer, (EO) presented at the meeting representing Patti Winters, KACD Employees Organization President to present the EO Report. She reported on the many Earth Day activities and stewardship activities conducted by the county conservation districts in Kansas. She reminded the board of the statewide KACD EO meeting being held in Manhattan on May 5 and 6, 2015. So far they have 78 employees registered to attend. Speakers include Josh Roe from the Department of Conservation leading a discussion on grants, DeAnn Presley talking about soil health and Kathy Musec talking about pollinators. Tours are planned for the new Department of Conservation office in

Manhattan and the Plant Materials Center near Manhattan. She added that KACD EO would be working the State Fair booth on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 prior to their next meeting on September 17.

### **KACD Youth and Education/Envirothon Committee**

Tom Meek, representing the KACD Youth and Education Committee and KACD Envirothon stopped by the meeting to report on their activities. Tom reported that they had three regional trainings in preparation for the state contest. Locations were Wilson, Red Rock and Council Grave. Tom presented a financial report for the Envirothon. Next year will be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Envirothon in Kansas. This year's national contest will be held in Springfield, Missouri. Liability insurance for the Envirothon was discussed with the board and was covered this year by the Envirothon Committee. Tom and Jim reported on activities of the Youth and Education Committee including raising the prize money for the speech contest to \$1,000 for first, \$500 for second, and \$250 each for the next three places. The top essay will be awarded \$50 and another \$50 will be awarded in travel expenses if the winner agrees to read the essay at the KACD convention. Three \$500 college scholarships were awarded.

### **Kansas Forestry Report**

Larry Biles, Kansas State Forester, provided a forestry activities report including the RCPP grant received in the amount of \$13 million in providing riparian forestry practices above federal reservoirs over five years. Ten area riparian assessments have been completed with several more to be completed. Larry reported they hope to have a signing ceremony sometime in May and then have a series of local level meeting to get the program rolling. The program will allow them to add several foresters in the area with each forester in the eastern 50 Kansas counties covering six counties each. Larry also reported that the Conservation trees program ends on May 6<sup>th</sup>. They are in the process of adding a new building and Kansas Forestry to house more trees next year.

### **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Allen Roth reported that he had been in contact with the Endowment Committee and that \$3,500 had been donated in honor of Pat Lehman for a memorial in his name.

Ron Brown reported that Jeremy Peters had been Chief Financial Officer for NACD, then appointed as acting director and now has been confirmed as the new Executive Director of NACD. He also reported that John McDonald is the new NACD treasurer and the financial statement for NACD shows they are in fair shape. However, dues collection is lagging behind last year's numbers. A review of those counties in Kansas who had paid NACD dues was reviewed. Ron also reported that he had been able to visit all of the national legislative delegation during the recent NACD Fly-in.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Leopold Conservation Award**

Jim led a discussion on the Leopold Award through the Sand County Foundation in cooperation with the Ranchland Trust of Kansas. Several possible application reviewers were discussed. Jim said he would contact the other partners to determine if additional judges are needed and to follow through on the board's suggestions. It was also discussed that more news releases and advertising of the award needs to be made. Jim will ensure the news release gets to agricultural related outlets such as Grass & Grain,

High Plains Journal, Kelly Lenz and John Jenkinson. Jim will also get a copy of the news release to Scott Carlson and he will assist in getting it out through the Department of Agriculture's public relations department.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Jim reviewed correspondence received from NACD regarding the recruitment of three Soil Health Champions in each state. The three would assist as a resource and mentor for others who are considering activities to improve soil health including no-till and cover crops. These individuals would work through their local conservation district to assist other producers in their area of the state. Each board member was asked to do some checking to see if they could come up with a list of possible producers to recruit for the positions.

The NACD Spokane, Washington meeting was discussed. Bill and Bevin both plan on attending. Jim will take care of making motel and plane reservations.

The 2016 Northern Plains NACD meeting was discussed at length. Allen Roth moved and Jerry Clasen 2<sup>nd</sup> that it be held in Wichita at the Hilton on June 6,7, & 8, 2016. Motion carried. Possible tour stops could include Equis Beds, Cheney Lake project, and soil health stops. Bevin Law moved and Jerry Clasen 2<sup>nd</sup> that if Wichita Hilton was not available to have the meeting in Manhattan, Kansas as an alternative site. Motion carried.

President Bill Simshauser read a thank you from NACD regarding the donation of the sign to the NACD auction. A discussion was held regarding an auction item for the 2016 NACD meeting. Ron Brown stated he would talk to someone he knows about donating a hunting or fishing trip.

After a discussion of appropriate dress for the KACD board members at meetings Ron Brown moved and Jerry Clasen 2<sup>nd</sup> that short sleeve hunter green shirts be purchased for the board members and executive director. Motion carried.

The date for the joint KACD and DOC/SCC meeting has been set for August 8 & 9, 2015 to be held in Norton. The KACD fall meetings will then follow on August 11, 12, 13, 18, & 19, 2015 in locations to be determined. Larry Biles stated that they would like 60 minutes on the program in each area. They will discuss windbreak renovation and the crop study in the western areas and riparian forestry in the east. DOC and NRCS would each like 30 minutes on the program for their reports. Jim and Scott will contact KDHE to see if they would like 60 minutes on the program to discuss the new Low Interest Loan program for conservation. Other ideas for the program discussed were water quality listings on streams and the effect conservation has had on the listings, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks programs, Prairie Chicken listing in the west, and resolutions from the meetings for action at convention. Jim was instructed to make reservations for the joint meeting in Norton for the board.

Bevin Law moved and Allen Roth seconded that the KACD Envirothon Committee be authorized to use the KACD tax identification number for conducting their business. Motion carried. Bevin Law moved and Jerry Clasen seconded that a \$750 donation be made to the KACD Envirothon committee. Motion carried.

After considerable discussion about the activities and in some cases lack of activities of

some of the KACD committees, Jim was instructed to send a letter to all of the committee chairs to remind them of their duties and obligations as committee chairs. This communication should include encouragement for activities throughout the year, assistance with determining break out sessions at the KACD convention and determining the need for specific resolutions to be addressed at convention.

The board then conducted a discussion of possible breakout sessions topics for the KACD convention. Jim was authorized to follow up with those ideas and determine the breakout sessions and acquire the appropriate speakers for those sessions.

The KACD at their last meeting joined the OUT on the Land network. They would like to send a letter to all Kansas conservation districts to solicit their membership. Jim was instructed to contact Out on the Land to see if they would make a presentation on their program at convention.

The Pat Lehman memorial award proposal and qualifications from Robin Lehman was discussed. The board gave Jim several recommendations to discuss with Robin and to coordinate with her the final qualification criteria to be used for the award to be given beginning at the 2015 KACD convention.

The board discussed the official KACD logo and recommend that Jim develop a draft new logo for board approval. Jim will develop several ideas based on the boards input and submit to the board for their approval.

At 3:15 p.m. Bevin Law moved and Jerry Clasen moved that the board go into executive session to discuss the contract with the Executive Director. Motion carried. At 3:30 p.m. the executive session closed with no action taken during the executive session.

Bevin Law then moved and Jerry Clasen seconded that the contract with Jim Krueger, Executive Director, be approved through December 30, 2015. At that time a new contract will be negotiated on a calendar year basis.

Ron Brown moved that KACD authorize mileage to Wayne Lukert as he was requested this board meeting to assist with procedures in bring on a new executive director; Allen Roth 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and the motion carried.

### **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

Bill Simshauser reported the next meeting will be August 9 & 10, 2015, in Norton, KS, in conjunction with SCC/DOC meeting.

### **ADJOURN**

Ron Brown moved and Allen Roth seconded the motion to adjourn at 3:45 p.m. Motion carried.