



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 24, 2015 – 10:00 a.m.
Culinaria , 512 E. 9th, Suite A, Lawrence, Kansas

Directors Present

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

Guests Present

Greg Foley, DOC
Scott Carlson, DOC
Gaye Benfer, NRCS
Gayla Speer, KACD EO Board of Directors
Wayne Lukert, Shawnee County CD

Call to Order

President Bill Simshauser called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Additions to the Agenda

President Bill Simshauser added an executive session as item 15 of the agenda, following the setting of the date for the next board meeting. The amended agenda was approved 5-0.

Approval of Minutes

Executive Director Robin Lehman reported that she had been unable to locate the minutes of the two meetings of the Board of Directors held at the KACD Convention in November. Gayla Speer said that Patti Winters usually takes notes at the board meetings. She might be able to share those so minutes can be created. Robin will check with Patti.

Financial Report

Executive Director Robin Lehman presented the financial report, including year-to-date budget income and expenses and the check register from January 1–February 24, 2015. She noted that a check register for the money market account had not been provided in the past, but she will get bank statements for that account from Sunflower Bank and create a check register for the next meeting. She did, however, recommend that that account be moved to Emprise Bank, where the main checking account is maintained so that funds could be moved between those accounts more

easily. Allen Roth asked if the reason Pat had set those up at two separate banks had to do with ensuring that all KACD funds were FDIC-insured. Robin will check to be sure they would be covered if they are housed at the same bank before moving the money market account.

Robin asked if any of the board members knew about the KACD Endowment Fund since that appears to be an account supervised by the Endowment Committee. Wayne Lukert read passages from the KACD Policies and Procedures Handbook pertaining to the Endowment Fund. Robin will check with Lyman Nuss of Russell County, who chairs the Endowment Committee, to get an update on this fund. Ron Brown mentioned that Jon Starns has been the board's representative on the Endowment Committee, and since he no longer serves on the board, he should be replaced. Allen Roth volunteered to serve on that committee. Bevin Law moved to appoint Allen Roth to the Endowment Committee. Motion seconded by Ron Brown. Motion carried. Allen will go meet with Lyman Nuss and Donna Fay Major, committee secretary to gain information about the fund.

Ron Brown moved to accept the financial report. Seconded by Jerry Clasen. Motion carried.

SCC/DOC Report

DOC Executive Director Greg Foley reported that the Kansas House of Representatives is working the budget according to the Governor's recommendations. It includes a ten-percent reduction in funding for conservation districts. This reduction would come from the Water Fund, which is entirely fee-funded and does not include EDIF or SGF funds.

Greg gave an in-depth report on all legislative measures currently being considered, as well as a Kansas Water Vision update. The Vision Team includes the Kansas Water Office, the Kansas Department of Agriculture, and the Kansas Water Authority. He also reported that the SCC held a strategic planning meeting in Manhattan on Monday, February 23rd, to discuss the organizational structure of the State Conservation Commission. The meeting was attended by all KACD board members except Jerry Clasen.

Scott Carlson, Mined Land Reclamation Program Manager at DOC, presented the District Supervisor Monthly Board Meeting Financial Management Checklist developed by the Kansas Department of Agriculture's Municipal Accounting Division. It is designed to ensure better oversight by local supervisors to avoid possible embezzlement or other cases of mismanagement of funds. The document was shared with the KACD EO board in order to elicit feedback. Patti Winters, EO President, sent an email to Scott on February 12th with a compilation of comments from the EO board. Reviews were mixed. This topic will be discussed at the Spring Workshops beginning next week.

Scott also provided a set of guidelines pertaining to the use of credit and debit cards. The guidelines also were developed by the KDA's Municipal Accounting Division.

Scott suggested that financial management training should become a regular feature at the KACD Convention. DOC could do a breakout session on this annually, or this topic could be presented at the Tuesday morning breakfast to be sure everyone attending the convention has an opportunity to participate. Since currently only 12 percent of supervisors attend area meetings, there are many who are not aware of their fiduciary responsibility.

Next, Scott talked about the Kansas Conservation Partnership (KACD, KACD-EO, DOC, and NRCS) joining Agriland. The KCP will bring volunteers to the table, including more people available from the Kansas Department of Agriculture. Other volunteers will include supervisors and district employees, whose shifts will be coordinated by Rush County CD District Manager Stephanie Royer, and NRCS, whose shifts will be coordinated by Sheila Forrester.

No action by the KACD board was necessary.

NRCS Report

Gaye Benfer attended the meeting in place of Eric Banks and gave the NRCS report. She handed out a sheet giving highlights of NRCS activities. No action by the KACD board was necessary.

KACD EO Report

Gayla Speer attended the meeting in place of Patti Winters and gave the EO report. She said that most conservation district annual meetings are now over. Quite a few EO's attended the NACD Convention in New Orleans.

The next EO meeting will be held in Manhattan on May 5th and 6th. She also reported that Envirothon will be held April 29th near Emporia.

Board Member Reports/Old Business

NACD Convention – Bill Simshauser announced that Kansas received two awards at the NACD Convention. One was for the number of supervisors who have completed supervisor training (about 280) and the other was for being in the Top 10 for using the NACD Marketplace.

Out on the Land Program – Bevin Law talked about the Out on the Land program that is aired on the RFD network and suggested that KACD should agree to provide the requested partnership support of \$150. The program is based in Peaster, Texas, and presents a weekly, half-hour, nationally broadcast conservation program to inform people about conservation districts, conservation assistance, and conservation results and outcomes that benefit us all. He moved that KACD send a check for \$150 to this program to become a conservation partner. Seconded by Allen Roth. Motion carried.

NACD – Ron Brown, KACD director who serves on the Executive Board of NACD, reported that NACD CEO John Larson has resigned. Jeremy Peters, current representative to the Northern Plains Region, will serve as interim CEO. Deb Bogar, who is the former Northern Plains Region representative, will step back into that role on an interim basis.

Ron said that NACD is expected to be the go-to group for Title II of the Farm Bill, which is the conservation section.

Ron was re-elected to the Northern Plains Region board and will serve his final two-year term. He will chair the Stewardship Education Committee during his term.

He talked about how both he and former KACD Executive Director Pat Lehman had received some flak for not notifying winners of the Don Rezac Memorial Award and Area Supervisor of the Year awards ahead of time to ensure that they would be in attendance at the annual awards banquet at the convention. Robin concurred that this was something Pat mentioned often and felt that he wasn't at liberty to reveal the winners ahead of time. The board suggested that district managers in the counties of winners be notified ahead of time so they can encourage award recipients to attend the convention.

There was also discussion about the unfortunate situation of not honoring supervisors who had served for decades on their local boards. Two names that were mentioned as examples were JD Cameron and Lyle Newby. Robin suggested that KACD establish a Legacy Award. Bevin moved, and Jerry Clasen seconded, that a Legacy Award be established to be presented at the annual awards banquet. Motion carried. The criteria for the award will be developed for presentation at the next board meeting.

Leopold Conservation Award – Ron Brown is the KACD representative on the group establishing the Leopold Conservation Award in Kansas. He reported that the Memorandum of

Understanding between the Sand County Foundation, the Ranchland Trust of Kansas, and KACD is ready to be signed and executed.

Washington Fly-In – The Washington Fly-In will be held March 17th & 18th. Since Ron will be attending on behalf of the NACD Board, he will also represent KACD in his meetings with our congressional delegation and/or their staff. If there are specific points the board would like to express, a list of talking points can be developed.

KACD Convention – Robin said that Pat had intended to discuss with the board at its January 20th meeting the situation of supervisors and employees attending convention meals without registering for the convention. He was very concerned about that practice detracting from convention income, which is vital to the financial health of KACD. He believed KACD members should not be allowed to attend meals if they are not registered. The board concurred. Only invited guests will be allowed to attend meals without being registered for the convention. The board also discussed a one-day attendance fee, but it was decided that it could create the possibility of more people opting for that and thus potentially decreasing convention income significantly. Since the convention technically only lasts a day and a half, it doesn't make good sense to offer a one-day registration option.

KACD Committees – Wayne Lukert, chairman of the District Operations & Resolutions Committee, suggested that the KACD committees chose the breakout sessions for the convention, not just invite speakers for their own committees. No action was taken. He also said that new committee guidelines need to be added to the KACD Policies & Procedures Handbook.

New Business

Northern Plains Region Meeting – Bill Simshauser reported that the 2015 Northern Plains Region Meeting will be held June 8-10 in Minot, ND. He, Ron, and Bevin are planning to attend (Ron's travel will be paid by NACD).

The 2016 Northern Plains Region Meeting will be held in Kansas. Board members agreed that it would probably be best to do it in Wichita again. They will decide the location at the April 29th meeting and the specific dates (sometime during the first two weeks of June) so it can be announced at this year's Northern Plains Region Meeting.

Continuation of Auction Item at NACD Convention – Bill asked board members if KACD should continue to provide an auction item at the NACD Convention. They agreed that we should. Ron said he would check with a friend to see if he'll donate a turkey or deer hunt. Other suggestions were also discussed.

MRRIC Invoice – Robin said she received an invoice for \$150 for KACD's participation in the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC), a federal advisory committee. Ron moved to pay the invoice, seconded by Bevin. Motion carried.

Pat Lehman Memorial Scholarship – Robin reported to the board that donations totaling \$3,235 had been received into the KACD Endowment Fund in memory of Pat. She said she and her family were considering the establishment of a scholarship. She will speak with Lyman Nuss, chairman of the Endowment Committee about this and what the possible criteria for the scholarship would be.

Next Board Meeting

President Bill Simshauser reported that the next meeting of the KACD Board of Directors would be held in Emporia on April 29th in conjunction with Envirothon. Gayla Speer will request a

meeting room for the board meeting; Gaye Benfer said that the NRCS Field Office at Emporia could also provide a meeting space if necessary.

Executive Session

The guests departed so the KACD board could go into executive session to discuss the executive director role. The executive session lasted nearly two hours. At the end, the board voted unanimously to offer the executive director position to Jim Krueger since Robin wishes to be relieved of those duties.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by President Bill Simshauser at 4:00 p.m.