



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 24, 2008
State Conservation Commission Boardroom, Topeka, KS

Board of Directors Present:

LaVern Wetzel, President
Gene Albers, Vice President
Ronald Brown, Secretary/Treasurer
Jon Starns, Director
Bevin Law, Director
Pat Lehman, Executive Director

Guests Present:

Scott Carlson, Assistant Director, State Conservation Commission
Astor Boozer, Acting State Conservationist, NRCS
Gayla Speer, District Manager, Johnson County, President Employee Organization

Meeting Called to Order:

LaVern Wetzel, President, called the meeting to order at 9:10 am at the State Conservation Commission Boardroom, Topeka, Kansas. There were no introductions of guests.

Approval of Agenda:

Jon Starns moved to approve the agenda as presented. Gene Albers seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes:

Ron Brown pointed out that the call letters for the radio station in Pittsburgh, Kansas, are KKOW, not KOWA as were in the minutes. Ron mentioned that in the latest Kansas Farmer Magazine there were three different articles about the convention and a picture of the speech contest winners. There was also a story about Secretary Mike Hayden's speech during the SCC luncheon on Monday. Ron moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Gene Albers seconded. Motion approved.

Financial Report and Convention Update:

Lehman reported the check register presented was up-to-date and that the association was receiving dues in response to invoices that had been sent out at the first of the year. He added a column for the optional amount that had been included in the dues statement to help pay for the legislative lunch. To this point, the association has

received \$800 from districts toward the cost of the lunch. Lehman reported that he has made quite a few reimbursements from the convention to districts and individuals that paid registration but did not attend. For cancellations made before the convention, he returned the registration fee right away. There were packets that were assembled for no-shows, and Lehman recently reimbursed their registration costs. A little over \$60,000 was taken in for the convention, so from a financial standpoint it was a substantial increase over last year – even though NRCS last year paid more than \$11,000 and this year, with fewer attendees, they paid around \$2,000. Charging the district managers did account for the increased revenue. Expenses were a little over \$31,000, but that also includes all the reimbursements. It is Pat's opinion that we need to come up with a refund policy for the convention. He will talk to other associations to find out what their refund policies are. The board and guest discussed many aspects about the convention with the general agreement was that it went well but there are some areas and some changes that need to be addressed.

The association's CD reaches maturity on August 1st and a new CD will be needed at that time. The interest from the CD amounts to about \$500 a month, which is transferred automatically to the savings account. The savings account currently has a balance of \$7,129.28. At some point the board will have to make decisions about the use of this money, so we need to devise a plan for its distribution. Ron Brown moved to approve the financial report. Gene Albers seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business

Liability Insurance for Envirothon:

Lehman reported that he had gotten a bid for the liability insurance to cover the Kansas Envirothon and three preliminary events. He had been told yesterday that there would probably be four preliminary events so the bid may be higher than what has been quoted by about \$65. Lehman said he would get more information from Envirothon representatives at the NACD Convention. Bevin Law moved to buy liability insurance with a \$500 cap. Jon Starns seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Strategic Plan:

Lehman reported he has not made an attempt to contact others to submit bids for development of a strategic plan. The legislative session is just starting and his involvement with that limits his ability to pursue this at the present time. He will issue a request for bids in several months.

NACD Convention:

All board members are planning to attend the NACD Convention in Reno, Nevada, in February. Reservations for the convention and the hotel have been made and board members are responsible for making their own travel reservations.

Donation to Olin Simms Memorial:

Jon Starns moved to send \$300 to the 509 Capitol Court Campaign Fund in memory of Olin Simms. Ron Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Conservation Day at the Capitol:

We had a good turnout with informative displays on the first floor. We fed more than 400 legislators and staff at the lunch and received many comments of appreciation.

New Business

Kansas State Fair:

The KACD pays the bills associated with the fair booth for the three partners. The payment to reserve the space at the fair is due by February 15. Ron Brown moved to send payment to the State Fair. Gene Albers seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Kansas Ag Alliance-Kansas Wheat Commission:

The Kansas Wheat Commission made a presentation to the Alliance and indicated they are introducing a bill in the legislature to increase the wheat check-off from one cent to two cents. They asked the Ag Alliance for support. The request was presented last Tuesday and will be taken up next Tuesday. Lehman said if KACD has any objection to the increase we can state that at the next Alliance meeting. Ron Brown moved to support the increase at the Alliance meeting. Bevin Law seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Request from Wayne Lukert:

The Kansas Cooperative Council will conduct a Director Development Program February 18 and 19, 2008. Wayne Lukert asked the association to pay his registration to attend this program. Jon Starns commented that he felt Wayne goes beyond the call of duty for KACD, and since we are not funding the committees of KACD properly, he moved that we pay for the registration for Wayne Lukert to attend this training. Gene Albers seconded the motion. Motion approved.

KACD Representative Appointed to the Kansas Water Authority:

The Governor is to appoint the KACD representative to the Kansas Water Authority. Don Paxson is currently in the position and is willing to be reappointed. Jon Starns moved to submit Don Paxson's name with the board's unanimous choice that Mr. Paxson be reappointed to the Water Authority. Bevin Law seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SCC Report:

Scott Carlson, assistant director of SCC, reported that the schedule for the spring workshop is as follows: Area IV, March 4 in Topeka; Area V, March 5 in Iola at the North Community Building; Area III, March 6 in Salina; Area II, March 11 in Garden City; and Area I, March 12 in Hays. No action was taken by the board.

NRCS Report:

Astor Boozer, acting state conservationist, presented the NRCS report. Recent retirements at NRCS include Harold Klaege, Salina; Jeffrey Hart, Salina; Lonnie Miller, Lawrence; George Cole, Meade; Tim Watson, Elkhart; L. Martin Soffran, Salina; and John Ourada, Salina.

The Kansas Natural Resources Conference (KNRC) is scheduled for February 21-23, 2008, at the Airport Hilton, Wichita. The theme of the conference is "Where do trees belong in Kansas: The role of trees on the Kansas landscape?"

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2009 (October 2008), NRCS in each state will be charged \$3,000 for each computer being used. There are 69 extra computers after allowing one computer for each CD. We will need to determine how to cover the costs of the other computers. There are several options (reimbursement, contribution agreements,

disconnect from the NRCS system, etc.) that need to be discussed and a solution determined prior to the end of the fiscal year. No action was taken by the board.

EO Report:

Gayla Speer, president of the Employees Organization, gave her report to the board. No action by the board.

Next Meeting:

The next KACD Board Meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2008, at Burlington, Kansas, the same day as the state Envirothon. It has not been confirmed at this point but Envirothon is scheduled to be held in Coffey County at The John Redmond Reservoir. The July meeting will be a joint meeting with the SCC Commissioners July 14, probably in Area II. The location will be determined.

Mileage Allowance:

Jon Starns pointed out that the IRS mileage rate had increased from \$.485 to \$.505. Jon moved that KACD pay the IRS mileage rate at all times. Gene Albers seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Adjournment:

LaVern welcomed Astor to Kansas. With no further business, Gene Albers moved to adjourn. Ron Brown seconded. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.