



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 27, 2016
Camp Wood, Elmdale, KS

Board of Directors Present

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

Guests Present

Wayne Lukert, District Operations Committee
Scott Carlson, KDA Division of Conservation
Bob Atchinson, Kansas State Forestry
Eric Banks, NRCS State Conservationist

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by president William Simshauser at 9:00 a.m. at Camp Wood near Elmdale, Kansas.

ADDITIONS TO THE MEETING AGENDA

Bevin Law moved to approve the agenda, Ron Brown second motion; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Allen Roth moved to accept the minutes of the January 17-18, 2016 meeting; 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, 2016 through April 27, 2016. Allen Roth moved to approve the financial reports. Bevin Law seconded the motion and the motion carried. Jim reported that 9 second dues notices had been mailed. Jim reported that 38 counties had paid Maximum Club dues and only one county had paid partial dues.

The balance of the Pat Lehman Memorial Fund was discussed with a balance of \$3918.05.

Kansas Forestry Report – Bob Atchinson

Bob presented to the board the annual Forestry Advisory Council report. He discussed the Ag Forestry Day to be held in Ness County on May 12th. He reported that tree sales had been very strong this year. Bob also reported that Andy Kline who is the forester assigned to the Kansas Department of Agriculture to work on stream bank stabilization project tree plantings had completed 27 plantings this spring. Bob reported that Kansas Forestry is supporting a Regional Conservation Protection Proposal (RCPP) on the Arkansas River to assist in removal of Tamarisk in riparian areas and replant with more suitable tree species. They also will be doing some peer to peer networking to promote riparian plantings.

Bob reported that the Kansas Forestry Association is the parent organization for the Kansas Tree Farm and Walnut Council awards. Bob requested that KACD in return for including KACD as a sponsoring agency, if they would be willing to present these two awards at the KACD convention banquet in November. Ron Brown moved and Bevin Law seconded the motion to cosponsor with KFS for the awards and that they be presented at the KACD convention banquet. Motion carried.

NRCS Report – Eric Banks, State Conservationist

Eric Banks, State Conservationist reported that 95% of Kansas counties now had LIDAR topography maps available to them to assist in planning. He discussed the perpetual easements that are offered through NRCS in the FRPP and GRP programs. President Bill Simshauser mentioned he had recently attended a meeting of the Natural Resources Coalition meeting in Garden City. That group is opposed to perpetual easements and has been trying to pass legislation that would limit the easements to county commissioner control in Kansas. To date they have not been successful. There followed a discussion with Eric Banks regarding the easement programs. Eric Banks' full report is attached.

KACD Employees Organization Report , Stephanie Royer, President

Area employee meetings are being planned with Area I on June 14-15, Area II on May 22, Area III in the fall, Area IV on May 9-10, and Area V in June. Stephanie discussed the Fescue Range Camp being planned on June 7-9 at Fort Scott. She reported that the KACD EO would be willing to assist in acquiring an auction item for the KACD convention banquet from each of the areas. She reported that the Soil Trailer from Miami County would be used this year at the state fair. The EO is again coordinating staffing of the trailer during the state fair.

Kansas Department of Agriculture Department of Conservation Report Scott Carlson, Assistant Director

Scott Carlson reported on several RCPP proposals that DOC is involved in. The main discussion centered around the Arkansas River RCPP. He shared an agreement between agencies and units of government in support of each others conservation efforts. It has been some time since it was signed and there is a push underway to do a reaffirmation of the agreement. Scott provided an update on legislative activities in Topeka.

Scott reported that long term employee Don Jones would be retiring in June and that Megan Green would be leaving as her husband took a position in another state after graduation. Scott shared the importance of KACD and conservation district involvement in the Kansas Water Office Regional Advisory Councils (RAC). These 14 watershed based groups will be making recommendation to the Kansas Water Office on how future state funds for conservation are allocated across the state and through what agency. This is where conservation districts currently get their state funding and an effort needs to be made to ensure that these funds are not funneled through another agency in the future.

Scott reported that the full Agri-land committee had recently met in preparations for the 2016 Kansas State fair displays. A new group has been added called Nutrients for Life. He reported that CSIMS was being updated to fix some issues.

RCPP Proposal from Kansas Alliance for Wetland and Streams – Dan Haines

Dan Haines, from KAWS presented a proposal to the KACD board for KACD to be the lead on the John Redman Soil Quality RCPP project. The project includes the drainage area above John Redman Reservoir in Lyon, Chase, Marion, Morris, and Coffee counties. The project would use producer networking, peer groups, and demonstration projects to promote soil quality and increase organic matter in the area through no-till and cover crops. This would hopefully increase infiltration rates and reduce runoff into the lake. The group has several contributing sponsors including Westar and Wolf Creek Nuclear Plant. The group wants KACD to submit the grant as the main sponsor for the project.

Area Fall Meetings Training – Wayne Lukert

Wayne Lukert, District Operations Committee Chairman, reviewed the Resolutions training that he will be providing at the KACD Fall meetings with the board and asked for input from the board. The board was agreeable with the content of the training. There will be approximately one hour for the presentation and then another hour for the break-out session where the groups will develop their resolutions. Bevin Law moved and Jerry Clasen seconded the motion to cover travel and motel costs for Wayne to present at all 5 area meetings. Motion carried. Jim was instructed to try to find another speaker to present at the areas meetings about some agricultural technology issues.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Bill Simshauser reported that he had attended the RAC for Arkansas Rivera area. The meeting did have conservation district representation. As part of the meeting they toured a dragon line irrigation system. He also discussed the Natural Resources Coalition meeting that he attended in Garden City. Discussion at that meeting centered around conservation easements, the WOTUS rule, the Missouri River Aqueduct, the idea of farmers selling solar and wind electricity generation to the utility companies along with using that power for irrigation. He reported that they had the Earth Balloon at the Deerfield and Lakin schools on April 7-8 for conservation education. He added that on April 19th they delivered 1570 trees for conservation plantings in the county and another 566 trees for Arbor day. On April 20th they had over 500 students at a conservation day in Garden City and another 1500 students at the Ark River Water Festival. KACD needs some new representatives on the Finance committee and he is working on that in his area.

Ron Brown thanked Bill and Bevin for their extra efforts made at the NACD convention regarding the Stewardship Committee issue. Ron provided information about his recent trip to Washington DC representing NACD. He reported that he was able to meet with all of the Kansas delegation. He is now the NACD delegate to RC&D councils and also met with that group while he was there. The NACD budget is about like normal, tight but sufficient. He said the summer NACD meeting is in Minnesota and the 2017 convention is in Denver. Ron reported that the 2016 NACD convention had \$16,000 in vendor income, and \$20,000 in auction income. He reported that Mary Price had resigned from NACD. NACD will now be doing their accounting in house rather than contracting it out. The 2016 Envirothon will be held in Canada with participants from 20+ states and the Republic of China.

Ron discussed the Fescue Range Youth Camp that will be held at Fort Scott on June 7-9. The camp has a \$120 tuition. They have been able to find sponsors for most of the meals and some of the other costs

Allen Roth reported that he attended two of RAC meetings in his area and that there was conservation district representation on those groups. He said he would work on finding someone for the finance committee.

Bevin Law reported on the Water Festivals held in Dickinson and Clay counties. He will be attending the RAC meetings in the future and has asked to be the replacement for Hank Royer who recently resigned from the Smoky Hill RAC. He reported that Clay County had two teams participating in the Envirothon. He stated that Trent Winter from his area is on the Finance committee and will continue to serve. He also recommended Nathan Larson from Riley County for the finance committee.

Jerry Clasen reported that Marion Krehbiel was honored as Supervisor of the year at the Reno County Conservation District Annual Meeting. He reported that Bevin and Jim had been to Hutchinson to meet with Howard and Lisa from the Cheney Lake project and himself to determine a tour for the NACD Northern Plains meeting. Bevin and Jim thanked Jerry for his assistance and the tour he led them on.

OLD BUSINESS

Jim was instructed to contact the Envirothon committee to check that it was agreeable that the insurance for the Envirothon events paid for by KACD would be considered as the KACD donation to the committee.

Bill mentioned that it will be KACD's turn to host the joint meeting with DOC and SCC next year and that it would be in his area. He suggested that we have a barbeque at his house, a tour of a commercial green house in his area that raises tomatoes and then have the meetings at the Clarion Hotel in Garden City.

The NACD Northern Plains summer meeting was discussed. Bill stated that it would be nice to have a slide show featuring Kansas's landscapes and conservation practices. Jim was instructed to try to make that happen. Jim reported that the Double Tree by Hilton in Wichita was contracted for the NACD Northern Plains meeting scheduled for June 6-8, 2016. Jerry Clasen with the assistance of the Cheney Lake Watershed staff

has a tour lined up.

NEW BUSINESS

The 2016 KACD convention structure was reviewed. It had been decided to have an opening session that would include posting of the flags, Star Spangled Banner, Roll Call by county, keynote speaker, Presidents report and Executive Directors reports before proceeding to the committee meetings on Monday morning. It was also decided to do the Area meetings as the last thing on Monday afternoon prior to the banquet rather than on Tuesday morning. On Tuesday morning we will have breakfast with a possible speaker and then go straight into the business meeting as a way to try to promote more participation in the business meeting. It was discussed and decided to have an auction prior to the banquet with an item from each area to be auctioned off. It was decided to do the entertainment again prior to the banquet. Jerry moved and Allen 2nd that Jim proceed to contract with Presentation Solutions for the IT assistance at convention.

Several income ideas for KACD were discussed including a 5K fun run, additional sponsorships including KDA, KOCH Industries, Great Plains and others. The dues structure for KACD was discussed. It was suggested that Jim meet with the Finance Committee this summer to review the budget, look at projecting next years budget, and consider making a recommendation to the dues structure.

Ron Brown moved and Bevin seconded the motion to proceed with being the lead sponsor on the John Redmond RCPP proposal. Motion carried. It was later decided to table the John Redmond RCPP proposal until next year to obtain better buy-in from all parties involved. The Monarch Butterfly RCPP Pre-proposal had been approved by NRCS that is being sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation and it includes Kansas with technical support dollars. The KACD is waiting on information on the RCPP proposal to determine its involvement.

Meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m. with the next meeting scheduled meeting being the joint meeting scheduled for August 7-8 in Garden City. The KACD board will all be present at the NACD Northern Plains meeting in Wichita on June 7-8.

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