



Kansas Association of Conservation Districts

Representing Local Conservation Districts

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Comfort Suites, 6213 SW 10th
January 20, 2017– 8:00 a.m.
Topeka, KS**

Board of Directors Present

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

Guests Present

Scott Carlson, KDA DOC
Rod Vorhees, SCC
John Wunder, SCC

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by president William Simshauser at 7:55 a.m. at the Comfort Suites, Topeka, Kansas.

ADDITIONS TO THE MEETING AGENDA

Jerry Clasen moved to approve the agenda, Bevin Law seconded motion; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alan Roth moved to accept the minutes of the September 15, 2016 meeting; Ron Brown 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 December 31, 2016. He also shared a revised budget for 2017. Jerry Clasen moved to approve the financial reports and 2017 budget. Allen Roth seconded the motion and the motion carried. Jim reported that 3 districts had not paid their dues, 2 had paid partial dues and 1 had paid ½ dues. Jim reported that 38 counties had paid Maximum Club dues.

Correspondence

Jim reported on correspondence regarding the Conservation Innovation Grant support letter for the John Redman sedimentation demonstration project and a letter requesting

support for the Land of Kansas, Kansas Department of Agriculture.

NRCS Report – Eric Banks, State Conservationist

Eric Banks, State Conservationist sent a written report.

KACD Employees Organization Report, Stephanie Royer, President

Stephanie emailed a written report.

Rod Vorhees & John Wunder, SCC

Rod shared that John and himself met with the Secretary of Agriculture. She is encouraging conservation districts to fill the vacancies that are developing in the Regional Advisory Committees of the Kansas Water Office. She also had some ideas on how to strengthen KACD and KDA. She offered the assistance of the KDA marketing Service to KACD to assist with getting the word out on the benefits of conservation districts. Both John and Rod felt that the Secretary could be an excellent advocate for KACD. The new KACD Executive Director should make contact with her and set up a time to visit with her.

John then shared a reaffirmation of what Rob had stated about support from KACD on legislative issues and then added that we need to continue our contact with legislatures and other state government agencies to keep the word of conservation in front of them. John suggested that we get more media coverage at convention including the Ag AM crew or Bill Spiegel and that KACD make a bigger effort in attending other organization board meetings such as Kansas Corn, Soybean, Wheat, Sorghum, Farm Bureau and others. KACD needs to have a persistent and consistent message to all partners and other Ag organizations.

They both suggested that KACD reinvent the legislative fair including a breakfast or lunch. KDA may be able to assist behind the scenes.

KDA/DOC Report, Scott Carlson

Scott reported that a recent Kansas Water Authority meeting it was recommended to not add any additional funds in aid to conservation districts. He said he felt that the Governor's Water Vision is probably dead on arrival at the legislature.

Scott reported on new employees in Stevens, Labette, and Haskell counties. He discussed the schedule for the spring meetings, (handout). There will be a catered meal at each meeting. They are hoping to have handouts sent to the districts prior to the meetings so they can be discussed with the board members who don't attend the spring workshops. He instructed KACD to talk about legislative issues, give updates on WRAPS, updates on KDHE, KWA and other conservation issues.

Scott said Agriland booth at the Kansas State Fair would include a conservation district recorded video explaining the content of the Soil Trailer. He also suggested a rainfall simulator demonstration at the governor's luncheon.

He reported that the DOC is working with CBEAR to develop narratives for the cost-share sign-up in the future. He also reported that the DOC is working on incorporating the Resolutions passed at the annual meeting into their policies.

Break 10:00 to 10:10

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Ron Brown shared that NRCS Chief, Jason Weller, held farewell meeting with NACD and others in Georgia. He talked things that their administration was proud of accomplishing such as value added and CRP changes. He recommended the districts get involved in soil health, cover crops, and incorporating them into conservation compliance. Ron shared that he felt the Leopold Award was not getting the national coverage that it deserved. He also participated in a Drought Tournament exercise with KDHE in Emporia. It was more about public water supply needs during an extreme drought.

Bill Simshauser thanked Ron for his years of service on the NACD and KACD boards and thanked Bevin for his willingness to serve on NACD. Bill shared that he had attended a Playa Lakes workshop. He stated that FSA is improving its program to provide financial assistance up to 100% cost-share assistance and payments up to \$300 per acre.

Allen asked if it would be possible to get a list from DOC of the vacancies in the RACs. He added that he was attending several CD Annual meetings in his area.

Jerry reported that he their district held an Annual Legislative Breakfast for legislatures and local government officials in their area with great attendance. They held it at the Dillion Nature Center and had 16 people attend. He recommended that more districts through out the state hold these types of functions with their local legislatures. This would be a good item to share at the spring meetings. He also shared that they are handing out at their annual meeting pollinator seed packets, pollinator information and a card with conservation district board contact information on it.

Bevin stated he was looking forward to his role as a NACD board member. He said they also had a legislative breakfast in November. Eric Carlson, Clay county district supervisor was elected county commissioner and will be stepping down as supervisor. Local funding for the Clay County conservation district has been very good. It is important to share with the county commissioners how their money is being spent and to be appreciative of their assistance.

OLD BUSINESS

NACD Auction item from Kansas will be the hunting trip as it was last year. Ron has everything taken care of.

Kansas resolutions to take to NACD were reviewed and discussed.

New Business

The Kansas House Ag committee has requested KACD to testify on February 7th in regards to what conservation districts are and what they do. Bill Siimshauser agreed to do the testimony and Jim and Bill will work it up and Jim will submit the written testimony as requested.

Bevin Law moved to set the 2017 mileage reimbursable rate at \$.535 per mile. Jerry Clasen 2nd the motion and motion carried.

No replacement for Jon Starns on the Kansas Water Authority has been selected. Bevin had talked to Ted Nighswonder about putting his name in but he declined. After much discussion it was moved by Jerry and second by Bevin to nominate Ron Brown for the position. (Note since last meeting – the Governors Appointment Secretary stated that three names must be submitted. As a result Ron Brown, Ted Nighswonder and Jim Krueger were submitted. Ted Nighswonder was selected.)

Sponsorship levels for KACD convention and event sponsors was discussed. It was agreed on that a handout be developed by the new executive director showing the different sponsorship levels and the benefits of each level. Suggested levels were: \$5000 and up, \$2500 - \$5000, \$1000 - \$750, \$750 - \$500, \$500 - \$250, and \$250 and below. Bevin Law moved and Jerry Clasen second to have this done, motion carried.

Bill Simshauser led a discussion about what are the benefits to a district for being a Maximum Club member. Several example ideas were discussed such as a discount at convention, more special recognition or other ways to give those members more recognition. It was decided to table this item until the September board meeting to discuss with the new executive director.

The board then spent some time reviewing the interview questions for the executive director position and the schedule of interviews to be completed.

Their being no further business Allen Roth moved and Ron Brown second motion to adjourn. The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the State Envirothon on April 26, 2017 near Claflin, KS.

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