



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**November 20, 2016**  
**Double Tree by Hilton**  
**Wichita Airport**

**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**

Eric Banks, NRCS State Conservationist  
Larry Biles, Kansas State Forester  
John Starns, Kansas Water Authority  
Dick Wendt, NACD 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President  
Scott Carlson, KDA DOC  
Stephanie Royer, KACD EO

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by president William Simshauser at 2:00 p.m. at the Double Tree by Hilton at the Wichita Airport, Wichita, Kansas.

**ADDITIONS TO THE MEETING AGENDA**

Allen Roth moved to approve the agenda, Jerry Clasen second motion; motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ron Brown moved to accept the minutes of the September 15, 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 November 17, 2016. Jerry Clasen moved to approve the financial reports. 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.

**NACD Report – Dick Wendt, NACD 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President**

Dick Wendt reported that NACD is waiting on the new administration to nominate a new Secretary of Agriculture. Plans for the Denver meeting are progressing well. They have a very good line-up of speakers. Bevin is up for election as the NACD Northern Plains representative. NACD finances are in much better shape this year. The Boot Camp program has been expanded to a five year commitment and the Urban Grant program has been a huge success. Dick shared that there is a lot of pressure from others to take over the job of putting conservation on the land and make conservation mandatory for producers. He shared that the Environmental Working Group is pushing for mandatory environmental compliance and they are well funded. Dick shared he would be at the whole convention and is willing to answer questions at any time.

### **NRCS Report – Eric Banks, State Conservationist**

Eric Banks, State Conservationist reviewed the personnel changes within the state of Kansas. He reported that NRCS is operating under a continuing resolution budget through December 9, 2016. NRCS is transferring vehicles to GSA vehicles. Sixty nine vehicles will be switched to GSA this year. He reported that CSP sign-up will run through February 3, 2017. The EQIP sign-up cut-off date was November 28. Kansas received \$18.9 million in funding for EQIP Several National Water Quality areas were added in Kansas. He reported that several EWP projects are on-going in Dickinson, Ottawa, Doniphan, Brown and Marion counties . See Eric's full report for details

### **KACD Employees Organization Report, Stephanie Royer, President**

EO met earlier today to finalize planning their annual meeting set for KACD Convention. The theme is "Guiding Conservation to a Brighter Future." EO plans on continuing their 50/50 raffle and Christmas Ornament Silent Auction. Each district is asked to bring an ornament or Christmas item to be raffled.

EO did approve one district scholarship for education to a district manager. Two scholarships are still available. There is an opportunity for a District Employee to hold the Northern Plains Regional Representative position within NCDEA. This position does require travel and not all expenses are covered within NCDEA so those would be based on your boards expense policy or out of your own pocket. Districts are to contact their EO Rep if interested in learning more. Stephanie reported that the EO was well represented at the Governor's Water Conference.

Each area provided a donated for the auction at the KACD banquet. She announced the KACD EO statewide meeting would be May 2 & 3, 2017 in Salina. She noted they are working with the State of Kansas on getting a Blue Cross/Blue Shield health coverage for non-governmental employees. They will explain what is available at the EO meeting on Monday.

### **John Starns, Kansas Water Authority Representative**

John reviewed some of the items from the Governor's Water Conference. He stated that the Governor's Water Plan is a lot about funding and how to get it. The current thought process would be to add to a sales tax to cover the costs. With the state budget as it is, it may be doubtful if anything happens during this year's legislature. There is a lot of concerns about Blue green algae blooms in many of the states lakes.

### **KDA/DOC Report, Scott Carlson**

Scott said the Spring meetings would be held in Grainfield on March 7, Garden City on

March 8, Salina on March 9, Manhattan on March 14, and Fredonia on March 15. Scott discussed several initiatives including the buffer initiative, the nutrient and sediment initiative, and cost-share assistance being provided by Watershed districts. He discussed the load reduction mapping project and how it will show accomplishments of past and future cost-share efforts. He stated that the 2018 DOC budget does not look good with State water plan funding being at a 28 year low. He reminded the board of the conservation partnership meeting survey that was completed and that a discussion of what action to take needs to be discussed at the business meeting. Scott discussed the Agri-land area at the state fair that KACD and the conservation districts are a part of. He noted that the commission had reviewed five of the KACD resolutions as they may affect how KDA/DOC does business.

Scott provided a handout on state cost-share. He stated that 43% of the state is covered by a WRAPS project.

### **Larry Biles, Kansas State Forester**

Larry noted that the Kansas Forester service has been reorganized with in Kansas State University and are now independent from the university through the department of Extension and report to Daryl Buholtz, Director of extension. Larry discussed the Anderson Creek fire and mitigation. They were able to bring 30 students from Hutchinson to he fire to assist along with receiving training. Seventy-three fire districts assisted with fire control on the 300,000 acres that was burned.

He reported on a Forest Legacy project they have going on in the Lawrence area. They now have 254 acres in the program and are working on more acres to be donated. This year is the 40 year celebration of the Tree City USA project. He noted that Greenleaf, Kansas is the smallest town to be recognized in the program. He shared his appreciation to be a part of the Fall Meetings. Larry shared that the joint forester in the DOC office is working out very well. He discussed the buffer builder program that they have developed.

### **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Bill Simshauser reported that he had attended the Governor's Water Conference and shared that he felt the conservation districts need to be more involved in the Regional Advisory Committees and the Governor's Water Plan. He felt that KACD and districts need to do more education of partners, legislatures and others on what conservation districts do.

Bevin Law reported that he had attended the Governor's Water Conference and was appreciative of the conservation district employees speaking up at the meetings about what districts do. He shared his appreciation to those who put the new conservation brochure together. He stated that he felt the joint meeting at Bill's was a good meeting and thanked Bill for his hospitality

Allen Roth shared that he felt the conservation brochure that was developed is a good tool to use when visiting with legislatures about conservation districts.

Ron Brown reported the conservation districts in his area are very involved in the RAC process. He thanked Dick for attending our meeting. He did not have any other NACD items to bring up.

Jerry Clasen reported that their office was finally up to a full staff and that the vacancies did allow them to save some funds in building their budget. Jerry attended the Governor's Breakfast where the Governor was very appreciative of the efforts of the KFS in the Anderson Creek fire.

Ron Brown said he had contacted Jeremy Peters regarding a possible video about what NACD does that could possibly be shown at convention or other meetings. NACD is starting to work on putting something together. Kansas is in the top 10 in dues for NACD even though we were down some. He reported that 84 out of 105 counties paid NACD dues in 2016.

Wayne Lukert thanked the board for allowing him to conduct the resolution schools around the state. He shared that he would like to have a future discussion about how to make better use of the committees.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

A discussion was held on the auction item for this year's NACD meeting in Denver. Ron stated the outfitter is willing to work with us on another hunt to be auctioned off.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Jerry Clasen moved and Allen Roth second that Ted Nighswonder be appointed to another term on the Endowment Committee. Motion carried.

The 2016 KACD convention structure was reviewed. The schedule includes an opening session that would include posting of the flags, keynote speaker, Presidents report before proceeding to the committee meetings on Monday morning. It was mentioned that the Area meetings are the last thing on Monday afternoon prior to the banquet rather than on Tuesday morning. On Tuesday morning we will have breakfast with Mykle Rae Taylor as the keynote speaker and then go straight into the business meeting as a way to try to promote more participation in the business meeting. Jim reported on items the Employees Organization has for the auction held prior to the banquet. Jim has contracted with the same youth music group for entertainment prior to the banquet. The dues structure for KACD was again discussed. Jim will be meeting with the finance committee tomorrow to review the budget, look at projecting next year's budget, and consider making a recommendation to the dues structure. Jim handout and reviewed with the board their individual speeches for the convention.

Jim reported and shared with the board the "Keep Supporting Conservation Districts" brochure that is being handed out at the KACD convention to get to all supervisors and districts. A letter to the Secretary of Ag asking for support of district and cost-share funding has also been sent.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. with the next meeting scheduled meeting being directly after the KACD Convention closing on November 22, 2016