



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
November 22, 2015 – 2:00 P.M.
Double Tree by Hilton, Wichita, 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

Eric Banks, State Conservationist, NRCS
Scott Carlson, KDA Division of Conservation
Larry Biles, Kansas State Forester
Tom Meek, Kansas Envirothon Committee
Don Paxson, Kansas Water Authority Board Member

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

ADDITIONS TO THE MEETING AGENDA

Bevin Law moved to amend the agenda to add the Envirothon report from Tom Meek and approve the agenda as amended. Jerry Clasen seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Envirothon Report

Tom Meek presented a report on the status of the KACD Envirothon Committee and a recap of their 24th year of the Kansas Envirothon including a financial report. See attached report. Tom discussed liability insurance needs for the Envirothon, which led to a discussion of liability insurance for all KACD activities. Tom and Jim are going to do some checking into the costs and report back to the board at a future meeting. Tom shared that the 25th Kansas Envirothon will be held on April 27, 2015 at Camp Wood. He also reported that the NACD Envirothon in Springfield, Missouri, went very well.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Allen Roth moved to accept the minutes of the September 17, 2015 meeting; Bevin Law seconded the motion and the motion carried.

SCC REPORT

Scott Carlson, Department of Agriculture Department of Conservation, (DOC) Assistant Director reported on activities at the DOC during the joint SCC/KACD meeting. Cindy Woofter and Katie Burke are new employees at DOC. All DOC employees at convention were given specific assignments to assist with during the convention. Items reviewed included the Kansas Water Vision, the Watershed Institute holding easements, the Agriland group and the state fair display, CSIMS updates, RCPP program activities, CREP Proposal, the Kansas Forestry Position being established at the DOC to assist with riparian area plantings, and Behavioral Economics. He also led a discussion of the Fall and Spring Workshops. Scott reported that all partners would now be identified as sponsors of Agriland. See attached handout.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jim Krueger presented the budget and financial documents for the period of January 1, 2015 through November 19, 2015. Ron Brown moved to approve the financial reports; Jerry Clasen seconded the motion and the motion carried. Jim reported that 3 counties have not paid their dues as of November 19th and 29 counties had paid the maximum club dues. Area Speech Contest awards were discussed as the payouts are more than the Endowment account earns each year and limits what other grants can be awarded from the account. The current payout is: 1st - \$250, 2nd - \$150, 3rd - \$100. Bevin Law moved that Area Speech Contest winner awards be revised for 2016 to: 1st - \$150, 2nd - \$100, 3rd - \$50. Ron Brown second the motion; motion carried.

Grants from the Grassland Committee for \$665.09 and from the Youth and Education Committee for \$450 were reviewed. Bevin Law moved that both grants be approved and paid and that these grants would be limited to \$300 each for 2016. Allen Roth seconded the motion; motion carried.

Kansas Forestry Report

Larry Biles, Kansas State Forester, thanked the KACD board for allowing the Kansas Forest Service to be part of the program at the Area Fall Meetings. He added that he had brought the table centerpieces for the KACD Banquet and Kansas Forestry is glad to be a \$1000 sponsor for the Leopold Award. The board thanked him for his assistance. The Forestry Service is getting started in implementing the RCPP with a roll out program set for January 13, 2016 in Emporia. Conservation District involvement in the program is paramount in the program succeeding. Larry Biles reported that he had been working with NRCS to develop payment rates under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, (EQIP).

KACD EO REPORT

Stephanie Royer reported that districts had been busy with promotions and school programs. They were preparing final plans for their meeting at convention. EO will again be providing moderators for breakout sessions. Stephanie was asked if she would be willing to present to the EO meeting the Marketplace survey so the KACD board could get a better feel for how the conservation districts employees used and felt about the Marketplace, she agreed.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Ron Brown led a discussion regarding the NACD Stewardship Committee and the intentions of NACD Board to do away with printed material from the NACD Marketplace. Bill Simshauser has prepared survey questions that Jim Krueger has printed up and will

be given to the KACD Employees Organization for completion at their meeting on Tuesday to get a feel how the district managers feel about the proposed changes.

Jim Krueger and Wayne Lukert, KACD Operations and Resolutions Committee Chairman, reviewed with the board changes made to KACD Policies and Procedures including rewording of insurance requirements of the KACD Endowment funds, and KACD Committee Guidelines for Conservation Education and Youth Committee, District Operations and Resolutions Committee, Endowment Committee, Finance and Development Committee, Grassland Committee, Natural Resources Committee, Stewardship Committee, Urban and Rural Development Committee, and Wildlife Forestry and Recreation Committee. Bevin Law moved to approve the changes and additions to KACD Policies and Procedures as printed, Allen Roth seconded the motion; motion carried.

Ron Brown reported that he acquired a Deer Hunt in Southeast Kansas with a value of \$1900 for the NACD auction. 2016 NACD Dues were discussed. Bevin Law moved and Jerry Clasen second the motion that KACD pay \$775 for 2016 dues; motion carried.

Don Paxson, Kansas Water Authority, provided a report of Water Authority activities. The Water Authority includes 13 appointed voting members and 12 Ex-official members. There has been a large turnover in the members of the Water Authority, which means that there is a constant need to educate members of conservation district activities. Don is retiring from his position as of January 2016 and KACD needs to select a list of candidates to present to the Governor's Appointment Secretary. Jerry Clasen moved that Jim Krueger prepare a letter or make an in person contact with the Governor's Appointment Secretary to present the names of Jon Starns, Allen Roth and Ron Brown as candidates for the position being vacated by Don Paxson. Bevin second motion; motion carried. Copy of Don's report is attached.

NRCS REPORT

Eric Banks, NRCS State Conservationist presented a report including new hires, reassignments, and retirements. Eric reported on program activities in the Conservation Stewardship Program, the Easement Programs, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and the Watershed Rehabilitation Program. Eric reported on activities of the different technical sections of the state office staff. He mentioned that district and partner employees will be receiving LincPass cards in the future. NRCS is operating under a Continuing Resolution Budget through December 11, 2015. A copy of Eric's report is attached.

OLD BUSINESS

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 would like board members to give the subject some thought. He suggested that we have a barbeque at his house and then have the meetings at the hotel in Garden City. There is a new hotel being built in Lakin but he is not sure it will be completed by the scheduled for August 7, & 8, 2016 meeting date.

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 suggested several ideas for tour stops including sites from the South Central Kansas Residue Alliance, Cheney Lake, Quivera, and a site on the Little Ark aquifer.

Leopold Conservation Award

Jim led a discussion on the Leopold Award through the Sand County Foundation in cooperation with the Ranchland Trust of Kansas. Tucker Boyd has completed the videoing and Jim has received copies of the video. Jim sent an invoice to get reimbursement from NRCS for the videoing and expenses; payment has been received. The award will be presented at the banquet by Sand County Foundation. All three of the finalist have been invited and will attend the banquet.

NEW BUSINESS

A discussion was held regarding convention preparations including what was needed from the different committees and board members during the convention. A sizeable number of registrations were completed by using a credit card through PayPal. PayPal charges a little over 3% fee for all transactions. Allen Roth moved and Jerry Clasen seconded that a 3% surcharge be added to all credit card registrations for the 2016 convention. Motion carried.

Jim Krueger led a discussion on the Kansas Agricultural Alliance that KACD has been a member of since its inception and the benefits received from being involved in that organization. Ron Brown moved and Bevin Law seconded that KACD continue membership in the organization and pay the \$450.00 dues; motion carried.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

A legislative fair was discussed to be held in conjunction with the January KACD Board meeting in Topeka. Since the capitol is no longer under construction it would again be feasible to have displays in the capitol. Bevin moved and Ron seconded that Jim contact three districts to have and man displays at the capitol on January 18, 2016; motion carried. The KACD board meeting would then be held on January 19, 2016. Jim mentioned that in discussion with the Ranchland Trust of Kansas that they would be willing to share the costs of coffee and donuts if we so desired during the legislative fair. The board instructed Jim to work with Mike Beam to see what could be arranged.

ADJOURN

Ron Brown moved and Allen Roth seconded the motion to adjourn at 2:15 p.m. Motion carried.