

MEETING MINUTES

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts

November 10, 2015

9:30 AM

Two Hundred and Ninety-Sixth Meeting

In Attendance: Mr. David Rowlett, President; Mr. Allan Bryant, Secretary-Treasurer; Mr. Kevin Jeffries; Mr. Orville Bennett; Mr. Bobbie Wilson; Mr. Ted Jessup; Mr. Randy McCallon; Mr. Rodney Dick; Deputy Commissioner Sandy Gruzesky, DNR; Assistant State Conservationist Reed Cripps, NRCS; and Director Leah MacSwords, Div. of Forestry.

Also in Attendance were the following KY DOC employees: Director Kim Richardson and Assistant Director Johnna McHugh.

Quorum was met.

Meeting Called to Order - at 9:30 am by KACD President David Rowlett.

KACD Minutes of the Last Meeting – Sept. 8, 2015 – Mr. Allan Bryant made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Kevin Jeffries seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer’s Report - Treasurer Allan Bryant presented the KACD Treasurer’s Report with copies given. Mr. Allan Bryant made the motion to approve the report as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Ted Jessup. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Allan Bryant moved to present a gift of \$595 to Terri Shaw for her assistance with treasurer responsibilities. Mr. Kevin Jeffries seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Discussion of the current status of the Envirothon account occurred, since the Envirothon account does not currently have enough funds for the upcoming year. Mr. Orville Bennett made a motion to transfer \$2,500 into the Foundation account to cover the scholarships which will be given when the 2014 state winning Envirothon team members graduate from high school. Mr. Lenville Martin seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

KACD Correspondence - President David Rowlett presented the one invitation that has been received. The KACD received an invitation to the Farm Bureau Federation’s annual meeting December 2-5. President David Rowlett also informed the group that he had spoken with the representatives from Ag Environment in the Classroom about the \$5,000 that KACD voted to provide during the last meeting. The total amount will be in two payments of \$2,500 for each of the next two years.

NACD Director's Report - Mr. Kevin Jeffries presented the report. He presented information about the annual meeting scheduled in Reno, NV. There are scholarships available that cover registration and a meal ticket for first time attendees. Kentucky general provides an item for the live auction that takes place during the event. Mr. Allan Bryant moved that Mr. Kevin Jeffries could purchase an item for up to \$250 for this auction. Mr. Bobbie Wilson seconded the motion. **Motion carried.** He informed the group that Kentucky is once again a Top 10 Contributing State and will receive recognition as such at the meeting. Mr. Jeffries provided a listing of each district in the state with their contribution for the year. Each Director will contact the districts who have not yet contributed to encourage them to contribute. He also provided an update on the Waters of the US. That decision is currently tied up in court. The Sixth Circuit ruled a nationwide stay on the rule until it is taken up by the Supreme Court.

Mr. Jeffries will be attending the annual meeting. Mr. Jeff Rice generally attends this meeting as well. Mr. Orville Bennett moved to pay for the travel and rooming expenses for Mr. Jeffries and Mr. Rice. The conference registration will not be covered by KACD. Mr. Jeffries will pick up the Top 10 award. If members would like to take advantage of the scholarship, they should contact President David Rowlett.

KACD Auxiliary Report - Ms. Betty Barrick was not present, so Ms. Richardson presented the report. All districts are encouraged to promote the scholarship contest, particularly to nontraditional students. Ms. Barrick has been receiving completed squares for the quilt, and she encourages everyone to purchase tickets for the raffle.

Legislative Reception – The legislative reception for 2016 will be held January 14 at the Kentucky State Research Farm on Mills Lane in Frankfort from 6-8 pm. The joint meeting of the KACD Board of Directors and the Soil and Water Conservation Commission will be held on January 15 at a location to be determined. Requests for sponsorships have been sent to the various commodity groups including Kentucky Corn Growers, Kentucky Small Grains, Kentucky Poultry Federation, Kentucky Pork Producers, Kentucky Sheep and Goat Producers and the Kentucky Agribusiness Association.

Division of Conservation Report – Ms. Kim Richardson presented the report.

Convention 2017 - Ms. Kim Richardson discussed the convention options for 2017. The group discussed whether the convention should end with lunch or supper on Tuesday, as well as other issues from previous years. The board narrowed the options to the Hyatt Regency in Lexington, the Crowne Plaza in Louisville, and "Team Owensboro." Ms. Richardson will contact those 3 options to ask if they'd like to update their proposal. Mr. Jeffries moved to appoint a committee to decide on the 2017 convention in case the bids expire on December 31. Mr. Allan Bryant seconded the motion. **Motion carried.** The members of the convention committee will be Mr. Bobbie Wilson, Mr. Kevin Jeffries, Mr. Rodney Dick, and Mr. Allan Bryant.

Envirothon - Ms. Johnna McHugh gave an update about the Envirothon competition. The registration fees were increased from \$75/\$100/\$150 to \$100/\$150/\$200. The other change

made by the Envirothon committee was increasing the minimum score to compete at the state level from 300 to 325. The current issue for 2016 is invasive species, and the committee is very excited about the competition this year.

Tree bags - Ms. Kim Richardson informed the board that their supply of tree bags is running low. Mr. Rodney Dick moved to purchase tree bags. Mr. Ted Jessup seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

State cost share - Ms. Kim Richardson gave the board an updated on state cost share. The applications are going in during November, and the commission will make their approvals at their meeting in January.

Ag Partnership Meeting - Ms. Kim Richardson gave the board an update of the agriculture partners meetings that were held in October. Representatives from DOC, NRCS, DOW, DCA, and UK were on hand to discuss with one another their roles in relation to agricultural landowners. It was a very good meeting that allowed the different groups that work with farmers to know the other groups that can help with issues.

Agency Comment

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Assistant State Conservationist Reed Cripps, NRCS, presented the report.

Mr. Cripps informed the board that the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Krysta Harden was in Kentucky for the FFA national convention. She enjoyed her time here.

The NRCS move that was discussed during the last meeting is going on currently. The state office is moving from the 2nd to the 3rd floor of their current building.

A federal omnibus bill has been passed, but the federal government is still under a continuing resolution until Dec. 11. At that time, all federal agencies should find out their agency budgets.

Mr. Cripps spoke with the board about the limitations placed on travel by the federal auditors. If the total amount spent goes over \$7,000 (including registrations, travel, salary, benefits, etc.), the approval for that meeting has to come from Washington DC. This is the reason that the number of NRCS employees who can attend the KACD convention is limited.

Mr. Cripps gave an update on the current RCPP projects that are ongoing in Kentucky, as well as the projects that were just approved. No action is needed from KACD at this time.

Kentucky Department for Natural Resources – Deputy Commissioner Sandy Gruzesky reported that Commissioner Steve Hohmann is retiring at the end of November. His last day in the office will be Nov. 25, and a reception in his honor is being planned for Nov. 24. She also updated the group about the water quality trading project. An additional \$2 million has been approved for forestry projects in the same counties that were already participating in the program. Ms.

Gruzesky also updated the board about the Ag Water Quality Authority. The authority is working on its vision for the future currently. There needs to be a better way to market ag water quality plans, and she would like the KACD to consider what they could do to increase that marketing.

Farm Service Agency – No report was presented.

University of Kentucky – No report was presented.

Kentucky Department of Agriculture – No report was presented.

Division of Forestry – Division Director Leah MacSwords presented the report. She updated the board on the Arbor Day Foundation program to provide additional trees to the areas hardest hit by the 2012 tornadoes. This year Bath, Carroll, Rowan, Lawrence, Grant, and Montgomery Counties will receive additional free trees for distribution in their communities.

Timber theft has been thought to be a severe problem in Kentucky. However, it has been realized that no group has been tracking this theft to see how severe it really is. UK has been asked to do an analysis of timber theft across the state.

The Kentucky Prescribed Fire Council is reviewing the law regarding when a citizen can participate in open burning. The council would like to certify a Prescribed Burner program so that people can be trained to burn on other people's property. Farm Bureau has said that they will support this change as long as the current exemptions for farms stand.

KACDE – No report was presented.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Kevin Jeffries. Motion seconded by Mr. Linville Martin. **Motion carried**, meeting adjourned at 11:42 p.m.

Next Board Meeting -

The 2016 Meeting Schedule is as follows:

January 15th (Location TBD)

March 8th

May 10th

July 10-12 (KACD Convention at Holiday Inn in Bowling Green)

September 13th

November 8th

Unless otherwise indicated all meetings will be held at 2 Hudson Hollow Road (DNR Building) in Frankfort beginning at 9:30 a.m.