

KACD GENERAL SESSION MEETING

November 24, 2025

Hyatt Regency Hotel

Wichita, KS

Those Present:**DIRECTORS:**

Bevin Law, President

Allen Roth, Vice President

Daryl Donohue, Secretary-Treasurer

Jerry Clasen, Director

Bill Simshauser, Director

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Dan Meyerhoff

The meeting was called to order by President Bevin Law at 3:17 PM.

President Bevin Law appointed Wayne Lukert, Shawnee County, as Sergeant at Arms and Rod Vorhees, Wilson County, as Parliamentarian.

Roll call was taken with 41 board supervisors present. In accordance with KACD by laws there is a quorum present to conduct business.

Minutes

Minutes of the November 24, 2024 KACD Business Meeting were presented as published online in the convention proceedings. Allen Roth, Ellis County, moved to approve the minutes as presented. Bill Simshauser, Kearney County, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report dated November 10, 2025 was presented. Bill Simshauser, Kearney County, made a motion to file the Treasurer's Report. Ron Brown, Bourbon County, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President's Report

President Bevin Law provided a report during the Opening Session.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Dan Meyerhoff provided a report on the agreements and outreach activities.

NACD Report

Bill Simshauser, NACD executive board member gave an update on NACD activities

2024 Resolution Update:

Resolution #1: Winter Wheat As A Cover Crop.

Resolution #2: Partner Employee Eligibility for 'Internal to an Agency' Job Announcement.

Resolution #3: Conservation District Use of Government Owned Vehicles.

Resolution #4: Funding of Conservation District Operations.

Resolution #5: Request Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) to work together to supply USDA field offices in Kansas to supply an additional vehicle for the FSA County Executive Directors (CED) in share management positions in their home county in addition to the vehicles (mostly trucks) for the NRCS District Conservationist (DC) and other field staff.

Reports from Standing and Special Committees: (All resolutions adopted should be shown in the resolution section of the Proceedings Booklet). Minutes from all committees are attached.

EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE:

District Manager, Pam Walker presented the report on behalf of Chairman Dwayne Roux, Harvey County.

President Bevin Law accepted the report as presented.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS & RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Chairman Wayne Lukert, Shawnee County, presented the report.

President Bevin Law accepted the report as presented.

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE:

Chairman Allen Roth, Ellis County, presented the report.

President Bevin Law accepted the report as presented.

FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Chairman Allen Roth, Ellis County, presented the report.

President Bevin Law accepted the report as presented.

GRASSLANDS COMMITTEE:

No report presented.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE:

Chairman Baron Shively, McPherson County, presented the report. There was one resolution presented this year to the committee.

Resolution #1: Water Well Testing as an Approved Cost Share Practice Through KDA-DOC

President Bevin Law accepted the report as presented.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE:

No report presented.

URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Chairman Mark Lehman, Crawford County, presented the report.

President Bevin Law accepted the report as presented.

WILDLIFE, FORESTRY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:

Chairman Sam Sanders, Reno County, presented the report.

President Bevin Law accepted the report as presented.

Resolutions:

Resolution #1: Water Well Testing as an Approved Cost Share Practice Through KDA-DOC. Bill Simshauser, Kearney County, made the motion to adopt resolution #1. Baron Shively, McPherson County, seconded the motion. Motion passed with all votes for and 1 vote against.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

The 2026 budget was presented. Allen Roth, Ellis County, moved to accept as presented the 2026 budget as presented. Daryl Donohue, Wilson County seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There was discussion for input from supervisors regarding KACD annual dues increase to \$800 regular dues and \$1000 max dues. No action taken.

The results of the area elections:

Area 1: Roger Heier was elected to the SCC board

Area 2: Bill Simshauser was re-elected to the KACD board

Area 3: Jason Kern was elected to the SCC board

Area 4: Bevin Law was re-elected to the KACD board

Area 5: Rod Vorhees was re-elected to the SCC board

KLICA – KACD MOA signed. No action taken.

Adjournment:

With no more business to conduct, President Bevin Law adjourned the meeting at 4:29 PM.

KACD Education & Youth Committee

Meeting Minutes

KACD Convention-Hyatt Regency, Wichita, Kansas

November 23rd & 24th, 2025

Committee Chairman Dwayne Roux called the meeting of the KACD Conservation Education & Youth Committee to order at 2:03 p.m. at the KACD Annual Convention in the Hyatt Regency, Wichita, Kansas. Those Present in-person on Sunday, November 23, 2025, besides the Chairman, were Andrea Hamm, Rhonda Coffman, Nina Meyer, Pam Walker, Brandon Dibben, Marsha Setzkorn-Meyer(KDA/DOC), Chalee Braun, Molly Schmidt, Rick Johnson, Brian Boeckman, Suzy Mooney, Gretchen Soyski, Pamela Hays, Angela Beavers, Kacie Gosselin, Jack Fitzgerald (NRCS), Scott Lamb, Keith Owen (NACD).

Angela Beavers moved to approve the minutes of the November 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by Brandon Dibben. Motion carried.

Nina Meyer approved the Treasurer report as read by Dwayne Roux. Kacie Gosselin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

In committee reports:

General Update-Dwayne Roux reported that committee members met in September at state fair time and went over items for November KACD Convention. Committee met in May via zoom and picked scholarship winners along with help from the Peterson family. We had 1 Peterson scholarship winner and 4 general scholarship winners. Committee members and Peterson family also need to look at credit hours for scholarship recipients.

Contest Update-Dwayne reported that we have 126 posters, 15 Limericks, 10 essays and 3 photo contestants. Awards will be in county envelopes and handed out 11-24-2025. Still need to work on getting Area 2 speech contestants and see if we can increase the photo contestants. Angela Beavers reported that she has a spread sheet, which was created in the year 2008, with which year the counties judge and 2025 is the last year on the spreadsheet. She has started a new one. Year 2025 judges were Woodson, Sumner and Seward counties.

Keith Owen Director of Education for National Association of Conservation Districts asked If he could jump in to introduce himself and give a short update. Poster contest deadline has been extended to January 15, 2026, instead of December 1, 2025, due to the government shutdown. He also wanted to Thank the State of Kansas for being one of the major states for being involved in poster and essay contests. NACD has a careers guide for high schoolers that will be launching soon. The 2027 Theme is Water & the Topic will be "From Source to Sea". This will launch at meeting in February. He also wanted to remind everyone to go to NACD Market place to place orders for materials.

Pam Walker updated everyone on the survey that was sent out about poster contests.

KACD Education & Youth Committee

Meeting Minutes

KACD Convention-Hyatt Regency, Wichita, Kansas

November 23rd & 24th, 2025

Scholarships- Dwayne reported that committee members and Peterson Family met in May and chose 1 Peterson Family Scholarship winner and 4 General Scholarship winners. Need to get the word out about these scholarships they pay \$1,000.00 to each one that qualifies.

Envirothon Update- Chalee Braun reported that the update is printed in the program. On 11/5/2025 they had a training and about 30 students participated. It was a mock Envirothon and instead of a test they had a jeopardy game at each station, and they received Envirothon bucks and the winning team got prizes.

Unfinished Business-

Judges-Brityne Rucker, Rhonda McCurry & Chris Mullins.

Duties for Committee members for Speech contest-

Hall-Nina Meyer & Angela Beavers

Timers-Pam Walker & Brandon Dibben

Questions-Chalee Braun

Judges Room-Nina Meyer

New Business-Dwayne reported that the sub committee had several zoom meetings and went over line by line each contest and contest rules.

Pam Walker presented a brief summary for each contest and contest rules.

Motion was made by Pam Walker to take the subcommittee recommendations for changes to all contests (poster, essay, limerick, photo), to apply poster contest categories of Hand-drawn, Additional Assist, Digital and Braille, and to follow the NACD rules and guidance on those poster contests. Suzy Mooney seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Angela Beavers to approve new rules for speech contest that subcommittee discussed. Suzy Mooney seconded the motion. Motion carried.

KACD Education & Youth Committee

Meeting Minutes

KACD Convention-Hyatt Regency, Wichita, Kansas

November 23rd & 24th, 2025

State/Partnering Organizations Reports-

- a. NRCS- Jackie Fitzgerald reported NRCS is trying to get Farm programs back up and running, not much on a new farm bill and will have numbers soon on funding and they are still working through staffing.
- b. KDA DOC- Marsha Setzkorn-Meyer reported she'd won a basket of educational tools at a conference, and it will be the EO meeting door prize at Monday's session.
- c. KACEE-No report
- d. KFAC-No report

Next Meetings-Next meeting will be held in May or June (via zoom) to discuss Scholarship and other business. In September of 2026, there will be an in-person meeting.

Meeting will be reconvened at 10:05 a.m. tomorrow Monday November 24, 2025.

On Monday November 24, 2025, the KACD Education and Youth Committee reconvened at 10:11 a.m.

Dwayne Roux called the meeting back to order at 10:11 a.m. Monday November 24, 2025. Roux recognized the committee members. Brandon Dibben moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting. The motion was seconded. Motion carried. The 41st Annual KACD Speech Contest was held. Judges were Cathy Thompson, Rhonda McCurry & Chris Mullins. The topic was "Home is Where the Habitat Is". Order of speakers was Hannah Vague, Lila Martin, Rylan Moss & Jewel Endicott. The judges left the room to tally results of the speech contest. Brandon Dibben presented the 1st place Sedgwick County essay winner Thomas Lang and he presented his winning essay. Brian Boeckman presented the limerick contest winners. Trent Winter read the scholarship recipients. Pam Walker read the photo contest winners' names. Angela Beavers announced the poster, limerick and essay winners. The Envirothon Report was given by Chalee Braun. Chalee also interviewed the speech contestants. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Dwayne Roux. The results of the 2025 KACD speech contest were announced at the State Conservation Commission Luncheon. 1st place Jewel Endicott, 2nd place Hannah Vague, honorable Mention went to Lila Martin & Rylan Moss.

District Operations and Resolutions Committee

Minutes, November 24, 2025

The meeting of the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts' District Operations and Resolutions Committee was called to order at 10:00 AM, Monday, November 24, 2025, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Wichita, Kansas, by committee chair, Wayne Lukert. There were 12 in attendance.

After introductions, announcements included "KACD's Day at the Statehouse," Wednesday, February 11, 2026. Districts were encouraged to attend and make appointments to meet with their legislators prior to attending. Districts were encouraged to invite their legislators to a boxed lunch at the statehouse that day. "Kansans for Conservation Day at the Capitol" will be February 12, 2026. KACD is a member of this group. The committee needs supervisors to serve on this committee.

Committee activities the past year were reviewed, to include: A) A brief, statewide educating funding sources Zoom presentation prior to KACD's 2025 Day at the Statehouse. B) Wayne Lukert continues to represent KACD on the Kansas Forestry Association board. C) "Supervisor Empowerment and Engagement," training was conducted by the committee, Sunday, November 23, 2025 at convention with 21 people in attendance. KACD board member Daryl Donohue and committee chair, Wayne Lukert, conducted the presentation. D) Presentations on topics covered by the links on this committee's page on KACD's web site were presented. The committee hopes to do these presentations state wide in the near future. Presentations will include "Educating Conservation District Funding Sources," "Time and Ethics Involved While Serving as a Supervisor," "KACD Resolutions School," "Perpetual Succession," "Conservation Education I&E Basics" and "District Operations and Resolutions Committee Guidelines". E) The committee updated information and layout of the committee page on KACD's web site.

Partner reports:

Dave Jones with KDA-DOC expanded on Wayne Lukert's and Daryl Donohue's explanations on the additional funding districts received for operations from state and how it is used to benefit the counties in Kansas. He also discussed accessing DOC's educational material on their website.

There is 1 tentative committee resolution before the association: Water Well Testing as an Approved Cost Share Practice Through KDA-DOC. It has been referred to the Natural Resources Committee for a recommendation. Daryl Donahue asked what the deadline was to turn in a resolution for this convention. Discussion was held regarding the resolution.

"Conservation Education I&E Basics" program was presented.

There were no resolutions before this committee.

The meeting adjourned at 10:53 AM.

Respectfully submitted by secretary, Lori Siebert

MINUTES OF THE KACD ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The KACD Endowment Committee was held on Sunday November 23, 2025, at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita, KS.

Lyman Nuss, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Also present were committee members, Allen Roth, Ted Nighswonger, Rod Vorhees, Mike Pierron, and Donna Fay Major (EO representative). Guests present: John Wunder and Cheli Helm.

Minutes of November 24, 2024, were approved as sent out.

The treasurer's report was reviewed. Balance as of October 31, 2025, in the checking account is \$6,150.07. Ted Nighswonger moved to approve the financial statement. Allen Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The committee reviewed money market and Annuity statement.

Dan's report stated he moved the annuity from Farm Bureau to Nationwide last year to get a better interest rate, we went from 1% to 5% so our monthly interest earning went from around \$110 per month to \$556 per month. It took Nationwide awhile to get things set up for a monthly payout, that is why the transaction reflects a \$10,418.00 withdrawal from the annuity being deposited in our endowment account.

Discussion was held on possibly combining KACD committees. Motion by Ted Nighswonger to be in favor of joining Endowment and Financial Committees together, Mike Pierron seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Original paintings are on display at KDA Office building.

New Business:

Motion by Mike Pierron to recommend Ted Nighswonger be reaffirmed as trustee. Rod Vorhees seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Lyman Nuss submitted a letter that he is stepping down from being Chairperson of the Endowment Committee. Mike Pierron reported he is stepping down from being on the Endowment board.

Discussion was held on Endowment growth.

Mike Pierron suggested maybe the Endowment do smaller items to raise money such as, a gun raffle, and bee hives. Mike shared a flyer on a Kansas Cattle Rancher Rifle as a possibility for a fundraiser.

Allen Roth suggested a gift certificate to a western store in Manhattan.

Lyman Nuss asked Allen Roth to give the Endowment report at the business session.

John Wunder thanked Lyman Nuss for all his work and dedication he gave the Endowment Committee serving as Chairperson over the years.

Donna Fay Major informed the board that with Lyman Nuss stepping down as Chairperson, she will no longer be the Secretary/Treasurer for the Endowment. Donna Fay will get with Dan Meyerhoff and Amanda Scott to see who to write the check to, to close the account at Southwind Bank, Russell KS.

The date of next meeting to be determined.

Lyman Nuss adjourned the meeting ended at 1:00 p.m.

KACD Finance Committee Minutes
November 24, 2025
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Wichita KS
10:05 am

The annual meeting of the KACD Finance and Development committee was called to order at 10:05 AM. There were 5 people present.

Allen Roth presented the minutes of the 2024 Finance and Development committee meeting. Travis Groff, Ellis County, moved to approve the minutes as presented. Allen Roth, Ellis County, seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Allen Roth presented the financial report. Dan Meyerhoff reviewed the 2025 Profit and Loss report and the Balance Sheet to date.

Dan Meyerhoff presented the 2026 Proposed Budget. Travis Groff moved to approve the budget as presented. Ted Nighswonger seconded the motion. Motion passed. Budget will be presented at the business meeting.

Allen Roth adjourned the meeting at 10:20 AM.

KACD GRASSLANDS COMMITTEE NOTES

Monday, November 24, 2025 – 10:05 A.M. Redbud B

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Wichita

The Grasslands Committee Meeting was called to order by David Kraft, Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition (KGLC), and Grassland Committee Chair.

Following a welcome to attendees, the chair read the minutes from the previous meeting. A motion was made by Ted Alexander and seconded by Jerry Clasen. The minutes were approved as read.

A total of 32 attendees signed the roster.

David Kraft presented a report submitted by Doug Spencer, State Grazingland Specialist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, related to continuing work on woody encroachment in Kansas and the targeted approach that is being used.

David Kraft also presented information related to Kansas Range Youth Camp and the KGLC Grazing Academies completed this year. He informed the group that 25 high school students attended the Society for Range Management Range Youth Camp this year in Morris County and noted that the relationship between the conservation districts and range youth camp is extremely beneficial in educating youth in Kansas regarding rangelands.

David also informed the group that a total of 84 students attended KGLC grazing academies this past summer with more than half being landowners and producers. KGLC offered two two-day workshops this year with a total of 40 being present for the two-day workshops.

David introduced Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) Secretary, Mike Beam, to the group. Secretary Beam introduced an effort to elevate the grasslands of Kansas over the past couple of years and introduced Sarah Green that is coordinating efforts to collect thoughts and concerns from Kansas ranchers and producers related concerns both present and emerging on Kansas grassland landscapes. Sarah explained the details of four meetings held across four regions of Kansas and informed the group of an upcoming report that produces the concerns and findings of those meetings.

The KDA staff took comments from the group. Those comments will be attached to the minutes.

Following the grasslands discussion, David closed the meeting out by indicating that 23 counties had requested award signs for local awardees and encouraged districts to

work with planners to identify those producers worthy of receiving recognition at the county and state level.

David also gave a small overview of this year's Grassland Merit Award winners, LaVerene and Brandon Garner from Clay County.

Bevin Law, made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Ted Alexander. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Submitted by Bruce Wells

KACD NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE NOTES

Monday, November 24, 2025 – 10:05 A.M.

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Wichita

The Natural Resource Committee meeting was called to order by Baron Shively, Committee Chairman.

There were 14 supervisors in attendance.

Minutes from the 2024 committee meeting were read. Jack Janssen, Ellsworth County, moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mark Kopp, Pottawatomie County, seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Bill Simshauser presented the resolution calling for “Water Well Testing as an Approved Cost Share Practice Through KDA-DOC”. Todd Marple, Wilson County moved to approve the resolution and forward it to the General Business Session. Jack Janssen, Ellsworth County, seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Bill Simshauser moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 AM. Jack Janssen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

2025 KACD Annual Convention

Urban and Rural Development Committee Report

Mark Lehman, Chairman

The Urban and Rural Development Committee was called to order at 10:05 am by chairman Mark Lehman. 14 people were in attendance.

Kaylyn Morse, a regional director at Growing Hope Globally, a Christian based organization that works with agricultural development in Latin America and underdeveloped countries throughout the World. She works with Growing Projects in Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri and Iowa.

There being no resolutions, a question and answer session was held.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

KACD Wildlife, Recreation, & Forestry Committee minutes

November 24th, 2025

Hyatt Regency Hotel in Wichita KS

Sam Sanders called the meeting to order at 10:40AM in the Redbud “A” room of the Hyatt Regency with 14 people in attendance.

*Liz Lutz read the previous meeting minutes.

*Sam Sanders requested a motion to approve the agenda. Ryan Armbrust of the Kanas Forrest Service moved to approve the agenda. Liz Lutz seconded the motion, and it carried.

*Committee Actions-Sam Sanders asked if there were any topics for discussion. Kris Ethridge of NRCS gave an update, after coming back from the government shutdown. Chad Volkman is the acting assistant state conservationist. Krist thanked the partnerships for stepping up to take care of Non-federal projects during the shutdown. There are no updates on NRCS programs yet.

*Ryan Ambrust requested discussion of State Cost Share for “Forrest Management, Wildlife Risk Management, Forrest Management Invasive species, windbreak management, conservation tree shrub management, and riparian forest buffers. Contact your district forester for more information. There was no further discussion.

*Alex Lyon of Kansas Wildlife and Parks mentioned that technical assistance for wildlife projects is available through KWP as well as potential cost share for smaller 5-10 acre plots.

*Meeting ended at 10:49AM

Resolution # 1

Natural Resources Committee Resolution

Water Well Testing as an Approved Cost Share Practice Through KDA-DOC

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts ask the Kansas Department of Agriculture – Division of Conservation to add water testing of domestic, livestock, and irrigation wells as an approved cost share practice.

RATIONALE:

Many domestic, livestock, and irrigation water wells have harmful to humans, livestock and plants above the EPA limits for nitrates, sulfates, uranium, E. coli, fecal coliform, and other pollutants. Water testing for these pollutants would inform home owners, livestock producers, and crop producers the levels of pollutants in their water. With that information they can better manage their drinking water, livestock water and crop water to help mitigate the negative effects.

KDHE can use that information to better trace the spread of pollutants in ground water so they can inform the public of possible spreading of pollutants that may cause harm to humans, livestock and crops.