

KACD GENERAL SESSION MEETING

November 20, 2023
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Wichita, KS

Those Present:**DIRECTORS:**

William Simshauser, President
Bevin Law, Vice-President
Allen Roth, Secretary-Treasurer
Daryl Donohue, Director
Jerry Clasen, Director

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Dan Meyerhoff

The meeting was called to order by President William Simshauser at 3:15 PM.

Roll call was taken with 42 board supervisors present. In accordance with KACD by laws there is a quorum present to conduct business.

Minutes

Minutes of the November 22, 2022 KACD Business Meeting were presented as published online in the convention proceedings. Allen Roth, Ellis County, moved to approve the minutes as presented. Ted Nyswonger, Graham County, seconded the motion. Motion carried. There was no discussion.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report dated November 11, 2023 was presented. Bevin Law, Clay County, made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Ron Brown, Bourbon County, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2024 Budget

The Treasurer presented the proposed 2024 Budget for KACD. Wayne Luekert, Shawnee County, made a motion to adopt the proposed 2024 Budget. Nathan Larsen, Riley County seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Board Election – Jerry Clasen, Reno County, gave the results of the Board Election held earlier in the day.

Area II – Bill Simshauser won 50-1

Area IV – Bevin Law won 55-0

John Wunder, Jefferson County, and Jed Fleske, Pawnee County, were the vote counters.

President's Report

President William Simshauser provided a report on this year's activities. He thanked all for attending the convention and their continued interest and dedication. He spoke on the fifteen grants equaling over \$12 million with over \$195,000 to conservation districts. Bill also talked about training and social media opportunities coming up for the districts. He spoke about Conservation Day at the Capital coming up on February 6, 2024.

Bill talked about the Moran and Marshall ag tours he attended and the Governor's Water Conference and finally addressed the Cheney Lake situation. The rest of his report is attached hereto.

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.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND YOUTH COMMITTEE:

Chairman Dwayne Roux, Harvey County, called a 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 19, besides the Chairman, were Andrea Hamm, incoming Harvey Co. Conservation District Manager; Marsha Setzkorn-Meyer from the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) Division Of Conservation (DOC); Trent Winter, Washington Co. Cons. Dist. Supervisor; Leslie Holthaus, Marshall Co. Cons. Dist. Manager; Jack Fitzgerald, NRCS; Dana Schmelzle, Nemaha Co. Cons. Dist. Manager; Marlene Schmidt, Pottawatomie Co. Cons. Dist. Manager; Brandon Dibben, Geary Co. Cons. Dist. Supervisor; Suzy Mooney, Douglas Co. Cons. Dist. Manager; Angela Beavers, Geary Co. Cons. Dist. Manager; Nina Meyer, Washington Co. Cons. Dist. Manager; Brian Boeckman, Jackson Co. Cons. Dist. Manager; Jarrod Bowser, Jackson Co. Cons. Dist. Supervisor; Melanie Brungardt, Miami Co. Cons. Dist. Manager; Pam Walker, Wilson Co. Cons. Dist. Manager. Please see attached report.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS & RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

Chairman Wayne Lukert, Shawnee County, presented the report. Program Agenda (state briefly): Committee activity throughout the year was reported on. Committee guidelines and KACD's 5 conservation priorities were reviewed. Discussion topics of interest to districts included lack of internet service in some districts, training on payroll and relevant tax forms, NRCS projected personnel needs, insurance for employees and educating county commissioners on funding districts. There was one committee resolution before the committee.

There was one (1) resolution presented this year.

Resolution #1: Increase State Aid to Conservation Districts. After discussion, the committee voted to recommend the association adopt the resolution.

President Bill Simshauser accepted the report as presented.

Wayne Lukert made the motion to approve resolution #1 increasing state aid from \$25,000 to \$35,000. Ron Brown seconded the motion. After discussion the resolution was amended to read Therefore, be it resolved that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts encourage the Kansas state legislature amend K.S.A. 2-1907c to increase the matching state aid to conservation districts to recognize the importance the Kansas Legislature has placed on conservation through the passage of HB 2302. Brad Shogren moved the resolution be approved as amended. Loren Berndt seconded the motion, motion carried.

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE:

The Endowment Committee met on November 19, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. to discuss the nature prints that are still available for sale. Donna Faye Major has them stored. The discussed the possibility of having a mower raffle, or perhaps a raffle for four (4) tickets to a KSU or KU ballgame. Rod Voorhees was appointed to another three (3) year term.

FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

The annual meeting of the KACD finance committee was called to order at 10:11 AM on November 20, 2023, by Chairman Ted Nighswonger. Tommy Barrett, Chairman, was not present. The committee met to approve the 2024 KACD proposed budget. President Simshauser accept the report as presented.

Ted Nighswonger, Graham County, moved to accept the budget as presented. Lyle Wobker, Miami County, seconded the motion. Motion passed.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE:

Chairman Brad Shogren, McPherson County, reported the Vespers service was held Sunday evening to recognize 28 supervisors who had passed this year. Entertainment was provided by the Prairie Praise Band. There were approximately 40 members in attendance. President Brad Shogren accepted the report as presented.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE:

The Natural Resources Committee Meeting was held in the Cypress “B” activity room at the Hyatt Regency Motel in Wichita, KS on November 20, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Committee Chair Baron Shively of McPherson. There were 16 people in attendance plus the Chair and presenters.

GRASSLANDS COMMITTEE:

Cheryl Davis, on behalf of David Kraft, discussed the criteria for the Grassland Award and that it needs to be not just someone who has great grazing field, but someone who is an advocate for what the grasslands committee stands for. Dean Kreibehl discussed invasive species. There were

seventeen (17) attendees and three presenters, including Dawn Bueller, Gay Benfer and Dave Jones. President Bill Simshauser accepted the report as presented.

URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

The annual meeting of the KACD urban and rural development was held on Monday, November 20, 2023 at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita Ks. Chairman Mark Lehman, Crawford County, called the meeting to order at 10:13AM. Mark introducer Troy Munsch, KACD agreement coordinator. Troy gave an update on the conservation agreement which has a focus on urban conservation. The Lawrence and Wichita management units will be the focus of producer meetings with the focus on urban agriculture to coincide with new urban EQIP fund pool. There were no committee actions, only discussion on urban ag projects. There were no resolutions presented before the committee. Attendance this year was 15. Meeting adjourned at 10:50AM. President Bill Simshauser accepted the report as presented.

WILDLIFE, RECREATION AND FORESTRY COMMITTEE

Meeting called to order at 10:07 AM by Steve Sprick, as Sam Sanders could not attend due to illness. Meeting regarding tree farms and agroforestry. Justin Cobb from the Nature Conservancy led a discussion regarding windbreaks and the agra-forestry rules and regulations. Ryan Armorst discussed how to increase participation at their meetings. Meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM. President Bill Simshauser accepted the report as presented.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Wayne Lukert moved to adjourn the meeting. Bill Simshauser seconded the motion, motion carried.

Adjournment:

With no more business to conduct, President Bill Simshauser adjourned the meeting at 4:51 PM

President's Report

The Bottom Line Conference is set for August 23rd-24th, 2024.

The Kearny County Conservation District held its 3rd Farmer to Farmer meeting on the 9th of November.

The water quality grant has been kicked off with water testing for uranium and other contaminants in domestic water wells. October was for Hamilton County and Kearny County. November is for Finney County and December is for Gray and Ford Counties. Once that rotation is complete, we will start over with new round a testing. Had six (6) tests in Kearny County.

I attended the monthly KCCD board meetings.

I attended the Northern Plains meeting Oct. 12th and again Nov 2nd.

I attended the NACD invasive species subcommittee meeting Oct. 18th.

I am on a NACD officer call every Friday.

I attended an ISAC meeting every Friday in Oct.

I went to Washington State for NACD's officer retreat Nov. 7th-10th.

I went to Washington DC Nov. 12-15th for the in person ISAC meeting.

I chaired the NACD legislative committee November 16th.

Will be going to Washington DC on Dec. 4th-7th for the NACS executive board retreat.

Will be going to Washington DC on Jan 29th-Feb 2nd for the 2024 Leadership at its Best Training sponsored by Syngenta.

Bill Simshauser

KACD Area I Minutes
KACD Annual Convention
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Wichita, KS
November 20, 2023

Allen Roth called the meeting to order at 2:22 PM.

Introductions

SCC Election Area I

Allen Roth nominated Ted Nyswonger. There were multiple seconds. Nominations carried.

Nominations from the Floor. Allen asked three times. No other nomination. Nominations closed.

Votes cast by ballot. Mike and David counted votes. Result of elections. Unanimous 12 votes. Ted Nyswonger was re-elected.

Ted would like to see more guidance on separation of a district manager. He encouraged others to stop by offices and know where things are.

Discussion on training for supervisors. Supervisor Training Modules and Supervisor Handbooks.

Propose a supervisor training/refresher course. Time or Year? Convention? After annual meetings to capture new supervisors.

Transition Checklist exists. Tells supervisors and District Managers what you need to do for the out-going manager and what is needed for the new manager.

The supervisor modules after completion receive a KACD notebook.

It is the supervisors' responsibility to know what is happening in the district.

Allen said please call him if you need help or advice or issues.

Proposals/Resolution – none.

Adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Allen P. Roth

KACD Area 1

KACD Area II Minutes
KACD Annual Convention
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Wichita, KS
November 20, 2023

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Bill Simshauser

KACD Area III Minutes
KACD Annual Convention
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Wichita, KS
November 20, 2023

Meeting called to order at 2:15 PM

Election of SCC Commissioner

Qualifications reviewed

Sam Sanders was nominated

No other nominations received

8 votes for Sam Sanders

Results announced.

Other Business:

Communication from DOC/KACD

Need new ideas to get information out.

Keeping KACD website updated – specifically the Ed & Youth Information.

Resolutions:

One resolution requesting state aid to Conservation Districts be raised from \$25,000 to \$35,000.

Meeting adjourned at 2:49 PM.

20 people in attendance.

Diane Harden

11/20/2023

KACD Area IV Minutes
KACD Annual Convention
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Wichita, KS
November 20, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 pm by Bevin Law.

After asking if there was any new business, no new business was submitted.

At this time, Bevin Law turned the meeting over to John Wunder, SCC Commissioner. Bevin Law is up for re-election for the KACD Board of Directors. Bevin Law was nominated during the August KACD Fall Meeting. Wayne Luekert moved to accept the nomination of Bevin Law for KACD Board of Directors. RJ Dake seconded the motion, and it was carried. This year each Conservation District voted at their October/November board meeting for this position. Election Forms and Certification Statements from Area IV Conservation Districts were emailed to KACD with results from each District. John Wunder announced the re-election of Bevin Law by majority vote.

The meeting was turned back over to Bevin Law. Wayne Luekert moved to approve the minutes of the November 2022 Meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

Proposed Resolution regarding raising the amount available to conservation districts from the State of Kansas Division of Conservation from \$25,000 to \$35,000 was reviewed and approved.

An announcement regarding Conservation Day at the Capital was made. February 6th would be that day and board supervisors, and district managers were encouraged to attend and make appointments ahead of time to visit with their legislators.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

KACD Area V Minutes
KACD Annual Convention
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Wichita, KS
November 20, 2023

A meeting of Kansas Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) Area V was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and Convention Center in Wichita Kansas on Monday, November 20, 2023.

• Those present:

Conservation District Supervisors & Advisors:

Daryl Donohue- Wilson County, Rod Vorhees- Wilson County, Mark Lehman-Crawford County, Jared Pollock-Bourbon County, Deb Lust-Bourbon County, Ronald Brown-Bourbon County, Troy Strickler-Montgomery County,

Conservation District Managers:

Elissa Robison-Labette County
Levi Clubine-Montgomery County
Sandy Koontz-Butler County
Amanda Scott & Courtney Priest-Cowley County
Stacy Reagan-Linn County
Lori Siebert-Marion County
Marcia McNitt-Woodson County
Kristen Hughes-Lyon & Chase
Pamela Walker-Wilson County

Others:

Cathy Thompson-Division of Conservation
Monica Wichman-Division of Conservation

- The meeting was called to order at 2:20 p.m. by Daryl Donohue-KACD Director.
- Attendees introduced themselves.
- (Amanda Scott kept notes while Pamela Walker went to get minutes from previous Annual Meeting.)
- Ballots were handed out. Rod Vorhees gave a few comments on his nomination for election.
- Daryl Donohue covered election instructions. Donohue asked 3 times for nominations. There were none. Ballots were counted by Cathy Thompson. Rod Vorhees received 7 votes for State Conservation Commission Area V position.
- Donohue recognized Supervisor Jared Pollock for their efforts regarding Bourbon Co. County Commission funding.
- Discussion was had on building relationship module for Supervisor Training with County Commissioners.
- (Pamela Walker returned with minutes from previous year's Area V Meeting).

- Daryl Donohue gave a talk on generational differences and impact on meeting attendance. There was some discussion of those differences.
- There was discussion on funding and the Kansas Water Plan.
- Daryl Donohue announced Amanda Scott would be KACD Assistant Director starting December 1, 2023.
- The minutes of the 2022 Area V Meeting at KACD Annual Convention were read by Daryl Donohue. The minutes were accepted by consensus with no additions or corrections.
- The minutes of the August 2023 Fall Workshop Area V meeting via Zoom were read. By consensus, they were accepted with no additions or corrections.
- Ronnie Brown moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mark Lehman. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: _____

Signed _____

KACD Youth and Education Committee Meeting Minutes
November 20th-21st, 2022
Hyatt Regency Hotel Wichita KS 2pm

Committee Chairman Dwayne Roux called a 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 19, besides the Chairman, were Andrea Hamm, incoming Harvey Co. Conservation District Manager; Marsha Setzkorn-Meyer from the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) Division Of Conservation (DOC); Trent Winter, Washington Co. Cons. Dist. Supervisor; Leslie Holthaus, Marshall Co. Cons. Dist. Manager; Jack Fitzgerald, NRCS; Dana Schmelzle, Nemaha Co. Cons. Dist. Manager; Marlene Schmidt, Pottawatomie Co. Cons. Dist. Manager; Brandon Dibben, Geary Co. Cons. Dist. Supervisor; Suzy Mooney, Douglas Co. Cons. Dist. Manager; Angela Beavers, Geary Co. Cons. Dist. Manager; Nina Meyer, Washington Co. Cons. Dist. Manager; Brian Boeckman, Jackson Co. Cons. Dist. Manager; Jarrod Bowser, Jackson Co. Cons. Dist. Supervisor; Melanie Brungardt, Miami Co. Cons. Dist. Manager; Pam Walker, Wilson Co. Cons. Dist. Manager.

Nina Meyer moved to approve the minutes of the November 2022 Meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

Chairman and incoming Harvey Co. Cons. Dist. District Manager met with acting Committee Secretary Pam Walker earlier in day to get the checkbook and write checks for luncheon tickets for Speech Contestants and Farm Credit, Jayhawk Trophy, Area Speech winners' prizes, Limerick Contest Winner prize, Essay Contest Winner prize, Photo Contest Winners' prizes, and Speech Contestants prizes.

Pam Walker reported the bank balance was from the most recent bank statement in October. That balance was \$20,125.75.

In Committee Reports, Pam Walker gave a General Update and a Contests Update. Pam explained all winners are listed in the program. Numbers on Statewide contest are 8 essays, 20 limericks, 5 photos and 136 photos. Numbers were up very slightly. Scholarship Update was given by Dwayne, who suggested getting information about scholarships to District Managers, and suggested the scholarship information be placed in newspapers. He asked that scholarship information be shared with KACD and DOC. Another suggestion was making sure Pathways students are aware of Scholarship availability. Dwayne asked that all ideas to promote scholarships be forwarded to him. As Envirothon sub-committee chair, Dana Schmelzle gave the Envirothon Update. Dana is "passing the torch" to Chalee Braun who will serve as chair.

In Old Business, Roux announced the Judges for Speech Contest are Rhonda McCurry, Candy Thomas and Secretary of Ag Mike Beam.

New Business was presented.

1) Generic training module for District Managers (discussed at Sept. meeting)

The idea of a training module was discussed. Some suggestions for contest promotion and training include short videos, attend New District Managers' Training, not have duplicate information, ask Stephanie Royer about her techniques to promote contests, make sure there is information on the KACD website, using the local conservation district link to give information on contest themes, conduct TEAMS trainings, and have a good "point of contact". Another suggestion for contests was use gift cards as "prizes" for teachers to participate. Nina Meyer detailed the work she does in schools to promote contests. Some challenges being face by District Managers are difficulty getting into the large number of schools in the District, getting started in the schools, teachers have trouble following directions.

2) Sponsorship requests

Letters to Conservation Districts asking for sponsorship will be distributed via email after the first of the year.

3) State Speech Contest duties and responsibilities

The program was reviewed. Assignments for the speech contest the next day were given, including Angela Beavers at the door, Nina Meyer at the door and Timekeepers being Stacy Reagan and Pam Walker. Jarrod Bowser will do the speaker "interviews". Dana Schmelzle expressed concern about last year's stage set-up.

4) Other duties and responsibilities for reconvened meeting on Monday were discussed.

Pam says she will add speech contestants and placing to minutes from last year during the business portion of the next day's meeting.

State/ Partnering Organization representatives reported at the meeting. Jack Fitzgerald from State NRCS says the new State Conservationist's name is David Doctorian, he will start on December 17, and the State NRCS Outreach Coordinator recently moved to a national position, so that position is open. Marsha Meyer from KDA DOC reports 15 new District Managers across the state. There are no representatives from KACEE nor KFAC at meeting.

The next meeting will be held in May (via Zoom) to discuss Scholarships and other business. In September of 2024, there will be an in-person meeting.

Meeting will reconvene at 10:05 a.m. tomorrow, Monday, November 20, 2023.

At 2:58 p.m., Trent Winter moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Nina Meyer. Meeting adjourned.

On Monday, November 20, 2023, the KACD Education and Youth Committee reconvened at 10:05.

Chairman Dwayne Roux appointed Wilson County Conservation District Manager Pam Walker to serve as Secretary since the Harvey County Conservation District incoming District Manager, Andy Hamm, though she is attending the convention, is not yet “on the job”.

While highlighting the program, Dwayne promoted both the scholarships and the contests organized by the KACD Conservation Education and Youth Committee. The program contains all the 2023 winners and the scholarship recipients as well as the annual reports for the committee and the Envirothon committee, and the minutes of the previous committee meeting. Roux asked for additions and corrections to the minutes. Pam Walker asked to add the 2022 speech contestants and placings to the 2022 minutes.

The additions are:

First Place Speaker- Meg Norman, Crawford County

Second Place- Jonathon Knapp, Nemaha County

Honorable Mention- Drew Bretz, Sheridan County

Honorable Mention- Rebekah Vogue, Ellsworth County

Brandon Dibben moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Jarrod Bowser seconded the motion.

Dwayne Roux thanked the judges, Rhonda McCurry, Candy Thomas and Secretary of Ag Mike Beam and recognized Farm Credit Services of Kansas for their support of the contest.

The speech contest proceeded in this order: Madelyn Heigert, Area IV, Pottawatomie Co.; Summer Raymond, Area V, Wilson Co.; Noah Goss, Area III, Ellsworth Co.; Brielle Hanna, Gove Co.

The speech contest concluded at 11:09 a.m., and the judges were escorted to another room to make their decisions.

As listed in the program, essay contest, limerick contest, and photo contest winners were recognized. The limerick author, Alyson Taylor, read her limerick.

The Caroline and Don Peterson Memorial Scholarship and General Memorial Scholarship recipients were recognized by Trent Winter.

Dana Schmelzle gave the Envirothon report.

Jarrod Bowser “interviewed” the speech contestants.

Dana Schmelzle moved to adjourn the meeting. Nina seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

2024 Contests

Poster— MAY THE FOREST BE WITH YOU ALWAYS

Speech— ONE WATER

Photo—*Conservation Practices in your county*

Limerick-- *use and/or conservation of natural resources for making a better community for present and future generations.*

2024 Poster Judging—Stafford County Conservation District

2024 Essay Contest Judging—Neosho County Conservation District

2024 Limerick Contest Judging—Geary County Conservation District

KACD District Operations and Resolutions Committee Meeting Minutes
November 20th-21st, 2022
Hyatt Regency Hotel Wichita KS 2pm

The meeting of the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts' District Operations and Resolutions Committee was called to order at 10:23 AM, Monday, November 20, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Wichita, Kansas, by committee chair, Wayne Lukert. There were 6 in attendance.

After introductions, announcements included the association's day at the statehouse, February, 6, 2024. 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.

Committee activity the past year were reviewed, including discussion with KACD on conservation district operations and funding and representing KACD to the Kansas Forestry Association. Supervisor training was conducted by the committee, Sunday, November 19, 2023 at convention with 14 people in attendance.

The 5 Conservation Priorities compiled by the Sustainable Funding Committee and approved by the association on November 25, 2014 were reviewed. The guidelines for this committee were presented and reviewed.

Concern was brought up that districts are not able to access wi-fi internet in the office. Training for payroll would also be nice for all district managers. There are several district managers that have no formal payroll training, or idea of how to fill out relevant tax forms/payments.

Personnel needs were also discussed. NRCS is expected to need 7400 employees, but required experience/school hours make it hard to get the correct person in the positions. Insurance for district employees, including district managers and technician, also continues to be a concern amongst several counties.

Educating our County Commissioners is important in all counties across the state. Discussion was had on how to educate them as to what we, as Conservation Districts, do in order to bring money into our counties.

A committee resolution, Resolution #1, Increase State Aid to Conservation Districts, was presented. Gary Schellhorn, Geary County Conservation District moved that the committee recommend that the association adopt, the resolution. There was a second by Tonya Taylor, Edwards County Conservation District. Discussion included the last time state aid to conservation districts was increased and why its important, several counties have heard from their County Commissioners concern about requesting more money from them but the state is not increasing their contribution. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding communication sources with our producers/community members. Facebook and newspapers are not always used by the majority of our targeted audience.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by secretary, Diana Harden.

**KACD Endowment Committee Meeting Minutes
November 20th-21st, 2022
Hyatt Regency Hotel Wichita KS 12:00 pm**

The KACD Endowment Committee was held Sunday November 19, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita, KS.

Allen Roth, Member, called the meeting to order at 11:55 a.m. Also present were committee members, Ted Nighswonger, Rod Vorhees, Mike Pierron, Gayla Speer, and Donna Fay Major (EO representative). Guests present: John Wunder.

Minutes of the November 22, 2022, were approved as sent out.

The treasurer's report was reviewed. Balance as of October 31, 2023, in the checking account is \$5,878.94. Mike Pierron moved to approve the financial statement. Ted Nighswonger seconded. Motion carried.

The committee reviewed money market and Farm Bureau Annuity.

12:20 p.m. Dan Meyerhoff joined the meeting.

Dan brought up checking on annuity to increase interest, may check on putting funds in a CD.

Old Business:

Original paintings are on display at KDA Office building.

The current inventory for the prints is: In the Heartland – 13

New Business:

Mike Pierron contacted Norris Equipment for a quote for a 2024 Grasshopper Mower. The mower sells for \$23,170.00 and they would sell it to KACD for \$15,575.00.

Allen Roth is checking with K-State for the price of 4 box tickets for basketball or football. This would include purchasing 2 hotel rooms also.

Motion by Ted Nighswonger, seconded by Rod Vorhees to have KACD purchase the 2024 Grasshopper Mower. There will be 300 tickets sold for \$100 each that will go to Dan Meyerhoff, KACD. It was decided to start selling tickets March 1st. Gayla Speer and Donna Fay Major will put together a flyer that will go out to all conservation districts.

12:27 p.m. Dan Meyerhoff left the meeting.

Mike Pierron moved and Ted Nighswonger seconded to recommend Rod Vorhees be reaffirmed as trustee. Motion carried.

The date of next meeting to be determined.

Allen Roth adjourned the meeting ended at 12:35 p.m.

**KACD Finance Committee Minutes
November 20, 2023
Hyatt Regency Hotel Wichita KS 10:00 am**

The annual meeting of the KACD Finance committee was called to order at 10:10 AM by Allen Roth. There were 10 people present.

Allen Roth presented the minutes from the 2022 finance committee meeting. Ted Nighswonger made a motion to approve the minutes. Lyle Wobker seconded the motion, motion passed.

Allen Roth presented the financial report. Dan Meyerhoff reviewed the 2023 cash flow to date and the proposed 2024 budget. Ted Nighswonger moved to approve the budget as presented. Lyle Wobker seconded the motion, motion passed.

With no other business Allen Roth adjourned the meeting at 10:35 AM.

**2023 KACD Annual Convention
Natural Resources Committee
Minutes of the 11/20/2023 Meeting**

The Natural Resources Committee Meeting was held in the Cypress “B” activity room at the Hyatt Regency Motel in Wichita, KS on November 20, 2023.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Committee Chair Baron Shively of McPherson.

There were 16 people in attendance plus the Chair and presenters. (See list of Attendees.)

Dawn Bueler, Chair of the Kansas Water Authority made a short presentation on the Kansas For Conservation (KFC) organization. The goal of organization is to increase participation in conservation efforts in Kansas. Her presentation was a “teaser” for her presentation before one of the breakout sessions later on Monday.

Gaye Bender, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Office in Salina, presented an up-date on the NRCS Cost Share Programs available in Kansas. Ms. Benfer also detailed the amount of funding available for each program.

Dave Jones, Water Quality Program Manager for the Department of Conservation for Kansas made a presentation on Conservation Districts programs.

The final presentation was made by Matt Sprick, FPAC with assistance from Dan Faulkner. They presented a power point on the KACD/NRCS Partnership Implementation program.

No resolutions were brought before the committee.

Spencer Schapp made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Matt Kopel of Pottowatomie County. There was no discussion. The motion passed. The Natural Resources Committee adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Attendance Sheet, 2023 Natural Resources Committee Meeting

Eryn Spangenberg	Mark Kerbel
Marvin Lewis	Michelle Foos
John T. Dryden	Will Tyler
Allen Schwitzer	Spencer Schapp
Steven Walter	Janet Billings
Jed Fleske	Allison Sowends
Gary Haas	Matt Meyerhoff
Cheyenne Grumman	Brian Schulze

KACD Grasslands Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 20, 2023 – 10:05 A.M. Redbud B
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Wichita

Chairman David Kraft called the KACD Grasslands Committee Meeting to order and made introduction of committee members.

Chairman reviewed criteria for the Kansas Grasslands Merit Award. The committee received five nominations for the award this year.

Chairman acknowledged Sharp Bros. Seed Co. for providing the grasslands signs again this year. Twenty-three conservation districts participated in the offer this year with a total request of 33 signs.

Chairman gave an update on Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition's 2023 Range Academies and Range Youth Camp.

Dean Krehbiel, NRCS State Resource Conservationist, gave a presentation: "Grassland Conservation – A New Focus".

The meeting was adjourned by David Kraft at 11:00 A.M.

Cheryl Davis, Secretary

KACD Urban and Rural Development Committee Minutes
November 20, 2023
Hyatt Regency Hotel Wichita KS 10:00 am

The annual meeting of the KACD urban and rural development was held on Monday, November 20, 2023 at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita Ks. Chairman Mark Lehman, Crawford County, called the meeting to order at 10:13AM. Mark introducer Troy Munsch, KACD agreement coordinator. Troy gave an update on the conservation agreement which has a focus on urban conservation. The Lawrence and Wichita management units will be the focus of producer meetings with the focus on urban agriculture to coincide with new urban EQIP fund pool. There were no committee actions, only discussion on urban ag projects. There were no resolutions presented before the committee. Attendance this year was 15. Meeting adjourned at 10:50AM. President Bill Simshauser accepted the report as presented.

KACD Wildlife, Recreation & Forestry Committee Minutes
November 20, 2023
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Meeting started at 10:07 in the Rosebud “C” room of the Hyatt Regency with 22 people in attendance.

*Justin Cobb of the Nature Conservancy gave a brief overview of the Kansas Friends of Conservation (KFC), which is an advocacy group for increase state funding for Conservation in Kansas. There are 27 different groups that make up the membership of the KFC. Justin will be explaining in detail the KFC at the “Funding for Conservation” breakout session.

*Ryan Armbrust, Kansas Forestry Service, discussed the landowner recognition program and how to increase participation. Some of the things discussed were:

*The 2 types of awards: Agri-Forestry and Tree Farmer Awards

*How can we make the process easier for nominations

*Nomination forms can be found at the KACD website under “Awards”

*Reviewed awards and the requirements for each

*Discussion of Banker’s Award for windbreaks could also be nominated for the Agri-Forestry Award. An example of the Tree Farmer Award might be a producer that completed Timber Stand Improvement (TSI)

*Ryan also reported that work is being done to make feasible the sale of male Eastern Red Cedar trees to reduce off-site volunteer trees. It may be several years til available for sale.

*Emphasized that Kansas Forestry Service is more than happy to assist with any request for technical assistance and/or field days

*Robert Wimer, Resource Conservationist, Hutchinson Area Office, provided an overview of last year’s accomplishments with programs in the state of Kansas and current FY projections. Did note the current initiatives that are available for wildlife/forestry: Bob White Quail, Lesser Prairie chicken, Monarch Butterfly and Forestry. Robert did mention that Urban conservation is a priority.

*Comment was brought up that funding should be available to assist producers in removing silt from ponds to increase capacity when it does rain again. With droughty conditions over much of the state it is an opportune time to remove the silt with ponds either very low or dry. It was discussed that the Local Work Group (LWG) would be an excellent forum to bring up this discussion.

*Bill Simshauser, KACD, asked if there were any resolutions from the floor. There were none.

*Meeting ended at 11:03 AM

RESOLUTION #1
Committee Resolution
District Operations and Resolutions

Increase State Aid to Conservation Districts

Therefore, be it resolved that the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts encourage the Kansas state legislature amend K.S.A. 2-1907c to increase the matching state aid to conservation districts to recognize the importance the Kansas Legislature has placed on conservation through the passage of HB 2302.

Rationale:

Increased costs implementing conservation efforts in the state of Kansas necessitates additional funding for conservation district operations. Local county governments that provide matching funds are more amenable to funding conservation district operations when they see the state making a similar effort.