

Kentucky Association of Conservation District Employees
Conference Call Minutes
September 23, 2008
10:00 am EST

Those present were:

Brian Hacker, President

Valorie Floyd, Treasurer

Martha Newby, Reporter (Took minutes in absence of Secretary)

Linda Smith, Past President

Leslie Fourqurean, Area 1

Debbie Eubank, Area 2

Shelly Isenberg, Area 3

Joy Edwards, Area 4

Wanda Gilbert, Area 7

Jennifer Hardwick, Fundraising Committee Chair

President Hacker thanked everyone for being on the conference call.

The membership list had been emailed to the board – need to add Melinda Kemper, Fayette County, making a total of 111 members of KACDE (11 associate members, 5 group members x 7 = 35; 65 district employee members). All area reps look to make sure all your people are on the list, plus contact the employees who are not on the list to see why they have not become members and maybe you could talk about what all we are trying to accomplish.

The Sponsorship list had been emailed to the board – need to add Jefferson and Union Counties. President Hacker has composed a letter of appreciation to all the Conservation District Boards for their support and sponsorship.

We are receiving a lot of publicity since the convention, will have an article in eNotes of John Redding's attendance to the KACDE 4th Convention. First time an NACD President has attended our meeting. Hopefully it will open some doors.

The Financial Audit Procedures were passed at the September 15th meeting and will be implemented immediately. To ensure that this happens, the next meeting, October 10th, will be in Woodford County for a work day to get all the records in the proper order.

Fundraiser's: GPS raffle brought in \$381; cost of unit - \$150; profit \$231; Charles Hahn from Washington County held the winning ticket. Linda Russell is on her way to take the GPS unit to him now. Made \$348 on the auction items. Also sold a friendship blanket for \$25; a shirt for \$25; 6 cookbooks for \$90; and some jewelry and candy bars. Fall bulb order forms have been mailed to the area reps,

please promote in your area – this is the easiest money we can receive, we get half of whatever we sell. Forms and money needs to be returned to Jennifer Hardwick, Russell County, by October 22nd. Please make every effort to make this a great fundraiser.

The convention income was \$5,525.00, sponsorship was \$3,240.00, when expenses were taken out we had \$843.91 left. Cindy Moon, NCDEA President, was planning on attending but was very sick and could not attend and that is why we have a positive balance.

At the last meeting (September 15, 2008) at the Lake Cumberland 4-H Education Center the board made a new Convention Reimbursement Policy. The only refunds that are made are for medical and/or death in the immediate family at the last moment. Otherwise the cutoff date for refunds is September 1st as long as we have the convention during the third week of September.

Stephanie Young, Vice President, took the evaluations to summarize them. She could not be on the conference call but emailed them to the board. The summarization is as follows:

24 returned

Keep Up the Good Work 6

Do what we did this year

Someone from GOLD

First time attendees 8

Favorite part

Round Robin 9

Everything or all of it 3

Food

New employee training

Willing to be a Presenter

Yes or maybe 3

What can we do to be more effective?

Snacks

Just Keep doing what we are doing

Better Rotation of Sessions

Mostly ...This was the Best or It Was Great

Can't think of anything

Focus on Content 1

Least favorite

Breakfast at 7:30

No TV in Rooms

Leaving at the end

Sessions Next Year

Farm Folders

Biologist in Training-more

Cost Share

Education --Always wanting to learn

Nature Preserve Establishment

Brain Storming

Grant Writing

Hands on Activities

Any Suggestions to increase participation?

Send Letters to supervisors home address not work

Get DOC to send letter of support to supervisors

Talk it up!

Advertise

Send out CD's showing what they missed

Give a \$100 door prize

Doing everything you can do

President Hacker asked if the board had heard any other comments on what training the employees would like to have – more educational training – hands on activities. The center will be getting a greenhouse around the first of next year. Martha asked the director Joyce Belcher about KACDE doing a project for the center but it being part of our training. Joyce said that would be fine and they would appreciate it – i.e.: rain garden; rain barrels; outdoor classroom; etc. Also have a new study session for schools called “Let’s Go Outside” -- maybe something on that line. Remember it will be our 5th Convention next year. Linda Smith mentioned that since Cindy Moon was unable to attend this year and she will not be seeking re-election, we may be able to ask the newly elected NCDEA President to attend, if the travel expenses are not out of reach.

President Hacker also informed the group that Steve Coleman seemed to be impressed that John Redding, NACD President, was in attendance, and that Dan Ellison and Jeff Rice had expressed their appreciation of what KACDE is trying to accomplish. Coleman asked if we would like to do a joint meeting with KACD during the same time that the supervisors will have their training - maybe in December. Have KACDE Area Reps work with the DOC Field Reps to make the agenda and have 4 regional trainings. We need to make this work. The Field Reps travel has been cut and this is a time that KACDE can shine. It will be a lot of work but it could be very beneficial to KACDE in the long run. The biggest negative is we DO NOT want it to be a deterrent to attending the KACDE convention.

John Redding, NACD President and Jeff Rice, KACD President both became Associate Members of KACDE while attending our convention this year.

John Redding told the Board that was in attendance that if he could ever do anything for us just to give him a call. He would not take anything for mileage so the board approved, while at Jabez, to make a donation in Mr. Redding’s honor to the 509 Capitol Court Campaign of \$500 (his mileage would have been \$430.90). This has been sent and acknowledged in eNotes.

Refreshments for SECDEA are KACDE’s responsibility this year (it goes alphabetically). Some members wish to donate some homemade goodies, area reps please send out email requesting if anyone would like to do so please let you know so we can get a list together. Linda Smith and Martha Newby will ask their areas’ soft drink distributors for donations. We hope all can attend.

President Hacker asked if the Board would be interested in having a working retreat at the Lake Cumberland 4-H Education Center at Jabez. We would work on the Plan of Work, Budget, Directory, Calendar, Fundraisers, KACD and KACDE Convention, etc. The date would be January 13-15, 2009. ***Leslie Fourqorean made a motion, seconded by Wanda Gilbert, that KACDE Governing Board meet at Jabez for a mid-year board meeting. Motion carried.***

President Hacker also asked the board about the newsletter title with our new logo. *Conservation Corral* does not fit our new image. **Joy Edwards made a motion, Linda Smith seconded, to rename the newsletter to "Kentucky Shine." Motion carried.**

President Hacker also expressed his appreciation for Ruthie Pike and her presentation on Grant Writing at the convention. Before her session started, she talked with him about our 501(c)3 application and other items that could assist KACDE in their mission, which was extremely helpful. **Valorie Floyd made a motion, Debbie Eubank seconded, to accept Ruthie Pike as an Advisor to the KACDE Board (she is already an associate member). Motion carried.** Ruthie has invited everyone to a meeting on October 22nd in Elizabethtown to hear a discussion on grants and 501(c)3, this is part of the State RC&D meeting. Brian Hacker, Martha Newby and Stephanie Young plan to attend.

The NACD meeting is February 1-5, 2009 in New Orleans. **Linda Smith made a motion, Joy Edwards seconded, to pay President Hacker's expenses to the NACD Meeting. Motion carried.**

We need to send Kim Richardson a card congratulating her on her promotion to Assistant Director of the Kentucky Division of Conservation. She is a great ally and we want to make sure we continue our relationship.

Wanda Gilbert, Awards Chair, is proud to announce Stephanie Young as the Kentucky Employee Choice Award recipient. Congratulations!! We did not have a supervisor nominee. Ms. Young's application will be forwarded to Mendel Wade, SECDEA President. Linda Smith is on the National Employee Choice Award Committee.

Martha Newby made a motion, Joy Edwards seconded, to pay Shauna Buchert's mileage of \$171.41. Motion carried. Shauna was a presenter for the Monarch Butterfly session at the KACDE convention.

President Hacker and Martha Newby have to be on an SECDEA conference call at 11:00 am.

Martha Newby made a motion, Joy Edwards seconded, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by

Martha Newby
Martha Newby, KACDE Reporter