

Morris County Conservation District 74th Annual Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2014

The Morris County Conservation District held its 74th Annual Meeting on January 25, 2014, at the Morris County Community Center located on the Morris County Fairgrounds. Kim Sanford, Courtney Parker, and James and Rachel Jost were in charge of everyone signing the Conservation District register. Pens, “*Conservation Edition*” newspapers, ballots, student and adult prize tickets, ice-scrapers, “*For the Good of the People*” – Fun Facts about Farmers & Ranchers booklets, coloring books, crayons, and press-n-stick calendars were given away at the door. Gummy worms adorned the whole entryway with dig deeper soil decorations. Tables were decorated with “*Dig Deeper – Mysteries in the Soil*” stewardship placemats, What on Earth is Soil and litanies, District program booklets, gummy worms, and purple mums in mason jars.

Jim Parker, Chairman, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m., and proceeded with the business session. Jim announced, “Under the provisions of Conservation District Law, each conservation district is required to hold an annual meeting to provide full disclosure of financial affairs and district activities as well as hold a public election of supervisors.” Jim announced that the 2013 Annual Meeting minutes and Financial Reports were printed in the program, and asked if there were any corrections or objections. The balance in the Operations Fund as of December 31, 2013, was 28,528.97, Enterprise Fund was \$25,182.95 and Twin Lakes WRAPS was \$76,124.62. Tim Biehler made a motion to accept the 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes and Financial Reports, and Fred Miller made a second. Motion carried.

Jim introduced Duane and Deb Andres, Pastors of the Dwight & Emmanuel United Methodist Churches, who gave the invocation and litany on “*Soil & Water Stewardship – Dig Deeper – Mysteries in the Soil.*” Ricky’s Café of Hanover catered a baked ham/fried chicken/smothered steak/BBQ beef brisket meal. Approximately 280 people were served, with nine Dwight Sunflowers 4-H club members and leaders helping serve coffee, tea, and water. Jim asked for a big hand of applause for the excellent meal catered by Ricky’s Café of Hanover; and thanked the Dwight Sunflowers 4-H Club for serving the drinks.

Cynthia Engle, Supervisor of the Board, introduced the Supervisors, Advisors and Employee of the District Board, NRCS, Extension, contractors, suppliers, bankers, Commissioner, State Representative, and Twin Lakes WRAPS coordinator. Cynthia stated the 2013 Annual Report was in the program booklets; and gave a big thank you to the Morris County Commissioners, who continue to financially support our efforts.

Jim Parker announced, “Three year terms of James Jost and Chad Sanford will expire tonight. We will now have a report from our nominating committee chairman, Tim Biehler. To be eligible to participate in the election you must be over the age of 18 and a landowner in Morris County. If you did not receive a ballot when you came in tonight, hold up your hand, and one will be brought to you.”

The following nominating committee: Tim Biehler, Gene Ecklund, Lori Bammerlin, Richard Kramer, and Gene Barr were the official ballot collectors and counters. Tim Biehler announced, “The nominating committee has met and would like to report that James Jost and Chad Sanford will accept nomination for the Conservation District Board of Supervisors.” Jim Parker, Chairman, asked three times if there were any other nominations from the floor. Larry Biehler moved and Gene Barr seconded that nominations cease, and no one was nominated as a write-in from the floor. Motion carried.

Jo Bea Titus - Hutchinson, District Manager, presented the KACD State Envirothon Committee’s 2013 activities slide show PowerPoint. She reported there were 270 poster, limerick, photography and coloring entries; and the winners were displayed at the front and all other entries in the back. She congratulated all of the winners as well as their parents and teachers. Student award winners were recognized. Student conservation awards were presented by Cynthia Engle for Posters Grades 2-9 and Limericks Grades 3-8. Chad Sanford presented the Photography Awards, and James Jost presented the Coloring Grades K-1 awards. First and second place winners received trophies and certificates, with Honorable Mention winners receiving certificates and ribbons. The Third Place photo also received a trophy and certificate. Jim Parker presented Kaitlynn Grimmert the 2013 KACD Certificate of Excellence Honorable Mention Essay framed certificate and medal; and Katy DeWeese the Sixth Annual Conservation District Education Scholarship for \$500 and medal. Cindy Mullen, NRCS Technician, took pictures of each group in front of their awards for the local newspapers to publish. Cindy also photographed spotlights of the entire meeting and pictures of the five conservation award winners. The student prize drawing was held with the assistance of Courtney Parker.

Jim Parker introduced the Council Grove High School *Brave Voices* conducted by Lisa Bolieu – CGES/CGMS Vocal Music Instructor in the absence of Josh Donaldson, CGHS Instructor, for the singing entertainment.

At this time Joseph D. Hecht, District Conservationist, gave a Power Point presentation on the Windbreak Award. He presented a plaque, sign, and certificate to the Windbreak Award Winners – Anderson Ranch - with Morris County Farm Bureau Association as sponsor. Next, Joe Hecht gave a Power Point presentation of the 2013 Morris County Buffer Award Winners. Joe and Chris Grant, chairman of the Flint Hills Quail & Upland Wildlife Federation Committee, presented a buffer sign, plaque, and certificate to Dean & Marilyn Miller and Mark & DeAn Knopp sponsored by the Flint Hills Quail & Upland Wildlife Federation. Alex Miller, NRCS Range Management Specialist, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Grassland Award. He presented a plaque, sign, and certificate to the Grassland Award Winners – Jerry and Bonnie Thomas – with Feyh Farm Seed Company of Alma as sponsor.

Angela Anderson, Project Coordinator of the Twin Lakes WRAPS Project, and Jim Parker presented Jo Bea Titus-Hutchinson the *KACD District Manager Award*. Angela Anderson gave a Power Point presentation of the 2013 Twin Lakes WRAPS Water Quality Award winner –Seth Farms LLC, and presented them with a plaque, sign, and certificate sponsored by Twin Lakes WRAPS. Richard Kramer, 2013 Key Banker from Central National Bank of White City, presented the Banker Award to Larry and Cecilia Veerhusen with a plaque, sign, certificate, and landscape print photographed by Casey Wilson, Emporia. Cindy Mullen was in charge of the lights. The adult prize drawing was then held with Ruth Amos winning the \$25 grand prize Council Grove Merchant’s gift card and Max Amos winning the Alexander ArtWorks \$50 certificate towards a metal sign. Jim Parker thanked Neosho Gardens of Council Grove for their generous support of our annual meeting with the five Boston ferns they donated to award winners

After the awards, Tim Biehler, chairman of the nominating committee, gave the election report that James Jost and Chad Sanford were re-elected for three-year terms as supervisors. A motion was made by Steve Euler to adjourn the meeting, and seconded by Dean Miller. Motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.