

Morris County Conservation District 75th Annual Meeting Minutes

January 31, 2015

The Morris County Conservation District held its 75th Annual Meeting on January 31, 2015, at the Morris County Community Center located on the Morris County Fairgrounds. Kim Sanford and Courtney Parker were in charge of everyone signing the Conservation District voter register. Pens, “*Conservation Edition*” newspapers, ballots, student and adult prize tickets, coloring books, crayons, and press-n-stick calendars were given away at the door. Tables were decorated with “*Your Hardworking Pollinators*” stewardship placemats, Pollinator Stewardship litanies, District program booklets, cover crop seed packets donated by Feyh Farm Company, and multi-colored balloons. Exhibits consisted of student awards, 2014 activities and “*The Hope in Healthy Soil*” NRCS display with cover crop booklets, etc.

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 2014 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, 2014, was \$38,564.17, Enterprise Fund was \$14,105.68 and Twin Lakes WRAPS was \$11,089.66. Gene Ecklund made a motion to accept the 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes and Financial Reports, and Tim Biehler made a second. Motion carried.

Jim introduced Brad Good, Pastor of the Life Church of Council Grove, who gave the invocation and “*Pollinator Stewardship Litany – Psalm 104.*” Ricky’s Café of Hanover catered a delicious baked ham/fried chicken/smothered steak/BBQ beef brisket meal. Approximately 275 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, 2014 award winners, and Twin Lakes WRAPS coordinator. Cynthia stated the 2014 Annual Report was in the program booklets pages 12-16; 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 Kent Bacon and Cynthia Engle 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 resident 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, Chris McAfee and Gene Barr were the official ballot collectors and counters. Tim Biehler announced, “The nominating committee has met and would like to report that Kent Bacon and Cynthia Engle 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. Tim Biehler moved and Gene Ecklund seconded that nominations cease, and no one was nominated as a write-in from the floor. Motion carried.

Jo Bea Titus - Hutchinson, District Manager, reported there were poster, 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 2-12. 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 Rachel Oltmanns the 2014 KACD Certificate of Excellence Honorable Mention Grades 7-9 Poster with a framed certificate, purple ribbon 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 six conservation award winning categories. The student prize drawing was held with the assistance of Courtney Parker and son, Landon.

Jim Parker introduced Jeff Davidson, K-State Watershed Specialist, who had an outstanding performance of “*History of Kansas through Songs, Facts & Pictures*” with his wife, Kelly, running a PowerPoint of pictures pertaining to his presentation.

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 – Herpich & Son Herefords - with Mindy Andres representing the Morris County Farm Bureau Association as sponsor, and Nick Herpich and daughter accepting the award on behalf of the Augustein’s. Next, Joe Hecht gave a Power Point presentation of the 2014 Morris County Water Quality Award Winner. Nick Herpich and Chuck Kniebel, members of the Flint Hills Quail & Upland Wildlife Federation Committee, presented a Redlin Conservation print, water quality sign, plaque, and certificate to the Steve Nelson Family that was accepted by James Jost in their absence that was 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 – Picolet Ranch – with Feyh Farm Seed Company of Alma as sponsor.

Angela Anderson gave a Power Point presentation of the 2014 Twin Lakes WRAPS Water Quality Award winner –Sanford Farms, LLC, and presented them with a plaque, sign, and certificate sponsored by Twin Lakes WRAPS. Lori Bammerlin gave a PowerPoint presentation, and Richard Kramer, 2014 Key Banker from Central National Bank of White City, presented the Banker Award to Deines Farms with a plaque, sign, certificate, and sunflower print photographed by Casey Wilson, Emporia. Chris McAfee was in charge of the lights. The adult prize drawing was then held with Dawn Wilson winning the \$25 grand prize Council Grove Merchant’s gift card. 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 Kent Bacon and Cynthia Engle were re-elected for three-year terms as supervisors. There were two write-in votes for Dan Bacon and one write-in vote for Robert Bacon. A motion was made by Dean Miller to adjourn the meeting, and seconded by Steve Euler. Motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.