

Morris County Conservation District 76th Annual Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2016

The Morris County Conservation District held its 76th Annual Meeting on January 30, 2016, 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, Backyard Conservation plus For the Good of the People plus 2014 Farm Bill books, buffer ice scrapers, and press-n-stick calendars were given away at the door. Tables were decorated with “**We All Need Trees**” placemats, Psalm 96 tree litanies/The Little Acorn story, District program booklets, tree cookies, multi-colored leaves, and colored balloons. Exhibits consisted of student awards, “**conservation edition**” newspaper display, and 2015 activities.

Jim Parker, Chairman, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 2015 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, 2015, was \$45,349.30, Enterprise Fund was \$19,094.82 and Twin Lakes WRAPS was \$15,316.63. Chad Sanford made a motion to accept the 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes and Financial Reports, and Diana Jost made a second. Motion carried.

Jim introduced Clarence Sumner, Pastor for the Wilsey Christian Church, who gave the invocation and “**We All Need Trees Litany – Psalm 96.**” Ricky’s Café of Hanover catered a delicious baked ham/Italian marinated chicken/smothered steak/BBQ beef brisket meal. Approximately 275 people were served, with six 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; and thanked the 4-H Club for serving the drinks.

Cynthia Engle, Supervisor of the Board, introduced the Supervisors, Advisors and Employees of the District Board, NRCS, FSA, Extension, contractors, suppliers, bankers, Commissioner, State Representative, Morris County Farm Bureau representative, Flint Hills Quail & Upland Wildlife Federation committee members, 2015 award winners, and Twin Lakes WRAPS coordinator. Cynthia stated the 2015 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 introduced Donita Bammerlin, Kansas State University Professor. Donita sponsors the “**Swingin’ Spurs – Dancin till the Spurs Fall Off**” – a K-State performance team. The special guests line danced to country western music, partnered with country swing dancing, and competed with one another for an outstanding show.

Jim Parker announced, “The three-year term of Jim Parker will expire tonight. We will now have a report from our nominating committee chairman, Chris McAfee. 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: Chris McAfee, Gene Ecklund, Lori Bammerlin and Mark Leydig were the official ballot collectors and counters. Chris McAfee announced, “The nominating committee has met and would like to report that Jim Parker 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. Chris McAfee moved and Gene Ecklund seconded that nominations cease, and no one was nominated as a write-in from the floor. Motion carried. The nominating committee collected and tallied the votes.

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 Brian Burhoop – our newly appointed supervisor - 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 Elle Dragone the 2015 KACD Certificate of Excellence Honorable Mention Grades 4-6 Poster and Nathanel Reno the 10-12 division with framed certificates, purple ribbons and medals. Erica Auchard was presented with a medal and framed certificate for winning the eighth annual conservation district educational scholarship. Jim Parker presented James Jost a plaque and framed certificate for eight years of outstanding service to the conservation district. Mindy Andres took pictures of each group in front of their awards for the local newspapers to publish. Mindy also photographed spotlights of the entire meeting and pictures of the ten conservation award winning categories. The student prize drawing was held with the assistance of Kim Sanford, Courtney Parker, and Landon Parker.

At this time Angela Anderson, Twin Lakes WRAPS Coordinator, gave a Power Point presentation on the Buffer Award. She presented a plaque, sign, and certificate to the Buffer Award Winners – Connie Sue Russell/Max & Ruth Amos - with C. L. & Shirley Henton representing the Flint Hills Quail & Upland Wildlife Federation as sponsor. Next, Alex Miller, NRCS District Conservationist, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Grassland Award. He presented a plaque, sign, and certificate to the Grassland Award Winner – Blythe Family Farms – with Feyh Farm Seed Company of Alma as sponsor.

Angela Anderson gave a Power Point presentation of the 2015 Twin Lakes WRAPS Project Award winners –Chad & Amanda Henton, and presented them with an acrylic water drop plaque, sign, and certificate sponsored by Twin Lakes WRAPS. Lori Bammerlin gave a PowerPoint presentation, and Mark Leydig, 2015 Key Banker from Farmers & Drovers Bank of Council Grove, presented the Banker Award to Paige Farms with a plaque, sign, certificate, and framed landscape/lightning print photographed by Casey Wilson, Emporia. Carolyn Andres and Heidi Lange were in charge of the lights. The adult prize drawing was then held with Nancy Riggan 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 six Boston ferns they donated to award winners.

After the awards, Chris McAfee, chairman of the nominating committee, gave the election report that Jim Parker was re-elected for another three-year term as supervisor. There were no write-in votes. A motion was made by Dean Miller to adjourn the meeting, and seconded by Brian Burhoop. Motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.