

Morris County Conservation District 78th Annual Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2018

The Morris County Conservation District held its 78th Annual Meeting on January 27, 2018, 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 raffle prize tickets, conservation coloring books/crayons/tattoos, and press-n-stick calendars were given away at the door. Tables were decorated with “*Watersheds – Our Water, Our Home*” placemats and litanies, District program booklets, varieties of Morris County watershed place cards, and colored balloons. Exhibits consisted of student awards, raffle prize table, Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks & Tourism’s (KDWPT) “*Wildlife Management Planning Assistance/Habitat First*” Exhibit, “*Conservation Edition*” newspaper display, and 2017 activities.

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 2017 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, 2017, was \$53,564.64, Enterprise Fund was \$18,786.75 and Twin Lakes WRAPS was \$61,776.21. Kent Bacon made a motion to accept the 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes and Financial Reports, and Chad Sanford made a second. Motion carried.

Jim introduced Brenda Davids, Pastor for the Council Grove/Dunlap United Methodist Church, who gave the invocation and “*Litany on Watersheds – Our Water, Our Home.*” Ricky’s Café of Hanover catered a delicious baked ham/Italian marinated chicken/smothered steak/BBQ beef brisket meal. Approximately 280 people were served, with Willing Workers 4-H club members and leaders helping serve dessert, 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 and dessert.

Brian Burhoop, Supervisor Treasurer of the Board, introduced the Supervisors, Advisors and Employees of the District Board, NRCS, FSA, FSA County Committee members, Extension, contractors, suppliers, bankers, Commissioner, Morris County Farm Bureau representative, 2017 award winners, and Twin Lakes WRAPS coordinator. Brian stated the 2017 Annual Report was in the program booklets pages 12-17; and gave a big thank you to the Morris County Commissioners, who continue to financially support our efforts.

Jim Parker introduced Donita Bammerlin. Donita is the director for the “*Swingin’ Spurs – Dancin till the Spurs Fall Off*” – a Kansas State Performance Team. The Swingin’ Spurs sustains and advances country two-step and swing dance by providing performances at local, state, and national events. Highlights of the evening were the square dancing number and K-State’s Fight Song where dancers were competing amongst one another.

Jim Parker announced, “The three-year terms of Kent Bacon and Cynthia Engle will expire tonight. We will now have a report from our nominating committee chairman, Bracey Lerner. 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: Bracey Lerner and Lori Bammerlin were the official ballot collectors and counters. Bracey Lerner announced, “The nominating committee has met and would like to report that Kent Bacon and Cynthia Engle will accept nominations for the Conservation District Board of Supervisors.” Jim Parker, Chairman, asked three times if there were any other nominations from the floor. Chad Sanford moved and David Andres 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, 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. Kent Bacon presented the Limerick and Photography Awards, and Chad Sanford presented the Coloring Grades K-1 awards. First and second place winners received trophies and certificates, with Honorable Mention winners receiving certificates and ribbons. Bailey Lewis was presented with a medal and framed certificate for winning the tenth annual conservation district educational scholarship. Mindy Andres and Cindy Mullen took pictures of each group in front of their awards for the local newspapers to publish. Mindy and Cindy also photographed spotlights of the entire meeting and pictures of the conservation award winning categories. The student prize drawing was held with the assistance of Kim Sanford and Courtney Parker.

Dave Baker, State Representative for District 68 gave a report on recent happenings at the Capitol. Jordyn Sanford, Kansas Range Youth Camp Attendee, presented a PowerPoint program on her experience last June at Camp Mennoscah in Murdock that the CD sponsored for her to attend.

Jo Bea Titus-Hutchinson announced the 2017 Windbreak Award Winner – Blythe Family Farms. A video presentation was played, and Morris County Farm Bureau representative, Jean Goslin, presented them with a sign, certificate and plaque.

At this time, Alex Miller, NRCS District Conservationist, gave a video presentation on the Grassland Award. He presented a plaque, sign, and certificate to the Grassland Award Winners – David & Carolyn Andres – with Feyh Farm Seed Company of Alma as sponsor. Next Angela Anderson, Twin Lakes WRAPS Coordinator, and the Morris County Conservation District presented Jo Bea Titus-Hutchinson with a Silver 25-year recognition award.

Angela Anderson presented a video for the 2017 Pollinator Award to Steve & Sandy Preston. This is the first ever pollinator recognition in the State of Kansas. Sponsors this year were Star Seed Inc., KDWPT and Flint Hills Quail & Upland Wildlife Federation with a beautiful acrylic plaque with a Monarch butterfly and hummingbird, sign and certificate.

Angela Anderson gave a video presentation of the 2017 Twin Lakes WRAPS Project Award winner – Dennis Anderson, and presented him with an acrylic water drop plaque, sign, and certificate sponsored by Twin Lakes WRAPS. Lori Bammerlin gave a video presentation, and Bracey Lerner, the 2017 Key Banker from Farmers & Drovers Bank of Council Grove, presented the Banker Award to Dennis & Kathy Anderson with a plaque, sign, certificates, and windmill canvas print photographed by Mindy Andres, Council Grove. Shaylee Sanford was in charge of the lights.

The adult prize drawing was then held with Terri Lewis winning the \$25 grand prize Council Grove Merchant’s gift card and Mindy Andres winning the \$50 gift card from PrairieLand Partners John Deere of Emporia. Jim Parker thanked the Rural Vista FFA Chapter for making the marigold/coleus centerpiece plants.

After the awards, Bracey Lerner, 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 four write-in votes for Leonard Hutchinson. A motion was made by Kent Bacon to adjourn the meeting, and seconded by Chad Sanford. Motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.