

**NACDE ANNUAL MEETING  
AUGUST 4, 2015  
CANAAN VALLY RESORT STATE PARK  
Davis, West Virginia  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

The meeting was called to order by President Tim Thomas at 7:00 AM.

**Invocation** – Tim Thomas began the meeting with an invocation

Those Present:

Officers: President, Tim Thomas, Freehold, NJ SCD  
Vice President, Alan Master, Onondaga, NY SWCD  
Treasurer, Ines Zimmerman, Freehold, NJ SCD  
Secretary, Sandy Thompson, McKean, PA CD & Delegate  
Past President, Rick Mickowski, New Castle, DE CD

**NACDE State Delegates:**

Connecticut-

Delaware- Kerin Hume, Kent Conservation District & DCDEA President

District of Columbia-

Maine-

Maryland-

Massachusetts-

New Hampshire-

New Jersey-

New York- Jeffrey Parker, Steuben Soil & Water Conservation District

Pennsylvania-

Rhode Island-

Vermont-

West Virginia-

Others Present:

Velynda Parker – Steuben, NY SWCD

Tim Riley – President NCDEA

Gayle Wills – Kent, DE DCDEA Treasurer

Gene Vanderwende – Kent, DE CD

Alisa Bentley – Kent, DE CD

Jean Baluski – NJACDE Vice President, Ocean County, New Jersey

Lenny Lord – Rockingham, NH CD

**2014 Annual Meeting Minutes** - The 2014 annual meeting minutes were sent out to the delegates and were **accepted as presented upon a motion by Rick Mickowski from Delaware and seconded by Kerin Hume from Delaware, motion carried unanimously.**

**2015 Budget and Financial Report** - Ines Zimmerman, Treasurer presented a financial report and a 2015-16 budget report. The ending balance of the account after the 2014 NE Regional

Conference was \$7,285.77. **A motion by Kerin Hume from Delaware and seconded by Jeff Parker from New Jersey, carried unanimously to accept the report as presented.** As for the budget all categories have remained the same and there are possibilities for training and raffles and increased the proceeds for the tour. Ines believes we could leave the amount of the tour at \$55 which was the same as this year. **A motion to accept the budget as presented was made by Kerin Hume from Delaware and seconded by Jean Baluski from New Jersey., motion carried unanimously.**

### **President's Report –**

Tim reported on being president for 2 ½ years and during that time it has been a struggle to get people involved. We have been working hard to develop a good communication infrastructure to bring all the states to become involved with the NACDE. The employee associations vary from state to state and understanding those differences has become a challenge. NACDE is also working on reaffirming our partnerships and to push that concept down to the State's. This would develop an infrastructure not only for the northeast but for each state. Discussion was also held on the Leadership Meeting in the Northern New England States and how do we bring all the states together to promote a strong NACDE. An idea of sharing one state's successes among the others such as the Water Quality Symposium held in NY was also discussed. We can use these as a way to grow our organization. NACDE also instituted a travel stipend to assist those interested to attend any employee associated events such as the Sunday Tour at the NE NACD meetings.

### **Awards-**

**2015 District Employee Award – Regional-** presented to Rick Mickowski by Tim Thomas.

Rick Mickowski was nominated by the Delaware Conservation District Employees Association (DCDEA). He has served as Secretary, Vice President and President of NACDE. Tim noted that he personally met Rick when he came on as Vice President – he is a hard working person and always takes on responsibilities. Being President was a struggle in the beginning and Rick was the one that was there to help Tim and give him direction. Rick won this award 15 years ago and the association wouldn't have survived without Rick. This award will be forwarded onto the national awards. Tim thanked Rick for all his hard work over the years.

### **Election of Officers:**

Tim turned over the election of officers to Rick Mickowski, chair of the nomination committee - Rick stated the Alan, Ines and Sandy have agreed to stay on as Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary respectfully. **A motion was made to accept these three officers by Jean Baluski from New Jersey and seconded by Kerin Hume from Delaware, motion carried unanimously.** Rick also mentioned that we do need a nomination for President but Tim is willing stay on in the interim. Rick also explained the duties of the President. **Alan made a motion to nominate Jeff Parker as President and Kerin Hume seconded the motion with Jeff accepting the nomination pending his Board approval, motion carried unanimously.**

## **Partnership Reports –**

**National Association of Conservation District Employees:** Tim Riley, newly elected President of the NCDEA, addressed the group. If we want employees at the table to make decisions and policies we have to have an employee's associations. Employees are represented on many of the committees associated with NACD. If the employees associations did not exist there would be no representation on these committees. These committees give us the implementers at the table with the policy makers. Tim reported on NCDEA holding their mid-year meeting in Texas with discussion on the Conservation Planning Initiative. NRCS leadership was present at the meeting as well as Mike Brown from NASCA and Dick Went. There was a push to re-open the farm bill that was just passed with a number of letters going out to leave the farm bill as is and seems to have worked for now.

Tim also reported on the MOU between the five national partners, stating that Delaware is in the process of getting the MOU signed and the Southeast has signed their MOU and it should be a goal to have the Northeast sign their MOU at next year's meeting. Every year for the past 7 years, NCDEA does a contribution agreement with NRCS. The deliverable for this year will be to study and evaluate the partnerships within 10 different states. Tim has developed a survey to send out to these states asking questions regarding the various partnerships. During the mid-year meeting the respective states in attendance completed the survey and Tim is in the process of reviewing these surveys and will pick additional states to complete the survey.

Tim Thomas again reiterated the point that having an implementer at the table helps to make policy. The Conservation Policy Initiative is a perfect example. A survey of the 10 states will have the states look at their partnership compared to others states. Once again this is happening due to the employees association's involvement.

**Other Business** – Alan Masters stated that NY is willing to accept donations for their silent auctions for their Water Quality Symposium in March. NY has a very successful scholarship program and would be willing to accept donations for silent auction to benefit the NACDE.

It was noted that if your state is having an employee training, please share this information with Sandy Thompson at [sdthompson@mckeancountypa.org](mailto:sdthompson@mckeancountypa.org) and she will send it out to the group.

**2015 Conservation Skills Workshop, – Being held September 21-25<sup>th</sup> in Cortland, NY at end of September. It is a week long technical training.**

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 AM following a motion by Jean Baluski from New Jersey and seconded by Alan Masters from New York, motion carried unanimously.*

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Sandy Thompson, Secretary