



Resource Conservation & Development, Inc.

Empowering Citizens to Build Strong Communities

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BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 11, 2008

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Call to Order: The December 11, 2009 Meeting of the Panhandle RC&D Board of Directors was called to order by President Gary Fisher at 11:00 a.m. Attendees included: President Gary Fisher, Dawes County; Bill Patterson, City of Oshkosh; Ron Miller, Scotts Bluff County; Treasurer Verlin Bruns, Deuel County; Harold Winkelman, Cheyenne County; Lonnie Miller, City of Terrytown; Larry Gibbs, City of Gering; Roger Gray, City of Oshkosh; Gary Grubbs, Banner County; Joe Nunn, Sioux County; Brenda Johnson, City of Crawford; and Dave Ostdiek, North Platte NRD.

Staff: Ron Moore and Jennifer Rogers

Guests: Kerri Schnase from Senator Nelson's office.

Approve Agenda: Addition: under New Business #14, Earth Team Volunteer Award. Motion to approve the agenda with the addition made by Gary Grubbs; seconded by Verlin Bruns. Motion carried.

Minutes: Motion to approve the November 13, 2008 Minutes by Harold Winkelman; seconded by Gary Grubbs. Motion carried. Motion to approve the 2008 Annual Meeting Minutes by Larry Gibbs; seconded by Joe Nunn. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Verlin Bruns went through the December 11, 2008 Treasurer's Report. The report included receipts in the amount of \$8,676.95 for the No-Till Conference sponsorships and registration fees; \$900.00 in dues for the Council; and \$265.00 for the Council from the Fort Robinson State Park Lodging check refund, totaling \$9,841.95. Expenses totaled \$9,431.92, bringing the ending cash balance for all accounts to \$51,287.28. Motion made by Harold Winkelman to accept the December 11, 2008 Treasurer's Report; seconded by Joe Nunn. Motion Carried

Approval of Bills: Motion made by Larry Gibbs to approve the bills-to-be-paid as presented; seconded by Dave Ostdiek. Motion carried.

Reports

Program Assistant Report: Jennifer discussed the current status of the sponsoring members and dues for 2008, as well as the registrations for the Western RC&D Conference. Jennifer also talked about the alumni event that the Leadership Scotts Bluff class is planning for March.

High Plains WMA Report: Ron and Jennifer reported that officials from High Plains met with Senator Harms and Senator Loudon the previous week to discuss the Department of Agriculture grant and future funding possibilities. The group is continuing work as reported previously.

Organic Farming / Soil Health Report: The committee will be holding an Organic Farming workshop on Monday, December 15th. There will be speakers available to discuss practices and current cost share opportunities. The workshop is free and open to anyone.

No-Till Conference Report: Jennifer included an itemized breakdown of the current financial report from the Winter Conference. There were 170 attendees, which exceeded expectations given the special farming and weather circumstances this fall. Members discussed the possibility of setting up a policy to cover some of the administrative and personnel costs to RC&D for holding these conferences with outside groups. Motion made by Larry Gibbs to put together a letter of the direct costs that were associated with the conference to submit to the Panhandle No-Till Partnership for possible reimbursement; seconded by Verlin Bruns. Ron Moore reminded the Members that part of the \$20,000 agreement through NRCS is to put on projects such as this one, but it is up to the Council to decide if they would like to adopt a practice such as this. Motion withdrawn by Larry Gibbs; second withdrawn by Verlin Bruns based on the new information regarding the NRCS funding. Members requested Jennifer to put together a breakdown of her time spent on the conference to look at for future reimbursement possibilities.

Old Business

Election of Officers: President Gary Fisher said that he and Mike Marker discussed tabling the item once again since Mike was unable to attend this month's meeting. Motion made by Larry Gibbs to table the election of officers until the first meeting in January; seconded by Gary Grubbs. Motion carried.

2009 State Association Meeting: Verlin Bruns reported that he checked in with Gary Bergman and Carol Speicher who are with the Great Plains RC&D that hosted the 2008 conference and was able to obtain a lot of documents that might be able to assist the Council in their planning. He attempted to email them out to everyone on the committee, but the email did not work. The committee consisting of Roger Gray, Verlin Bruns, Ron Klemke, Larry Gibbs, and Ron Miller decided to meet prior to the regular January meeting of the RC&D Board of Directors.

Annual Bus Tour Proposal: President Gary Fisher discussed the possibility of the RC&D becoming involved in putting together bus tours for local residents of the area attractions. This could also be helpful in planning the State Conference. Additional information will be presented and discussed at future meetings.

New Business

Project Proposal: The City of Mitchell is currently working on a park project and is in need of money to complete some hardscape in the area. They have requested assistance from the RC&D in grant location and application. Motion made by Larry Gibbs to approve the City of Mitchell Park Project proposal; seconded by Dave Ostdiek. Motion carried.

Earth Team Volunteer Award: NRCS has a volunteer program that allows all of the volunteers that are working on projects to take credit and receive recognition for the work that they provide. Ron Moore would like to be sure we are also recognizing the volunteers that help with all of the Council's local projects as well. Motion made by Harold Winkelman to allow Ron and Jennifer the authority to issue certificates for special recognition for the volunteers they would like to recognize; seconded by Lonnie Miller. Motion carried.

Adjourn: Motion made by Larry Gibbs to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Verlin Bruns. Motion carried. At 12:00 p.m., the meeting was adjourned by President Gary Fisher.