



Resource Conservation & Development, Inc.

*Empowering Citizens to Build Strong Communities*

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## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 16, 2008

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

**Call to Order:** The October 16, 2008 meeting of the Panhandle RC&D Board of Directors was called to order by President Gary Fisher at 11:00 a.m. Those in attendance: President Gary Fisher, Dawes County; Lonnie Miller, City of Terrytown; Roger Gray, City of Oshkosh; Vice-President Ron Klemke, City of Oshkosh; Treasurer Verlin Bruns, Deuel County; Charles Weston, Box Butte County; Larry Gibbs, City of Gering; Harold Winkelman, Cheyenne County; David Ostdiek, North Platte NRD; Cheryl Burkhart-Kriesel, South Platte NRD; Ron Miller, Scotts Bluff County.

Staff present: Ron Moore and Jennifer Rogers.

**Approve Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda made by Cheryl Burkhart-Kriesel; seconded by Charles Weston. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Everyone took a moment to read through the September 11, 2008 Minutes. Motion to approve the September 11, 2008 Minutes made by Ron Miller; seconded by Larry Gibbs. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Verlin Bruns quickly went through this month's Treasurer's Report. Receipts included: Dues totaling \$1,650.00 from: Scotts Bluff County, South Platte NRD, City of Bridgeport, City of Mitchell, City of Alliance, and the Village of Hemingford; \$1,525.00 from the Chadron Native American Center for support for the Intertribal Gathering; \$646.00 from the Nebraska Humanities Council; \$11,500.00 from the High Plains Weed Management Association; and \$2,100.00 in Sponsorships/Registrations for the No-Till Conference. The Receipts totaled \$17,646.00. Expenses included: \$300.00 to Dana F. Cole; \$41.25 to Scottsbluff-Gering Chamber; \$61.52 to USPS; \$1,179.95 Payroll; \$11.60 in Paypal processing fees; \$208.55 to Staples; \$25.00 to Allo Communications; \$1,179.95 Payroll; and \$1,680.00 to USPS for No-Till stamps. Expenses totaled \$4,687.82. Ending cash balance as of October 16, 2008 was \$50,786.23. Motion to approve the October 16, 2008 Treasurer's Report was made by Larry Gibbs; seconded by Cheryl Burkhart-Kriesel. Motion carried.

**Approval of Bills:** Motion to approve the October 18, 2008 bills as presented with one addition to Fort Robinson in the amount of \$265.00 made by Lonnie Miller; seconded by Larry Gibbs. Motion carried.

### Reports:

**Program Assistant Report:** Jennifer updated the board on Leadership Scottsbluff and mentioned the tour that the class got to do of the Bluffs Middle School which will have a bond referendum in the upcoming election. She said it was very enlightening and encouraged everyone that lives in the area to get behind the proposal. She also gave a membership update and encouraged anyone whose area they are representing to be in contact with them in order to get the dues taken care of. She will be sending out reminder notices at the beginning part of November. The National Association of RC&D Councils is also asking local Councils to submit success stories for their annual conference. Jennifer encouraged

the board to begin coming up with ideas. She also offered registration brochures for the 2008 No-Till Winter Conference that RC&D is sponsoring. The conference is Nov. 18-19, and the registration deadline is November 14.

**High Plains WMA Report:** Jennifer and Ron Moore reported that High Plains work is still underway. They are working on continue to address the three different species and hope to be offering some landowner and contractor workshops in the near future.

**Nebraska RC&D Association Conference Report:** Verlin Bruns and Ron Miller both gave information regarding what took place at this year's State Association Conference. Panhandle RC&D won three awards including: Council of the Year, Board Member of the Year (Verlin Bruns), and Best Display. This year's conference had some wonderful tours and information presented, including speeches by personnel from the Nebraska Game & Parks and a hazardous household waste facility in Omaha. The other major development is that Panhandle RC&D was voted on to be the host of next year's State Association Conference. It was decided to put this item on next month's agenda to continue discussing it further.

#### **Old Business:**

**DEQ Grants/Recycling Projects:** Jennifer reported that the Waste Reduction and Recycling grant opportunity through the DEQ is due Feb. 1, so if the Council wishes to do something with those funds, that now is definitely the time to begin planning. Possible funding can include scrap tire recycling or electronic recycling, which might be timely considering the digital switch in TVs next year. Jennifer will be in contact with local smaller areas to see if any might be interested in having an event.

**Annual Meeting:** Jennifer included a draft Annual Meeting agenda in the board packets and reminded the group that next week's regular meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. with the Annual Meeting beginning directly thereafter.

#### **New Business**

##### **Project Proposals:**

Hemingford Youth Center: Citizens in Hemingford wish to begin located and applying for grant funding and would like assistance from the RC&D in obtaining their 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. Motion made by Larry Gibbs, seconded by Charles Weston to approve the Hemingford Youth Center as a project under the RC&D. Motion carried.

Sustainable Decisions Workshop: Al Herbel with the Great Plains Sustainability Network requested the Council to consider approving this project under the RC&D. Mr. Herbel would like for the funds and registrations to be funneled through the RC&D, in addition to the organization providing other assistance. This year's conference is called Sustainable Decisions Affecting Home, Business, and Community. The date will be March 26, 2009. There's a possibility that the RC&D, if approved, may also assist the conference in obtaining a PIE grant through the Nebraska Environmental Trust. It was decided that Jennifer should email out a link to the conference's website and the registration brochure so the board can know more about it. Motion made by Ron Klemke to approve the Sustainable Decisions Workshop as a project under the RC&D; seconded by Cheryl Burkhart-Kriesel. Motion carried.

Garden County Historical Society Military Museum: Ron Moore presented the Project Proposal to the Council and said he didn't have much information on the project at this time, but hopes to be finding out more and working with the group to help them meet their goals. Motion made by Lonnie

Miller to approve the Garden County Historical Society Military Museum as a project under the RC&D; seconded by Larry Gibbs. Motion carried.

Henry School Building Restoration: Ron Moore reported that the group had previously submitted a Project Proposal form that somewhat addressed what they are hoping to accomplish with the school building restoration, but the group has made additional progress including obtaining an inspection by an engineer, so they wanted to submit an additional proposal for the project. Motion made by Verlin Bruns to approve the Henry School Building Restoration as a project under the RC&D; seconded by Larry Gibbs. Motion carried.

**Western Association of RC&D Councils Conference:** Jennifer said that the registration deadline for the Western Conference is coming due December 15, so she included a copy of the agenda and registration information in the board packet for the members to begin deciding who would like to attend. Everyone will then report back at the next meeting.

**Adjournment:** Motion made by Charles Weston to adjourn the October 16, 2008 meeting of the Panhandle RC&D Board of Directors; seconded by Larry Gibbs. Motion carried.

With no further business, at 12:05 p.m. President Gary Fisher adjourned the meeting.