



Resource Conservation & Development, Inc.

Empowering Citizens to Build Strong Communities

1517 Broadway, Suite 101, Scottsbluff, NE 69361-3184

Phone: 308-632-1311 ☐ FAX: 308-632-7671

E-mail: panhandle.rcd@allophone.com

www.panhandlercd.com

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

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

Call to Order: The September 11, 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: Gary Fisher, Dawes County; Bill Patterson, City of Oshkosh; Dennis Beyer, High Plains WMA; Rick Soper, Kimball County; Terry McCord, Garden County; Mike Marker, Scotts Bluff County; Ron Miller, Scotts Bluff County; Gary Grubbs, Banner County; Verlin Bruns, Deuel County; Charles Weston, Box Butte County; Harold Winkelman, Cheyenne County; and Larry Gibbs, City of Gering. The board took a moment of silence to recognize the significant date and those who were lost and affected by the tragic events of September 11, 2008.

Staff present: Ron Moore and Jennifer Rogers.

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda made by Rick Soper; seconded by Mike Marker. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Everyone took a moment to read through the July 10, 2008 Minutes. Motion to approve the August 14, 2008 Minutes made by Mike Marker; seconded by Verlin Bruns. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The September 11, 2008 Treasurer's Report was sent out prior to the meeting for everyone to have a chance to look through the items. Receipts included: Dues totaling \$4,350.00 from: City of Crawford, City of Sidney, City of Bayard, City of Gordon, City of Oshkosh, Village of Henry, Cheyenne County, Deuel County, City of Chappell, Banner County, City of Minatare, Dawes County, Box Butte County, City of Gering, Garden County, and Sioux County; and \$368.00 from the Nebraska Arts Council for the final grant payment. The Receipts totaled \$4,718.00. Expenses included: \$84.20 to Fort Robinson State Park; \$100.00 to Russ Finch; \$269.60 to Mahoney State Park; \$84.00 to USPS; \$924.78 Payroll; \$924.78 Payroll; \$390.00 to Nebraska Great Plains RC&D; \$25.00 to Allo Communications; \$450.00 to Leadership Scottsbluff. Expenses totaled \$3,252.36. Ending cash balance as of September 11, 2008 was \$37,828.05. Motion to approve the September 11, 2008 Treasurer's Report was made by Mike Marker; seconded by Ron Miller. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills: Motion to approve the September 11, 2008 bills as presented made by Rick Soper; seconded by Gary Grubbs. Motion carried.

Reports:

Program Assistant Report: Jennifer gave a report on her acceptance into the Leadership Scottsbluff program for the upcoming year. The Board congratulated Jennifer. The trainings will be one Friday a month, including a Legislative trip to Lincoln in February. The program ends in April. Jennifer also presented the current list of membership dues that have been received to date. Jennifer also asked the Board to figure out what date and time would be best for the Annual Meeting. The Board decided to

hold the Annual Meeting the same day as the regular meeting in November (13th). The regular meeting will begin at 1:00 with the Annual Meeting to be held directly thereafter. The regular meeting in October will also have to be pushed back a week to October 16th to accommodate the State Association meeting. The Board would like a presentation from Ron Miller on Soil Health and Dennis Beyer from High Plains WMA at the Annual Meeting. Jennifer will confirm with the High Plains group and will send out an agenda as soon as possible.

High Plains WMA Report: Project Manager Dennis Beyer from High Plains WMA gave an update on the organization and projects that are underway. There are currently five contractors working, covering from Henry to Oshkosh so each county has work being done. The helicopter and amphibious machinery will begin their work on the river next week for Salt cedar and Phragmites. Six projects have been completed in excess of 300 acres. The number of landowners that continue to sign up is very encouraging. The organization is going to continue to pursue grant funding, because the Environmental Trust funds will probably only cover about 25-30% of the total need. With the helicopter project, the landowners were sent postcards explaining that the two species are noxious weeds and that they will be treated; notices in the local newspapers were also done. Sky Copters will be using Habitat to spray and it won't affect livestock or anything in the area. There have been a few concerned landowners, but for the most part all of the feedback has been positive. The group had the helicopter also do some GPS mapping of the species and there are thousands of acres of infested areas. NRCS is also working on a project using infrared and color-coded pictures to pick out the different species which will hopefully be available in the near future. As far as river beautification and the filling in of grasses and native species, they areas will be looking at eight months to a year for growth to start filling back in.

Soil Health/Food Web Committee Report: Ron Miller reported that the RC&D will be holding an organic farming workshop, in conjunction with the organic farming grant funds through the Environmental Trust that were given to nine RC&D councils across the state. Ron is currently working as a part-time organic farming technician for this project. Motion made by Mike Marker to approve the Council hosting an Organic Farming Workshop on September 23th in the Bluffs Business center Board Room; seconded by Terry McCord. Motion carried. Jennifer will be getting out press releases and direct mailings to those who might be interested. The workshop will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Personnel Committee Report: Mike Marker and Ron Miller of the Personnel Committee met with Jeff Schledewitz and Dennis Beyer of High Plains WMA and Ron Moore. A lot of the High Plains extra work is falling on to Jennifer, so she has requested an increase in salary and the group agreed that High Plains will cover the increase. This will mean that there will be an amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding to increase the yearly support from High Plains to RC&D from \$40,000 a year to \$46,000 a year, to go toward Jennifer's increase in salary. This will mean a quarterly breakdown of \$11,500 instead of \$10,000. Jennifer will also be switching from an hourly to a salary position. A motion made by Verlin Bruns to approve the amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding between High Plains WMA and the Council, increasing the yearly support from \$40,000 to \$46,000 with the excess funds to cover Jennifer's salary increase; seconded by Gary Grubbs. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Nebraska State RC&D Association Conference: Those attending: Ron Moore, Jennifer Rogers, Verlin Bruns, and Ron Miller. They will be reporting back at next month's meeting on the Conference.

RC&D Week: Jennifer reported that quite a few proclamations were signed into and returned to the office. Press releases were also sent out and the website had information on the RC&D week. Next year, the Council hopes to hold an open house in the new office.

DEQ Grants/Recycling Projects: tabled

New Business

Project Proposals:

Hemingford Youth Center: tabled

Sustainable Decisions Workshop: tabled

Adjournment: Motion made by Charles Weston to adjourn the September 11, 2008 meeting of the Panhandle RC&D Board of Directors; seconded by Larry Gibbs.

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