



Five Rivers RC&D
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Five Rivers RC&D Council Meeting Minutes – December 12th, 2011

President Alan Richard called the regular meeting of the Five Rivers Resource Conservation & Development Council to order at 10:05 a.m. at the Convent House B&B in Steinauer, NE.

Members Present:

Lower Big Blue NRD –Bob Lorenz	Nemaha County – Mary Kruger
Pawnee County – Alan Richard	Gage County – Myron Dorn
Richardson County- Jim Davidson	At-Large – Paul Rohrbaugh
Jefferson County - Jim Frager	Nemaha NRD - Scott Kudrna
At-Large – Jessica Jones	Nemaha NRD Alternate – Scott Nelson
Johnson County – Tom Hamer	At-Large – Wilmer Schlake
Richardson County – David Sickel	Lower Big Blue NRD Alternate – Ken Brockman
Johnson County Alternate – Howard McNiff	At Large – Dale Haverty
Ron Puhalla – Pawnee County Alternate	

Members Absent: Saline County – Willis Luedke; Otoe County - Alfred Gigstad

Staff and Volunteers: Bobbie Meints, Executive Director

Guests: Don Kruger; Phyllis Brockman; Ann Haverty; Peggy Davidson; Alyce Sickel; Bridget McNiff; Karen Hamer; Tammy Timms

Minutes: A motion was made by Davidson and seconded by Lorenz to approve the November 17th, 2011 minutes as presented and previously mailed. Motion carried.

Bills and Financial Report: Haverty made the motion and Dorn seconded the motion to accept the financial report as presented. Motion passed. Frager made the motion to pay the bills as presented and Kruger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Staff Report: An update on current and upcoming projects was distributed.

Update of Volunteer Hours: A volunteer hours reporting form was circulated.

Correspondence: A Christmas card for Marge Rathbone was circulated.

Additions to Agenda: Kruger made the motion and Kudrna seconded the motion to purchase a \$25.00 gift card for Marge at the Tecumseh Central Market. Motion passed.

McNiff reported that the community center no longer has any tables. Richard asked for any suggestions on where to purchase tables at a discounted rate. McNiff suggested contacting other RC&Ds or the state office to see if there are any tables available in their surplus. Frager suggested purchasing white tables from a hardware store for the approximate price of \$40.00. Frager also suggested taking a collection from members to purchase the tables. Later during the dinner, Myron Dorn reported that he would donate one table to Five Rivers RC&D. Additionally, Alyce and David Sickel announced that they have two round tables that they would like to donate.

Unfinished Business:

Fundraising Opportunities/Brainstorming: Meints informed the council that the current PSAs/Directors have begun meeting monthly through the use of a teleconference service. Meints reported that the meetings are informal, giving each council representative the opportunity to ask questions and share ideas. President Richard reported that the National RC&D Association is sending out emails with several different funding opportunities that are available. Richard reported that he will discuss some of the opportunities further with Meints. Meints suggested putting together a grant committee consisting of approximately three council members that way they can discuss project ideas and apply for grants accordingly.

New Business:

Market Place2012: Richard reported that the Council of 12 discussed the upcoming event, which will be held in Kearney, NE, February 21-22, 2011. He reported that the RC&Ds will be represented and that he will be attending as well.

Western RC&D Conference: The Western RC&D Conference will be held in Price, NM, March 25-29, 2012. Richard reported that no additional information has been received as of yet. Meints reported that other RC&Ds have expressed their frustration with the lack of contact on behalf of the Western RC&D Association.

National RC&D Conference: The National RC&D Conference is scheduled to be held in Madison, WI, June, 2012. Richard stated that no additional information has been received as of yet.

Nomination Committee Report (Hamer, Rohrbaugh, Frager): Hamer spoke on behalf of the nominating committee and reported that the 2012 nominations were as follows: President: Jessica Jones; Vice-President: Jim Frager, Treasurer: Mary Kruger; Secretary: Alfred (Doc) Gigstad.

Election of officers: Hamer made the motion to elect the nominees as presented. Haverly seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Projects to close: No new projects to open.

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Other Business:

Council of 12 meeting-Jones: Jones briefed the council on the latest Council of 12 conference call, including the update on the plans for the 2012 State meeting. The Council of 12 is making changes to the bylaws so that the date of the state meeting can be changed. Jones is making an informational sheet with contact information for the Tech Center so that they can be contacted with any questions, etc. Richard asked if Five Rivers needed to make a motion to change the bylaws. Kudrna reported that he believed that the voting delegate from Five Rivers would vote during the Council of 12 meeting. Loup Basin RC&D and the Tech Center continue to work on developing the new website.

Roundtable: Council members shared upcoming events and other news from their communities and counties.

Council members, Paul Rohrbaugh and Howard McNiff also shared project ideas as follows:

Paul Rohrbaugh: Possible speaker: Jim Rogers – project opportunities to help young people get involved in agriculture. Rohrbaugh believes that a project that can educate our residents on how to offer quality food to consumers would be beneficial.

Howard McNiff: McNiff thanked President Richard for his service to the Council. He also discussed the importance of the Council continuing with the Household Hazardous Waste project and suggested looking into offering Business Transfer classes for those business owners looking to retire. According to McNiff, the Council partnered with another organization in the past and received good results from similar workshops. Additionally, McNiff congratulated the Council on their partnership and support of the Weed Management Area and the current NETF grant. McNiff stated that the Weed Management Area is doing an outstanding job of notifying and educating the public on the invasive weeds and helping to control the problem weeds.

Recognition of Council Members' Years of Service: President Richard presented each council member with a certificate of appreciation for their dedication and service to the Five Rivers RC&D Council. Additionally, Richard presented three members of the Council with awards for their twenty years of service and dedication to Five Rivers RC&D. Mary Kruger, Ron Puhalla, and Howard McNiff were all thanked and presented with special gifts.

Scott Kudrna along with President Richard also presented Tammy Timms, former RC&D Coordinator, with a gift for her years of service to Five Rivers RC&D.

Council Meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m. with the annual dinner following.

Bobbie Meints, Recording Secretary