



Five Rivers RC&D
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Five Rivers RC&D Council Meeting Minutes – June 20th, 2013

President Jessica Jones called the traveling meeting of the Five Rivers Resource Conservation & Development Council to order at 9:35 am at the Nemaha NRD in Tecumseh, NE.

Members Present:

Nemaha NRD– Scott Kudrna	At-Large – Jessica Jones
Lower Big Blue NRD –Bob Lorenz	Johnson County – Tom Hamer
Jefferson County – Jim Frager	Nemaha County – Marvin Bohling
Richardson County- Jim Davidson	At-Large – Wilmer Schlake
At-Large – Mary Kruger	Gage County – Myron Dorn
Otoe County Alternate – Carol Crook	

Members Absent:

At Large – Dale Haverty; At-Large – Paul Rohrbaugh;
Saline County – Willis Luedke; Pawnee County – Alan Richard

Staff and Volunteers: Bobbie Meints, Executive Director

Introductions: None.

Additions to Agenda: Revisions to the agenda are highlighted in red ink: **Extra Compensation for Bobbie Meints will be added under the “New Business” section of the agenda.**

Minutes: A motion was made by Kruger and seconded by Lorenz to approve the May 16th, 2013 minutes as presented and previously mailed. Motion passed.

Bills and Financial Report: Dorn made the motion to pay the bills and to accept the financial report and place it on file. Davidson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Correspondence: President Jones circulated 6 thank you notes to be signed and sent to the Wilber meeting hosts and hostesses. Jones also passed around documents from First Comp explaining the increase (\$28/annually) in workers comp insurance.

Staff Report: Meints provided the Council with an update of the current events and projects.

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

Unfinished Business:

Fundraising Opportunities/Brainstorming: President Jones asked if any members had any new fundraising ideas. No new ideas were generated at this time.

Chip Hines Event: “Time to Change” – Dorn/Jones/Meints: Meints circulated a flyer that contained information regarding the Chip Hines Event. The flyer can be utilized when obtaining sponsorships. The date and location for the event have been confirmed. It was determined that 2-3 levels of sponsorships may be valuable. The council determined that the banner should be used for one full year for all RC&D events, not just limited to the Chip Hines event, which should result in increased sponsorships. The Council also discussed different sponsorship levels offering different sizes of logos on the banner. For example, a \$250 sponsorship buys the sponsor a much larger space than a \$100 sponsorship. Jones suggested offering booth spaces once again, however charging \$25 extra for a booth. The planning committee for the event will meet and determine the final registration and sponsorship prices.

Annual Plan of Work-Jones-President Jones reported that she has been working on the plans and has modified the documents to better fit the needs of the RC&D. McNiff offered his help and pointed out that it continues to work well for the RC&D to fill in the gaps rather than compete against other organizations. He stated that it is important to find out what the needs are in the communities so that the citizens and elected officials can continue to find the value in the RC&D. The committee will continue to work on the plan of work as well as 5 year plan of work. The committee is as follows: Jones/Richard/Hamer/Meints
5 Year Plan of Work-Jones – see above

2013-2014 Membership Dues Updates – County Representatives –Meints reported that all annual report presentations have been given and that invoices have been sent out. Jones reported that they are having difficulties being put on the Cass County agenda in part due to Chair of the Commissioners for Cass County serving as a member of the Great Plains RC&D council. The Council discussed this further and determined that it would be best at this point to terminate any plans to expand into Cass County.

Steamboat Trace Trail Tours – Meints/Kruger- Meints highlighted the upcoming event on June 28th in the staff report. Kruger also added that she had made contact with the “We Got This” bar and grill in Peru, who was offering participants coupons and a free drink after the tour. Kruger and Meints encouraged all council members to come and bring their spouses or children.

Recruiting Council Members/Alternates – Jones reminded the Council that there are still several vacant alternate positions that need to be filled and that members should begin looking for replacements for members who may be retiring in the near future.

NFWF Grant –Invasive Weed Species –Meints – Meints reported that the WMA had decided to apply for another grant offered from the NFWF. The first step in this process was to submit a pre-proposal, which only consisted of 250 characters. Meints pointed out that the grant was looking for applicants who belonged to a weed management area and offered services on a regional basis to combat invasive weed species, however for whatever reason, they were not invited to submit a full proposal.

New Business:

WMA-NET PIE Grant-Meints: Meints reported that the WMA received a PIE grant to reproduce additional weed pocket ID guides. Meints stated that they are very excited about this, as the previous guides flew off the shelves. She mentioned that they will be incorporating their newest member, Lancaster County, into the guide and will also include Plumeless and Musk Thistles in the new guide. Meints also added that approximately \$700 is included in this grant for administration and mileage to help distribute the guides.

Fiscal Year Ends June 30, 2013

Schedule Committee Meetings

Audit – Hamer, Kudrna

Budget – Hamer, Kudrna, Kruger

President Jones pointed out that the Five Rivers fiscal year would be ending June 30, 2013, therefore end of the year duties need to be performed, including an audit and a budget proposal. The committees will meet in July.

Circle of Diamonds Reauthorization – Jones: Jones announced that the Five Rivers RC&D was granted reauthorization into the Premier Circle of Diamond program, an elite honor from the National RC&D association. McNiff commented that he read in the paper that we were only the fifth Council nationwide to receive this honor. Meints also pointed out that the Five Rivers Council was the first in the nation to receive the basic Circle of Diamonds honor.

Extra Compensation for Bobbie Meints – Jones: Jones reported that the executive committee had met prior to today’s meeting and determined that the financial situation was still too unstable to offer Meints a raise, however felt that extra compensation was necessary. The committee determined that at this time they would provide Meints with a \$500.00 bonus and will reevaluate this in the near future. Jones also pointed out that the committee feels that they should look into finding different ways to compensate Meints for rent since she is working out of her home. Kruger made the motion to pay Meints the \$500.00 bonus and Davidson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Projects to open: Kudrna made the motion to open Proj 13-329 – 2013 Weed Pocket ID Brochure and Proj 13-330 – 2012-2013 Annual Report. Lorenz seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Projects to close: Davidson made the motion and Dorn seconded the motion to close Proj 13-327 – NFWF Grant. Motion carried.

Other Business:

Council of 12 – Jones/Meints-Jones reported that she received a conference call-in number from Twila Phillips, however did not receive an agenda from Dan or Janet. Therefore, she was uncertain when the next teleconference would take place. The State RC&D meeting will take place in September in Burwell, NE.

Western RC&D Association/National RC&D Association Conference –Mobile, Alabama –June 2014- Jones reported that more information will be available about the two events soon. She pointed out that to save on costs; Western will hold their conference in conjunction with the National Conference this year.

Roundtable: Council members shared current and upcoming events and other news in their respective areas. Council Meeting was adjourned with a motion from Davidson and second by Schlake.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bobbie L Meints

Bobbie L Meints, Recording Secretary