



Five Rivers RC&D
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Five Rivers RC&D Council Meeting Minutes – April 14th, 2011

President Alan Richard called the regular meeting of the Five Rivers Resource Conservation & Development Council to order at 9:35 a.m. at the Five Rivers RC&D office location.

Members Present:

Lower Big Blue NRD –Bob Lorenz	Nemaha County – Mary Kruger
Johnson County – Tom Hamer	Pawnee County – Alan Richard
Gage County – Myron Dorn	Johnson County Alternate – Howard McNiff
Richardson County- Jim Davidson	Otoe County - Alfred Gigstad
At-Large – Dale Haverty	At-Large – Wilmer Schlake
Nemaha NRD Alternate– Scott Nelson	Jefferson County - Jim Frager
At-Large – Jessica Jones	At-Large – Paul Rohrbaugh
Saline County – Willis Luedke	

Members Absent: None

Staff and Volunteers: Tammy Timms, Coordinator; Bobbie Meints, Program Support Assistant

Introductions: Introductions of each council member and staff were given.

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

Bills and Financial Report: Frager made the motion to accept the financial report as presented. Haverty seconded the motion. Motion passed. A motion was made by Gigstad and seconded by Haverty to pay the bills as listed with the addition of Windstream for the amount of \$68.86. Motion passed. A motion was made by Kruger and seconded by Dorn for Bobbie to participate in the QuickBooks Training session as a student in preparation for performing the accounting duties for 5Rivers RC&D. Motion passed.

Correspondence: A thank you letter from guest speaker, Thomas Jordison, as well as a thank you note to Thomas Jordison, Nebraska Renaissance Director, for his presentation was circulated. Additionally, an official letter of request sent to the 5Rivers Weed Management Area on behalf of the Five Rivers Council was dispersed.

Staff Report: Coordinator Timms gave an update on projects.

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

Unfinished Business:

National Earth Team Award Viewing: President Richard directed the council members' attention to the newest award received by the Five Rivers Council and circulated the plaque that accompanies the award.

RC&D Promotions – Booth Table Cloth- Tammy Timms, Coordinator, announced that because the Five Rivers Council is the recipient of the National Earth Team Award, the NRCS purchased a booth table cloth with the Five Rivers logo on it for this year's NRCS earth team gift.

Executive Committee – Pre-Auth to pay bills: The executive committee held a meeting on March 25th to discuss the most recent funding concerns and had given pre-authorization to pay bills as listed above. Haverty made the motion to ratify the decision of the executive committee. Davidson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

RC&D Budget: President, Alan Richard discussed the current RC&D budget situation.

New Business:

State Association Meeting, April 7 in Grand Island - Richard: President Richard reported that the Council of 12 meeting held in Grand Island this year had a good turn-out of Five Rivers RC&D representation.

RC&D Contingency Plan:

Discussion: President Richard discussed the issues associated with losing federal funding, which include the loss of a coordinator, office equipment, and office space. Richard also reported that according to a Windstream representative, the likelihood of renting the council's current office space was not likely and that all members should keep other options in mind. Richard opened the discussion to all council members to share ideas. Council members were encouraged to stay involved, attend meetings, and continue networking. Members discussed fundraising options as well as gaining additional support from large foundations within the Five Rivers RC&D eight county area. The possibility of changing the membership structure of the council was also a topic of discussion. The council also discussed the proposed changes to the by-laws. The council discussed changing ARTICLE V-, Section A., 1. Voting Directors to be worded as "each of the *participating* NRDS". Additionally, the council proposed amending Section C.-Voting, by adding "which will require two-thirds majority vote as clarified in Section D *and Article X*". It was also proposed to amend Article VI, Section B, 7. Prepare and implement Area Plan-that all "Area Plans" be changed to "Area Business Plan". President Richard discussed changing Article VI, Section D, 5. Staff to include a new title for Bobbie and to exclude the NRCS from the by-laws. The council made the decision to postpone changes to this section until the close-out plan has been received.

Letters to Communities: Richard stated that letters to community members, counties, and press releases need to be created in order to encourage the backing of local supporters. Hamer made the motion to create letters and news releases to gain the attention of congressman, counties, and communities illustrating the past and present projects completed by the council. Frager seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Develop Project Committees: President Richard dispersed an itemized description of proposed committees and subcommittees. Paul Rohrbaugh suggested limiting the number of committees by combining duties from some of the committees into one. Myron Dorn suggested limiting the number of committees to no more than five. Mary Kruger made the motion to table the project committee discussion until the next council meeting. Gigstad seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Create letter to Craig Derickson for NRCS support: The council discussed creating a letter to Craig Derickson regarding the request for 10% assistance for NRCS related goods and projects. Hamer suggested including a list of past and current projects performed by the council that are also NRCS related, including the Weed Management Area, Organic Farming, Household Hazardous Waste Collections, Wine Schools, and 21st Century Grazing Conference. Rohrbaugh made the motion to create the letter and to continue to work with the NRCS. Dorn seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Projects to Open/Close: No new projects to open or close.

Cooperative Agreement Reimbursement: It was reported that the council received all requested funds from the Cooperative Agreement Reimbursement.

Circle of Diamonds Reimbursement: It was also reported that the council received all requested funds from the Circle of Diamonds Reimbursement.

EDGE VII: Program Support Assistant, Meints, reported that the response of community members and business owners interested in the QuickBooks Training Course is immense and that future classes are being planned to meet the demand. President Richard requested permission to change the title from EDGE VII to Business Training in order to use funds for all business training courses, including EDGE. Haverty made the motion and Frager seconded the motion to change the title and use funds for all business training courses. Motion passed.

Other Business:

Premier Circle of Diamonds: President Richard named the Premier Circle of Diamonds committee, which includes Alan Richard, Mary Kruger, Jessica Jones, Tammy Timms, and Bobbie Meints.

Earth Team Individual Volunteer Appreciation Gifts: Coordinator, Timms, presented each council member with the 2011 Earth Team Volunteer Appreciation Gift.

Roundtable: Council Members and staff shared information on current events in the surrounding counties and communities.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the RC&D Council will be held at the Five Rivers office location in Tecumseh, NE at 9:30 a.m. on May 19th, 2011.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.



Al Gigstad, Secretary