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Representatives from all twelve Nebraska RC&Ds gathered in Grand Island on April 12, 2012 for a stewide meeting. There were quite a few new representatives at the meeting, as well as many familiar faces. We held roundtable discussions to convey our concerns, describe progress in becoming self sufficient (or lack of), needs, wants and concerns. Ron Moore, RC&D Coordinator of the longstanding Panhandle RC&D, gave out board member guideline and fundraising booklets from the National RC&D office and suggested reading the book, "Who Moved My Cheese?" Craig Derickson, NE State Conservationist, addressed the group and conveyed support for the State RC&D Association. Linda Fettig, Director of the NE Rural Development Partnership, spoke about managing change, using the resources available to us, "coopetition", the relationship between community and economic development and gave a wonderful presentation with her "tool kit". All councils were given a copy of her new book, "The ABCs of Development".

During the business meeting we discussed the annual meeting scheduled for late September in the Wayne area to be hosted by Northeast RC&D. The Western RC&D meeting was held in Albuquerque, NM and attendees raised the question of location for the meeting next year. It was suggested that Nebraska host the next Western RC&D meeting, given the fact that we still have our twelve RC&Ds in tack. We will keep you posted on the location within Nebraska and date for the Western Meeting in 2013.

We are looking for support to carry out our mission of *"creating a network for all citizens by providing awareness, education and leadership development to enhance the economy, the environment, the natural resources and the quality of life with a vision for the future"*.

Please consider becoming involved with the RC&D organization.

Denise Trine – Director, PrairieLand RC&D  
402-454-2026



PrairieLand RC&D  
May Council meeting  
will be held at the  
Madison County Fairgrounds  
WEDNESDAY May 9, 2012  
at 3:30 p.m.  
We will tour the historic one room  
schoolhouse and octagonal barn building.

## EARTH DAY 2012

Norfolk Riverfront Development held another cleanup on Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup> on the North Fork River near First Street and Norfolk Ave. Trees were cleared to prepare for a walking trail on the west side. Following an Arbor Day tree planting in Johnson Park, the Norfolk Green Council Earth Day Festival was held from 1 – 4 pm. There was a recycling entertainer, games, booths and lots of fun.

Kuper Farms Store in Norfolk is now a pick up point for the Nebraska Food Coop. The Coop is on a monthly delivery cycle. The order cycle ends **THIS Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup>** at midnight with delivery on **Thursday May 10<sup>th</sup>**. Please go online to see all the wonderful meats, vegetables, baked goods, live plants, coffees & teas and beauty products offered.  
[www.nebraskafood.org](http://www.nebraskafood.org)

Visit the website, [GreenerNebraska.org](http://GreenerNebraska.org), to learn more about the program to become a greener business and to begin the certification process.

## Project Updates

### BuyFreshBuyLocal

Many farmers markets are up and running! Visit them and find out what your local producers have to offer!

[www.buylocalnebraska.org](http://www.buylocalnebraska.org)

## Shell Creek Watershed Improvement

Watch the Nebraska Farmer for an article about the opening of the entire Shell Creek Watershed to participation sign ups.

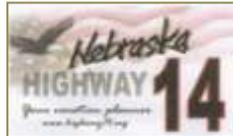
The Shell Creek *website* is now up and running!

Please visit:

[www.shellcreek.org](http://www.shellcreek.org)



## Highway 14



Highway 14 Association's annual meeting was held on Thursday, April 19, 2012 at Candi's Kitchen & Catering in Fullerton, Nebraska. Guest speaker Tom Tabor, a development consultant with the Nebraska Department of Travel & Tourism stated state tourism revenues are up, even during these economic times. Tourism is Nebraska's third largest industry. Over \$4.1 billion was spent in Nebraska in 2010. Sandhill crane migration through the beltway of Nebraska is an \$8 million industry. Two more bird watching events have proven successful for communities: Sandhill grouse and prairie chickens. Wildlife watching has surpassed the fishing sport in Nebraska. Tabor shared two recommendations for travel this summer. He said "glamping" will be popular. Groups of people sign up for camping, one or more days, with food prepared and for them and sometimes served in a glamorous fashion. Each person only carries a day pack, and the campsite and sleeping accommodations are prepared for them. For restaurants, tourism promoters, motels/hotels and camp sites, he recommended acquiring duns numbers for putting these destinations on GPS devices. Check the [www.VisitNebraska.gov/industry](http://www.VisitNebraska.gov/industry) website and take advantage of vacation package offerings.

Following Tom's presentation, the business meeting was held. President Don Meadows congratulated Mary Baldrige of Fullerton and Christian Evans of Aurora for all their work on the tourism grant application. The association did not receive a grant, but will try again next year if funds are available.

Pennies with the QR code on them will be distributed for the 14 geocaches along Highway 14. A "Know Nebraska" application for a free booth at the Nebraska State Fair has been sent it. A new rack card/brochure will be discussed at a later time, but the birding brochure will be taken to the brochure swap in May. These will be placed along the I-80 corridor. Brochures were sent for the Council Bluffs Expo and the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair.

Members present voted to change the association's constitution, providing for quarterly meetings rather than every other month.

Membership window clings were handed out to members to distribute in their communities.

Next meeting will be July 16.

Please visit [www.highway14.org](http://www.highway14.org)

## Nebraska Continuous No-till

The Nebraska No-till Cadre met via teleconference to plan for the next year of funding from the Nebraska Environmental Trust. Three "Whirlwind Expos" or large events are being planned throughout the state. Bus tours are also on the planning board. Please watch for more details as they become available.

For more information, please visit: [www.notill.org](http://www.notill.org)

## PrairieLand Recycling Projects

PrairieLand RC&D Council held several small used electronic collections funded through WasteCap grants from the Nebraska Environmental Trust. Pilger, Petersburg, Howells/Clarkson/Leigh, and Tilden hosted collections. A total of approximately 13,000 pounds of electronics were collected.



Recycling truck and crew in Petersburg

## PrairieLand Area Upcoming Meetings & Events

- May 4-5 - 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Fair - NECC
- **May 9 - PrairieLand RC&D Council meeting**
- June 1-2-3 - Howells Q125
- June 9-10 - Antique Tractor Show - Pawnee Park - Columbus
- June 10-13 - National RC&D Assoc meeting - Madison, WI
- June 11-15 - Weather Camp - [go.unl.edu/weathercamp](http://go.unl.edu/weathercamp)
- **June 13-PLAND Council Meeting-North Star Farms - Fullerton**
- June 13-17 - Great American Comedy Festival - Norfolk
- June 16-17 - Norfolk Air Show - Norfolk Regional Airport
- June 16-17 - Clarkson Czech Days
- June 20-24 - Tour de Nebraska bicycle ride
- June 23-24 - Duncan Ribfest - Duncan
- July 14 - Red Road Herb Fest - Pilger
- **July 18 - PLand Council Meeting**
- July 20-21-22 - Pilger Q125
- Aug 4-5 - Antique Tractor Show - Genoa
- Aug 10-12 - Seven Cities Bike Ride - Madison County  
[www.7citiescentury.com](http://www.7citiescentury.com)
- Aug 14-15 - NE Grazing Conference - Kearney  
[nebraskagrazingconference.unl.edu](http://nebraskagrazingconference.unl.edu)
- Sep 15-16 - Missouri River Outdoor Expo - Ponca State Park
- Sep 25-27 - NE State RC&D Meeting - Wayne

Please forward events to the PrairieLand office if you would like them posted on our calendar.

