

From; Dan Hruza, Ne President

To: Nebraska RC&D Members

I attended the 35th Western RC&D Conference on March 17-20th at Gering, Nebraska. A 3-day adventure of beautiful spring weather to a winter white morning, typical Nebraska weather. Time was enjoyed with old and new friends in the RC&D family. I wish to share some of my thoughts on the 35th Western Conference.

First, I want to Thank the Panhandle RC&D, Ron Moore and Joyce Mick for an outstanding job in setting up the Western Conference in Gering. The setting, food, entertainment and lodging was exceptional. I also want to recognize the Nebraska RC&D Planning Committee. Represented by Chair Gary Bergman, Duaine Brigman, Bobbie Meints, Twila Phillips, Denise Trine and Dan Hruza. Nebraska was well represented with approximately 20 RC&D members in attendance. The auction items from our local councils was outstanding, assisting in bringing \$3400.00 to the Western RC&D Association.

Congratulations to the Nebraska State Association Award winners in sweeping the Western Association Awards:

Outstanding Performance by a Executive Director -- Bobbi Meints, Five Rivers RC&D  
Outstanding Performance by a Program Assistant -- Joyce Mick, Panhandle RC&D  
Outstanding Performance by a Council -- Northeast RC&D  
Outstanding Performance by a Council Member -- Darold Ellwanger, Prarieland RC&D  
Outstanding Youth Involvement -- Plainview Future Farmers of America, Northeast RC&D

The theme of the Conference "' Rural Sustainability" was educational, not only toward RC&D's, but for community leaders in general. Topics varied from social media, economic trends, marketing and partnerships. We heard from our USDA partners Craig Deirkson of the NRCS, Jane Darnell of the Forest Service, Dr. Linda Boeckner of the U of N Extension Center and John Berge of the National Food and Agricultural Council.

The Western RC&D Association did hold their business meeting, with a quorum present. Officers for 2013: Sue Sutherland, President, Suzie Klein, 1st Vice-President, Joe Leichtnam, 2nd Vice-President, Joyce Mick, Treasurer, Pam Gouse, Secretary. Business items discussed; Western is proposing to update the Articles of Incorporation and Revise the Bylaws, Western 2014 Conference in conjunction with National Conference (passed). Western and National List Serve - Communication Source, get on it and use it, Dues for 2014 are \$250.00 and Committee Reports. For a complete review of the business meeting go to the Western RC&D website.

Dan Hruza