

# SANDHILLS RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Sept. 25, 2018

## MEETING MINUTES

The Sandhills Resource Conservation and Development Council held the monthly meeting on Sept. 25th, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. CST at the McPherson Co courthouse in Tryon. Present were Dave Hardin, Carl Rundback, Deb McConnell, and Twila Phillips. Joining by phone were Thad Emerson, Pam Moody, Lonnie Peters, and Bob Doyle. Excused was Cliff Welsh. Absent were Tim Andersen, Kenny Kramer, Lee Ferguson, and Mitch Glidden. Also present for the meetings was Cole from Arnold Insurance. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Deb McConnell.

*Minutes:* Minutes reviewed were from the July 31<sup>st</sup> meeting. Carol moved and Dave seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer reports – The Aug and Sept treasurer reports for the general account and housing accounts were reviewed. Dave moved and Carl seconded to accept the reports and place on audit. Motion carried.

### *Old business:*

Cole from Arnold Insurance was present to discuss our insurance coverage through Arnold Insurance. This policy covers liability, machine insurance, auto insurance, and workmen's comp insurance for our cedar control project. The policy runs April to April and is \$2,636 per month, paid on a monthly schedule. The council asked if there were ways to reduce the premium as this is no longer covered through a grant (NET grant has been completed). Cole said we could look at reducing the coverage on the value of the skid steer, but it is still in very good shape and all felt we did not want to reduce that amount. It is currently covered for \$60,000 with the attachments. Cole will check to see if the premiums would change much if it were paid quarterly or annually rather than monthly. He will let us know. He will also check to see that it is still covered with other uses. (digging post holes, moving dirt) Following discussion, Cole left the meeting.

Budget review – the year to date budget was reviewed with questions answered.

Audit – Pam and Deb had copies of their audits. Pam had completed two audits, one using the bank statements ending balances and one using the end of year balance from the treasurer reports including outstanding checks/deposits. Deb will try to redo hers using the bank statement balances and get it to Twila before she moves.

### Project reports –

**Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition (NGLC)** –The NGLC held their quarterly board meeting prior to the start of the Nebraska Grazing Conference in Kearney in early August. Plans are being made for the annual traveling road show with a grazing speaker to present at 8 locations across the state over a period of four days in mid-November. Many of the locations are at college campuses to encourage student attendance and registration is coordinated through local extension offices. They have a Nebraska Environmental Trust grant that will be ending in December 2018, and they are trying to get funds expended by the end of the year. They are developing a computer program to assist landowners in monitoring their pastures and grazing schedules. They are also working with the World Wildlife Fund in hiring a state coordinator for the generational transition program.

**Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway (SJSB)**– The byway is making plans for the October Arts and Humanities month with an art themed activity planned for October 13<sup>th</sup> at locations along the byway. The byway will also have vendor site for the annual Junk Jaunt to be held this next weekend. The location of the site will be the Visitor Center in the big red barn on the east side of Broken Bow. Funds generated for the sale of donated items will be split between the byway (used for promotion) and the visitor center (used for annual upkeep). The annual meeting will be January 2019 and a special event specifically for the annual meeting will be the showing of “Ocean of Grass” film at the Grand Theater in Grand Island.

**Hooker County Tourism** –Nothing new to report

**Skid Steer discussion** – Twila found out from the Nebraska Environmental Trust that the skid steer can be used for other purposes (moving dirt, digging postholes) now that the grant is completed.

**Housing Update** –No housing claims presented.

**New business:** Deb McConnell will be resigning her position on the Council as she and her husband will be relocating to Wisner, Nebraska where he has accepted a new position as Chief of Police. We will have election of officers for the 2019 year at the next meeting, so for now our Vice Chairman, Carl Rundback will fill in. Deb thought the commissioners may appoint a replacement for her on the council. Everyone is to be thinking about people who may be willing to fill vacancies on the council.

There is nothing new to report on the sale of the Sandhills RC&D office. It is listed for sale at \$100,000 and as far as Twila knows, it has not sold. Dr. Steve Boyer owns the building and has said that any new owner would be required to allow the RC&D to continue renting the space.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, Nov.27 in Tryon.

Respectfully submitted, Twila Phillips