

SANDHILLS RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

May 29, 2018

MEETING MINUTES

The Sandhills Resource Conservation and Development Council held the monthly meeting on May 29, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. CST at the McPherson Co courthouse in Tryon. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Deb McConnell. Present were Deb McConnell, Dave Hardin, and Bill Henry. Joining by phone were Bob Doyle, Lonnie Peters, Thad Emerson and Cliff Welsh. Absent and excused were Tim Andersen, Dave Hardin, and Pam Moody. Absent were Mitch Glidden, Pam Moody, Tim Andersen, Kenny Kramer, Carl Rundback and Lee Ferguson. Also present was Twila Phillips.

Minutes: Correction to agenda was noted – Minutes reviewed were from the March meeting, not May. Bill moved and Dave seconded to approve the minutes with the correction that Stan Pettit was not present. Motion carried.

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

Old business:

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

Audit – Deb McConnell has completed the audit – it will be sent to Pam for review and signature.

Project reports –

Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition (NGLC) – Flyers for the summer grazing tour to be held in the Chadron/Hay Springs area was sent out in the council mailing. A seminar on generational transition will be held on June 14th followed by a picnic, birding opportunity, and board meeting that evening. The tour on June 15th will be held at three ranches north and south of the Hay Springs area. There will also be a birding opportunity early the morning of the 15th. There will be a Private Lands Partners meeting in Missouri in October and several NGLC members are planning to attend – possibly with a group from the South Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition. A statewide generational transition ‘coordinator’ search is underway. Funding for this position will be through the World Wildlife Fund and NGLC will help coordinate the programing. The next quarterly board meeting will be in Kearney prior to the start of the state grazing conference in early August.

Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway (SJSB)– The byway will have a vendor location during the annual Junk Jaunt event the last full weekend of September. Donations of items are being accepted and will be offered for sale at the SJSB visitor center (big red barn) on the east side of Broken Bow. Proceeds will be split between the byway and Custer Economic Development for help in the upkeep of the visitor center. A new birding video is in the works and being produced by Mitch Hunt (Huntrex). He developed the previous 6 videos. This new birding video will use the remaining funds in the NET birding grant that will be completed this summer.

Hooker County Tourism – The Tractor Relay Across Nebraska group will be originating in the eastern part of the state, traveling from Dunning down highway 2 to Mullen and then south to Tryon and Arthur before completing their journey in the Scottsbluff area. They will spend the night in Halsey June 6th, in Mullen June 7th and Arthur June 8th. Hooker County tourism supported the National Shooting sports qualifiers by providing some funds for advertising the Mullen area.

Skid Steer discussion – The skid steer project is completed with all funds expended. Advertising will continue and final report for Nebraska Environmental Trust will be submitted.

Thedford Fire Hall – a grant had been requested last spring through Burlington Northern/Santa Fe for help in completing the new Thedford Fire Hall. Almost a year later, they finally responded and said that no funding would be available at this time.

Housing Update – No claims for this period.

Twila is looking for funding possibilities for the new bottling plant (equipment/expansion), working with a packing plant in finding supply partners after the plant gets it federal inspection qualification.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, July 31 in Tryon.

Respectfully submitted, Twila Phillips