

SANDHILLS RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
January 30, 2018
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The Sandhills Resource Conservation and Development Council held the Annual Meeting on January 30th, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. CT at the Tryon Community Building. Thank you to Deb McConnell for the spaghetti meal!! And to McPherson County Sheriff Tim McConnell for the presentation on Human Trafficking.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Deb McConnell. Present were Bill Henry, Dave and Evanna Hardin, Mitch and Patty Glidden, Carl Rundback, Deb and Tim McConnell, Kenny Kramer, and Lyle and Twila Phillips. Absent were Tom Witt, Lonnie Peters, Tammy White, Eric Hansen, Cliff Welsh, Pam Moody, Thad Emerson (excused), Eric Storer, Robert Doyle and Lee Ferguson.

Consent Agenda

Minutes from the Feb. 7th, 2017, Annual Meeting and November 28, 2017 regular meeting were reviewed. Carl moved and Bill seconded to approve both minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer report: The end of year treasurer report was reviewed. The end balance for 2017 reconciled with the December bank statement shows a balance of \$33,007.81. Bill moved and Kenny seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

New Business

RC&D Dues Payments: The Sandhills RC&D has not received any dues invoices for 2018. The National RC&D Association is in the process of reorganization and no word from the Western RC&D Association. The state association has been inactive.

2017 Annual Report/consideration of goals for 2018– The 2017 Annual Report was mailed out with the council packets. The council reviewed the annual report which outlined projects and partners in 2017 and one correction noted – the total figures in the table on third page needs corrected. The noted corrections will be made before the report is mailed out to each county/sponsor with the annual Sandhills RC&D dues invoices. One goal suggested was continued and expanded promotion of the cedar control project. Twila will send the pdf of the cedar control flyer to Evanna and Deb for local distribution.

2018 Budget – The proposed 2018 budget was reviewed. Budget numbers were based on actual numbers from 2017. Carl moved and Dave 2nd to approve the proposed 2018 budget, motion carried all aye.

Meeting Schedule – Council meetings have been held every other month on the last Tuesday. That schedule has seemed to work well and all agreed to stick with this schedule for 2018.

Performance Review – Brief discussion on Twila's performance review. No suggestions made for improvement.

Audit Committee – Deb volunteered to review the Sandhills RC&D financials. Twila will make copies of all bank statements and treasurer reports and mail them out. Pam also helped last year so will be asked if she would also assist this year.

Project Updates: Twila gave a brief recap of current projects.

Nebraska Grazing Lands Coalition Nebraska Environmental Trust grant application – A recap of projects for 2017 were included in the 2017 Annual Report. This statewide non-profit group continues to coordinate and hold several grazing focused meetings and tours each year. Quarterly meetings are held for the board across the state and the next quarterly meeting will be held at the Sandhills RC&D office in Mullen on March 7th.

Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway – The Byway held their annual meeting and banquet January 13th in Broken Bow. The SJSB will also be completing their Nebraska Environmental Trust grant this year after receiving

a one year extension. Plans are being made for the 11th Annual Polar Bear Tank Race in March and a new event “Wings Over Two” to be held in April. The Byway will have a booth at the Omaha Sports Show in late February and a booth at the Agri/Eco Tourism Conference held in conjunction with the National Byways Conference in Kearney in April. Several Nebraska Tourism grants are in varying stages of progress and a new NE Game and Parks Watchable Wildlife grant was recently received.

Hooker County Project – The new community events building is completed with funds from several community entities as well as lodging tax funds. The Sandhills RC&D continues to serve as the secretary for the lodging board – scheduling meetings, recording minutes, submitting grant applications and fulfilling grant requirements and filing claims forms for approved projects.

Housing – One new project is currently underway and receipts received on loan repayments.

Cedar Project – A summary sheet was handed out for review showing line items for the Nebraska Environmental Trust grant project and how grant funds were used. There was also a summary of 2016 and 2017 projects showing treated acres. The grant will be completed in June and there is just enough money remaining to do a couple more group advertising listings in area newspapers.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 27th to be held in Tryon.

Respectfully submitted,
Twila Phillips