



Resource Conservation & Development, Inc.

*Empowering Citizens to Build Strong Communities*

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## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 10, 2008

1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Call to Order:** The January 10, 2008 meeting of the Panhandle RC&D Council was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by President Gary Fisher. Those present at the meeting were: Larry Gibbs, City of Gering Representative; Secretary/Treasurer Verlin Bruns, Deuel County Representative; Lonnie Miller, City of Terrytown Representative; Terry McCord, Garden County Representative; Rick Soper, Kimball County Representative; Ron Miller, Scotts Bluff County Representative; Gary Grubbs, Banner County Representative; President Gary Fisher, Dawes County Representative; and Harold Winkelman, Cheyenne County Representative. Staff present were: Ron Moore and Jennifer Rogers.

**Agenda:** No additions or corrections were made to the agenda. A motion was made by Verlin Bruns to approve the agenda, followed with a second by Harold Winkelman. Motion passed.

**Approval minutes:** Harold Winkelman made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2007 meeting, with a second by Verlin Bruns. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Verlin Bruns went over the Treasurer's Report, including receipts, expenses, and total account balances. Larry Gibbs made a motion to approve the January 10, 2008 Treasurer's Report. Harold Winkelman seconded. Motion passed.

**Approval of Bills:** Verlin Bruns then went over the bills to be paid which included: \$41.25 to the Scottsbluff-Gering United Chamber of Commerce for quarterly dues; \$450.00 to the National Association of RC&D Councils for yearly dues; \$25.00 to Allo Communications for internet service; \$25.00 reimbursement to Ron Moore for Ken Noonan's retirement gift card; and \$60.00 to the Chadron Chamber of Commerce for yearly dues. Terry McCord made a motion to approve the bills. Gary Grubbs seconded. Motion passed.

**Council Credit Card:** Jennifer informed the Council that she contacted a representative from U.S. Bank to ask someone else about company credit cards for nonprofit organizations. She was given the same information as previous inquiries, which is that someone's name and social security number has to be attached to the card, even though it is for the organization. It was agreed to contact Larry Gibbs' wife, Nita, at First State Bank who may be able to provide a new contact person to discuss the situation with further. Issue tabled until next meeting.

**Project Proposal—Knight Museum:** Council members read through the official Project Proposal from the Knight Museum in Alliance. It was decided that the "Assistance Needed: Financial" portion needed to be clarified, so it wasn't assumed that the RC&D Council would be providing cash assistance to the organization. A note will be made on the proposal to specify "Grant Writing and Location Assistance" only, and will be included on future project proposals as well. Larry Gibbs made a motion to approve the Project Proposal from the Knight Museum with that clarification. Verlin Bruns seconded. Motion passed.

**Diversity Grant:** Jennifer informed the council that Panhandle RC&D was one of five RC&D councils across the country that was awarded a \$5,000.00 council diversity grant through the National Association of RC&D Councils in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The project plan is to distribute surveys to organizations throughout the Panhandle that are unfamiliar with the RC&D program and that primarily support underserved populations. Once the survey portion of the project is complete, identified organizations will have the opportunity to learn more about the RC&D and become involved in projects and the RC&D council, in order to meet their organization's needs, address council diversity, and to collaborate on new projects in order to better assist underserved populations, primarily American Indians.

**DEQ Grant/Recycling Examples:** Jennifer shared the information she had gathered from other RC&Ds regarding their experiences with computer/hazardous waste and scrap tire recycling projects. The council decided it was too late to spearhead a Panhandle-wide recycling project this year, and to definitely plan for and apply next year. The village of Henry will be having a community-wide clean-up day in which, as a village, they will be applying for one of the DEQ recycling grants. Their biggest obstacle is having available funds to finance up-front costs since it is a reimbursement-basis. Larry Gibbs made a motion to present the option to Henry to help them in their efforts by providing \$1,000.00 of the upfront costs, then to be reimbursed through the DEQ grant from the Village Board. This offer is contingent upon the village receiving a grant from the DEQ, and a signed contract that will state the agreement. Motion seconded by Gary Grubbs. Gary Fisher pointed out the publicity benefits of assisting Henry with this project. Rick Soper voiced a concern of the precedent this may set for other organizations to request even larger up-front sums for outside projects. Roll call vote: Larry Gibbs, yes; Verlin Bruns, yes; Lonnie Miller, abstain; Terry McCord, no; Rick Soper, no; Ron Miller, no; Gary Grubbs yes; Gary Fisher, yes; Harold Winkelman, yes. Motion passed.

**Grant Opportunities and Project Possibilities:** After discussing possible project focuses, it was decided to form a committee to look at grant possibilities and project details regarding soil food web health issues in the Panhandle. Committee members are Ron Miller and Mike Marker. Ron Moore also mentioned that the council will need to begin looking at the area plan, and possibly adjusting areas of focus or project possibilities for the upcoming 2009-2014 Area Plan.

Terry McCord made a motion to adjourn and move into the council member training session. Gary Grubbs seconded.

With no further business, at 2:30 p.m., President Gary Fisher adjourned the meeting.