

**OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF RC&D COUNCILS, INC.
QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING**

**OK Dept. of Commerce
October 20, 2009
Minutes**

- I. CALL TO ORDER:**, James Aldridge, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Advance notice of today's regular meeting and agenda were filed with the Okfuskee County Clerk, and posted publicly at the home office, in accordance with provisions of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Law. James Aldridge welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending this meeting.
- II. ROLL CALL:** Randy Cotten, Secretary/Treasurer, called the roll:

Members Present	Members Absent	Coordinators/NRCS	Others
Randy Cotten	Jackie Smith	Greg Kindell	Kathy Allen
James Aldridge	J.C. Awtrey	Andy Tucker	
Jerry Latty	Kristi Coker	Tom Lucas	
Scotty Herriman	Judi Elmore	Larry Wright	
Jeff Lockett	Eric Chapman	Carl Smith	
Garold DeWitt	Alveta Taylor		
Pauline Fahle	Jim Bailey		
Coleta Bratten	Donna Baldwin		
Alfred Miller			
Martin Roberts			

A quorum was declared.

- III. INTRODUCTIONS:** Jerry Latty was in attendance for Cherokee Hills in member Jackie Smith's absence.
- IV. MINUTES OF AUGUST MEETING:** Minutes of the August 3rd meeting were emailed to members in advance of today's meeting.
- Motion to accept the minutes: Pauline Fahle*
Second: Randy Cotten
Oral Vote Taken: Nays: None. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT:

A. Financial Statement for the 4th Quarter was handed out prior to the start of today's meeting: The financial report is attached. Randy Cotten gave an overview of 2009, stating that only 7 RC&D's had paid their dues and that the OARC&DC had spent \$6,198.00 more than they made in 2009. The check book balance today is \$9,470.14. The financial report was accepted as presented.

B. Consider Requests for Accounts Payable: Randy also asked to order more checks and to add Cross Timbers RC&D address to the checks, since they are the home office for OARC&DC.

Motion to order new checks with Cross Timbers RC&D address on them, not to exceed \$50.00: Pauline Fahle.
Second: Alfred Miller
Oral Vote Taken: Nays: None. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

VI. CURRENT BUSINESS:

- a. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** James Aldridge reported that John Haugen was now the new Director for the National RC&D Council.

OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF RC&D COUNCILS, INC.
QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

The 2010 Southwest States Conference will be held in Fort Worth, Texas at the Hilton Hotel. Registration fees will be \$225.00 until the Feb. deadline. Hotel rooms will be \$139.00. Registration is available now online.

- b. **COUNCIL REPORTS:** Were emailed by Kathy Allen as part of the Oklahoma Conservation Partnership Report.
- c. **NRCS REPORT:** Gary O'Neill, Assistant State Conservationist, is on detail assignment to Washington, DC for 90 days as the acting Program Manager for RC&D. Andy Tucker is filling in for him in his absence. Andy gave an overview of Gary's duties while in DC. He is focused on a National assessment- of what a good RC&D Council looks like. Gary will be back to Stillwater in mid January 2010.

ANDY- NEW RC & D COORDINATORS: Scott Pace for Ouachita Mountains and Stacy Cramer for Chisholm Trails. Stacy will begin on October 26th. Andy forwarded a Thank You from Gary O'Neill to Larry Wright for helping to get Chisholm Trail RC&D up and running.

Gary has asked that all the RC&D's have their Annual Plans of Work for 2010 done by October 31st. Also, the RC&D agreements with NRCS will expire at the end of 2009.

SIROLI INSTITUTE MEETING UPDATE: Andy thanked everyone for their support of the Sirolli Institute Meeting. He discussed the interest shown from RC&D areas, and that he would like to see a trip to Kansas happen to see first hand how the program works. He commented that although he wasn't in attendance at the August 3rd OARC&DC meeting where financing was approved to help with the Sirolli Institute holding a meeting here, he thought it was a good move.

Martin Roberts commented that Shelly Todd has been in contact with Kansas folks and that a trip to Kansas will be something that will be followed up on.

Andy asked the Coordinators if they would be willing to travel to Kansas on a 2 day trip? Scott Pace said he would be willing to go on the trip.

- d. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
 - 1. **STRATEGIC PLANNING:** Jeff Lockett asked if anyone wanted to report on sub committee reports? Carl Smith had a report on public awareness. He discussed that Wheatland was working on a partnership with Career Tech and Scott Dean.

Jeff asked who put together the strategic plan for OARC&DC? Randy Cotten said he did. He explained that he took the old plan and cut out external stuff. He further commented on this plan going out in 2010, and the need for a new one for 2010-2015. Randy added the need to add measurement tools, such as legislative work and how to know when it is completed. Also when a new plan is developed we need to assess what was successful and what wasn't. Jeff Lockett commented that we have had great ideas so far on projects to partner with OACD on.

Jeff commented on the need to build partnerships with other groups as well so project ideas can be carried out. Randy Cotten agreed and would like to look at ways to grow those partnerships through the OARC&DC's members and their talents as well as their connections to outside groups. Jeff Lockett suggested we keep the new plan simple. He would like to see a Strategic Planning Committee to come up with the new plan. Randy reminded everyone that we could always add to the plan later if needed.

b. POLITICAL & c. FUNDING: No Reports

OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF RC&D COUNCILS, INC.
QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

2. **COUNCIL ASSESSMENT ACTION TEAM:** Jeff Lockett, Martin Roberts, Andy Tucker and Carl Smith attended a meeting with Gary O'Neill discussing a possible Assessment Tool for RC&D's to measure their performance. They discussed some of the things discussed was identifying areas that councils were strong in, and that possibly paying RC&D's for their action would be happening soon. The main topic of the meeting was developing councils. No one wants to see an RC&D shut down for lack of performance, but to come up with an assessment tool to show the council where they are lacking so they can better perform in that area. Gary O'Neill is currently heading that committee in Washington DC, and he will let everyone know as soon as they work out the details. A suggestion was made that councils can use a matrix as a member assessment tool. Randy Cotten suggested that for new members maybe there should be time limits. Jeff Lockett stated that a 2 year term limit = 8 meetings and that about the time members are getting their feet wet learning, their term is up.
3. **OACD & RC&D PARTNERSHIP:** Gary O'Neill gave a report at the August 3rd meeting. He has asked that the Coordinators participate in their area OACD meetings. Jeff Lockett suggested that maybe a couple of RC&D areas along with a few partners could work on projects in that area. James Aldridge commented that the Conservation Commissioners were at the State RC&D Summit. Scotty Herriman commented that the partnership has taken roots, in that they have partnered in on the Verdigris River Project. OACD has joined with Seacan RC&D in Kansas and that their partnership is growing. Randy Cotten and Scotty Herriman both wear two hats-being both OACD & RC&D members. It was mentioned that "The value that Commissioners see in the partnership is that RC&D can meet with some people that they can't." OACD is meeting in December. The Commissioners will meet in the morning then have lunch with OACD members, then a meeting with them in the afternoon. Randy Cotten will check on the details of that meeting and Andy Tucker will coordinate to see if any RC&D can attend.
4. **LEGISLATIVE:** Randy Cotten had checked on prices for pencils & RC&D lapel pins. Discussion was held on prices and other members offered different companies information to compare prices. Scotty Herriman commented that most people probably put the pins in a drawer and forget to wear them and that maybe it would be more cost effective to have a logo sticker instead of a pin. Pauline Fahle suggested maybe shirts with the logo. Garold DeWitt commented that when OACD goes to the capital they are asking for money, and that when RC&D goes we are just trying to keep our name out there.
5. **2009 STATE SUMMIT REPORT:** Cross Timbers RC&D hosted the State RC&D Summit on August 3-4, 2009. Cross Timbers member Martin Roberts said "the meeting was well attended and we have received great feedback." He mentioned that Cross Timbers members from the Norman area had great ideas to show off their area and to help recruit more members from the Cleveland and Oklahoma County area.

Andy Tucker commented "I wasn't excited at first about hosting the Summit, but it turned into one of the best team building projects we could have done." He talked on how the council worked together and how great a job they did. Andy thanked everyone who helped at the Summit, especially with the hospitality room and for everyone helping Kathy Allen at the time her home burned. Andy touched on the attendance being low, that he had hoped for over 100, but that goal wasn't reached. He wanted the event to be different than past Summits, to be fun as well as educational, to give council members a chance to show off their area, and a good

**OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF RC&D COUNCILS, INC.
QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING**

opportunity to recruit new council members. He wanted an event that RC&D's would bring not only members to, but partners as well. Andy also thought for OCC to hold their meeting at the Summit was nice for everyone.

6. **2010 STATE SUMMIT PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

CHEROKEE HILLS will be hosting the State RC&D Summit in 2010.

Greg Kindell commented on how he really liked the OARC&DC meeting at the front of the Summit, where it is usually the last thing. Everyone agreed. Scotty Herriman liked individuals giving testimonies about their RC&D experiences, and he liked the buses that were furnished for transportation. Scotty also asked if it was up to the hosting Council to make their own agenda? Andy answered him "yes". Randy Cotten would like to see a "lessons learned" kind of report made each year after the Summit, submitted by the hosting council, so we can start a corporate memory. Andy mentioned that Carl Smith had sent Cross Timbers a folder of information about their hosting of the Summit last year. He offered to send Cherokee Hills his information and offered a teleconference as well to help engage their members since they will be hosting the 2010 State RC&D Summit.

Questions were asked about the finances of the Summit and what the percentages that were agreed upon in the past? Randy Cotten read from the January 2008 minutes that all proceeds of the silent and live auctions go to the State Association and up to 50% of other profits made-the hosting council could keep. Andy Tucker reported that a check for \$1,644.00 for auction proceeds and \$25.00 for a red tie sold would be mailed to OARC&DC, as well as a percentage of the other profit-dependng on what the Cross Timbers Council agreed upon.

Scotty Herriman asked if the month of August was when the Summit had to be held? Randy Cotten said the bylaws read that the Summit should be held in July when possible + 3 other quarterly meetings a year. Cross Timbers held it in August to move it away from the National Conference in Albuquerque, NM-which was in June. Scotty commented that the time of year that the Summit is held would have a lot to do with the agenda. Also certain times of year farmers would be busy planting or harvesting crops, parents of school age kids-school starting, sports, and the government shutting down spending at the end of the year-Sept. 1-Oct. 1. Scotty would like to involve the Tallgrass RC&D into the planning of the Summit, should Cherokee Hills decide to choose Tulsa for the 2010 Summit location.

7. **2010 PROPOSED BUDGET REVIEW:**

Randy Cotten handed out 2 different proposed budget plans. Both budgets showed \$5,850.00 in income if all of the RC&D's pay their 2010 membership dues. If no product is purchased-such as pins, pencils, etc. and no Reps are sent to DC, then the income would go up another \$2,760.00. Pauline Fahle had recently recommended not sending anyone to DC in 2010. James Aldridge had commented that the Conference in DC had been cut to a 1 ½ day conference and maybe not worth the trip expense for the length of time stayed. Jeff Lockett thought that RC&D has more access to our leaders when in Oklahomathan in DC.

c. **ADOPT BUDGET FOR FY 2010:**

Randy Cotten made a motion that Budget B be used for 2010.

Second: Jeff Lockett

Oral Vote Taken: Nays: None. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF RC&D COUNCILS, INC.
QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING**

d. OKLAHOMA DESTINATIONS EXPOSED:

Donna Baldwin was not present. Randy Cotten discussed that he has heard it is still a try for 2010 and that the State Assoc. will not get their \$1,000.00 back from the Harn Homestead until the event is held.

e. DISPLAY AT OACD MEETING IN FEBRUARY, 2010:

Randy Cotten wanted to host another coffee break at the OACD Meeting in February.

Scotty Herriman made the motion for the OARC&DC to spend up to \$300.00 on a coffee break at the February 2010 OACD Meeting.

Second: Alfred Miller

Oral Vote Taken: Nays: None. Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Randy stated "as soon as OACD sends out a request for sponsors, he will send the money."

f. ESTABLISH 2010 MEETING PLACES & DATES:

January 19th State Chamber of Commerce-OKC

April 20th State Capital-OKC

July 20th or State Summit

October 19th ODOC-OKC

Randy Cotten made the motion to accept the dates & places for 2010 OARC&DC meetings.

Second: Coleta Bratten

Oral Vote Taken: Nays: None. Ayes: all. Motion carried

g. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:

Pauline Fahle gave a report for the nominating committee. She said they have met and would like to nominate for President- Jeff Lockett, Vice President- Coleta Bratten, Secretary/Treasurer- Randy Cotten,

h. ELECT 2010 OFFICERS:

Garold DeWitt made a motion by acclimation for President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer as presented.

Second: Alfred Miller.

Oral Vote Taken: Nays: None. Ayes: all. Motion carried

i. SELECT MEMBERS FOR LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE:

It was voted on in adoption of budget B today that there would be no members attend the leadership conference in 2010.

VII. NEW BUSINESS: none.

VIII. NEXT MEETING: January 19th, 2010 at the State Chamber of Commerce Building in OKC- 10:00 am. Randy Cotten will get the point of contact, address and directions.

11:52 Meeting was adjourned

**OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF RC&D COUNCILS, INC.
QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING**

Approved

Jeff Lockett, Chair

Date: 12 January 2010

Randolph P. Cotten, Secretary

Date: 12 January 2010

Written and typed by: Kathy Allen, recording secretary