

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

**Oklahoma Association of RC&D Councils  
August 12, 2008  
State Summit of Oklahoma RC&D's  
Clarion Hotel, Oklahoma City, OK  
Minutes**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair James Aldridge, called the meeting to order at **8:50 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.

**II. ROLL CALL:** Randy Cotten, Secretary/Treasurer, called the roll:

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>Coordinators/NRCS</b>	<b>Others</b>
J.C. Awtrey	Gerald Hayes	Carl Smith	Mike Rooker
Scotty Herriman	Jim Bailey	Andy Tucker	Gary O'Neill
Jackie Smith	Eric Chapman	Angela Williams	Kathy Allen
Kristi Coker	Lendell Stowers	Marty Hern	John Robertson
Martin Roberts		Larry Wright	Cindy Bobbitt
Alfred Miller		Gary Garman	Jack Lawson
Pauline Fahle		Tom Lucas	Frank Acker
James Aldridge			Gary Cannon
Randy Cotten			Anita Poole
Donna Baldwin			Stan Krukowski
Garold DeWitt			Barbara Albritton
Jeff Lockett			Jeanne Cole
Coleta Bratten			Susan Lovelace
Judi Elmore			

A quorum was declared.

**III. INTRODUCTIONS:** Tom Lucas introduced Stan Krukowski, he is with the Geological Society. Angela Williams introduced new OARC&D representative for Fun Country, Judi Elmore. Kathy Allen introduced Cross Timbers new OARC&D representatives, Kristi Coker and Martin Roberts. Pauline Fahle introduced High Plains new OARC&D representative Coleta Bratten.

**IV. MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2008 MEETING:** Minutes of the April 15, 2008 meeting were emailed to members in advance of today's meeting.

**Motion to accept the minutes: Alfred Miller**

**Second: Pauline Fahle**

**Oral Vote Taken: Nays-None; Abstain Coletta Bratton; Ayes: all remaining**

**V. FINANCIAL REPORT:**

**A. Financial Statement for Period of 1/1/08-8/10/08:** The financial report is attached. The financial report was accepted as presented.

**B. Consider Requests for Accounts Payable: No Claims or Bills**

**VI. CURRENT BUSINESS:**

**a. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** by James Aldridge. RC&D Week will be Sept 21<sup>st</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. Information on the National Convention to be held June 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Albuquerque, New Mexico was received in the mail. The costs of a booth setup will be \$250.00 and includes 1

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registration. They are providing incentives and compensation for RC&D's who help solicit sponsors for the events.

**b. Council Reports:** A copy of the councils report was handed out prior to the meeting.

**c. NRCS report.** By Gary O'Neill. ASCOG's coordinator , Richard Cox and his administrative assistant, Sandy Borcharding have both retired. Larry Wright will be covering the bases and answering calls for ASCOG until NRCS can fill the position, it will be after Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, contingent on the budget.

Greg Kindell is due back from his year long tour of duty in Iraq on September 10<sup>th</sup>. He will be back to work at the Tall Grass office on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

The National office has new guidelines for the RC&D's Area Plans. Some of the councils in Oklahoma need to update their plans. There is a checklist and Gary wants to check the new plans against the checklist they provided.

Seven RC&D councils have agreements with NRCS for Administrative Assistant's Funding. They are being amended for \$7,500.00 more for the 2009 year.

Sept 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> will be the RC&D Coordinators's retreat at Roman Nose State Park. He is currently working on the Agenda, inputting items that need to be worked on & improved for 2009.

Grant Projects: The Grant funds awarded to the RC&D Councils by NRCS for projects, should have the money utilized by Sept. 30 2008. Final Reports on the projects are also due by September 30<sup>th</sup>. These reports should be sent to him.

De Ann Littlefield has been involved in several RC&D projects. Gary would like to have a press release about Oklahoma RC&D's, a tailored report of the things they have been involved with, and have De Ann get it out for RC&D Week.

**d. Committee Reports:**

1. **Strategic Planning:** By Jeff Lockett. A lot of the RC&D councils had board members present at the Summit over the past two days, where they have received a lot of training.

Peach & Lucas are aware of the RC&D's presence.

We will be discussing today the possible partnering with the OACD.

2. **Legislative:** Randy Cotten informed members that De Ann Littlefield is putting the final touches on a new RC&D pamphlet for distribution for the next Washington, DC Trip.

3. **OACD & RC&D MOU:** John Robertson asked for it to be saved for the discussion at the end of the meeting. General consensus agreed. No motion.

**e. Appoint Nominating Committee:** Past Presidents appointed were Pauline Fahle, Garold Dewitt, and Alfred Miller.

**f. Appoint 2009 State Summit Planning Committee:** After discussion it was determined that it was Cross Timbers turn to host the next State Summit. Members Kristi Coker and Martin Roberts accepted the assignment on behalf of the Cross Timbers Board.

**g. Appoint Annual Budget Review Committee:** Randy Cotten noted that it is usually 1 past president and 1 other. Donna Baldwin and Alfred Miller accepted for the purpose of the Annual Review of the OARC&D 2009 Budget.

**h. Oklahoma Destinations Exposed:** Donna Baldwin mentioned that most everyone heard the presentation by Angela Williams at the Summit on Monday. It was asked that the RC&D's start

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taking inventory of what their areas have to offer as far as Bed & breakfast, Museums, Food, etc. that may be showcased at the event.

**New Business:** Jeff Lockett discussed obtaining the Open Records Act Meeting Book. Angela Williams thought the cost ran about \$10.00 a book.

**Motion: Purchase 9 of the Open Records Act Meeting Books, 1 for each RC&D Council. By Pauline Fahle.**

**Second: Garold Dewitt.**

**Nay: None; Abstain: None; Ayes: All**

Discussion was held as to the need of printing the past activities of the councils for the meetings. Gary O'Neill suggested that Kathy Allen email out the activity reports monthly to the State Association members and coordinators. Donna Baldwin asked for hers to be mailed thru the Post Office. There was a general consensus to this idea. No motion required.

**Old Business:** None.

**Committee report VI.b.3 discussed at this time: OACD & RC&D MOU:**

Scotty Herriman introduced himself and gave a brief background of how he started at age 27 with the Conservation District, and has been involved with them for 30 years. He spoke of how he had RC&D Elders mentor him along the way. From these years of experience he has acquired considerable RC&D knowledge and wants to help bring the younger generation of RC&D's into the future. His passion is to bring together the RC&D's and the Conservation Districts. He is currently the President of the Oklahoma Association Conservation Districts. His term will be up in Feb. 2009 and he feels he has unfinished business to tend to before his term is up. He explained how the Conservation Districts are made up of farmers & ranchers, and the RC&D's had a broad range of skills with their Council Members now instead of just farmers & ranchers and how it is a different ballgame now. Scotty would like to see a Memorandum of Understanding between the two groups. He spoke of how there were differences between the two groups but also how they have common ground. He gave examples of the Poultry waste project with Cherokee Hills, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the Conservation Districts. He said the RC&D's were not allowed to handle the Federal Funds, but OACD thru the Oklahoma Conservation Commission could. He also used the Verdigris River Project example of how it runs out of Kansas but dumps into the Oologah River and into Tulsa. They need RC&D to work with the Federal people and the Conservation Districts could work with the landowners.

A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding was handed out. Scotty spoke of how it would be a start of a partnership with OACD.

He also mentioned that OACD really doesn't know what RC&D does.

Garold Dewitt mentioned that RC&D really didn't know what OACD does either. He suggested that maybe the two could meet a few times in the coming year and talk.

Scotty commented that it is in the memorandum to do just that at least twice yearly. They would be looking for projects to partner on.

It was discussed how it didn't work lobbying for RC&D and the OACD at the same time at the State Capital last year because of the names people tended to classify both as the same group.

After Scotty had given his history and as to why he has passion for both groups and would like to see Oklahoma join together thru these groups, he asked for a consensus of yes or no from the State Association of RC&D if they were willing to start a 2 year agreement of Memorandum of Understanding to start working with the OACD to start a partnership.

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Gary Garman suggested to run through the Memorandum with each of the RC&D Councils and see how they felt and bring that information back to the next quarterly meeting.

Randy Cotten mentioned that even if the individual RC&D councils didn't agree on it, that the State Association could still choose to partner with OACD. Randy also mentioned that John Robertson helped write the Memorandum. Randy would like to vote to sign the 2 year agreement. Alfred Miller also stated that he wanted to see the partnership take place.

At 9:50 am Clay Pope arrived. He apologized for being late and introduced himself as being the Executive Director of OACD. He spoke on how both organization come under the umbrella of NRCS and they could keep the lines of communication open and bring the strengths of both groups together for the good of all.

Clay also mentioned how the Kiowa Nation Tribe is the only one in the nation to join the Conservation District.

Martin Roberts commented on how it was a no brainer, and sees no issue on working together. "If it will help people and each organization, Why not do it?"

Anita Poole asked, "What is the downside?" Scotty said, " he doesn't see one".

John Robertson explained how for an outline of the Memorandum he started with common grounds of both groups. "We have nothing to lose, and everything to gain."

Scotty and Clay explained that the OACD had their meetings starting after our meeting, and they would like some sort of idea of the feelings of the board, so when they meet they could tell them we have our hand reached out to them.

**Motion: Accept the concept of the Memorandum of Understanding, by Jeff Lockett.**

**Second: Randy Cotten.**

**Nays: None, Abstained: Judi Elmore. Ayes All remaining.**

Gary O'Neill would like to change the wording a little. He will send a copy to Kathy Allen and she will email it out to the members.

Next Meeting: October 21, 2008 at the Oklahoma Department of Commerce in Oklahoma City at 10:00 am

**No further business:**

**Motion to adjourn: Jackie Smith 10:12 am**

**Second: Jeff Lockett.**

**Nays: None, Abstain: None; Ayes: All.**