

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Oklahoma Conservation Commission met January 9, 2012, at the Agriculture Building Board Room located at 2800 N. Lincoln in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman George Stunkard. He stated this was a regularly scheduled meeting in accordance with the Open Meeting Law, Title 25, Sections 301 and following as amended. The agenda for this meeting was posted January 5, 2012, at the front entrance of the building.

ROLL CALL

Kim Tweed, Executive Secretary, took roll call and the following members were in attendance:

George Stunkard, Chair
Dan Lowrance, Vice Chair
Jim Grego, Secretary
Karl Jett, Member
Mike Rooker, Member

Others in attendance were:

Mike Thralls, Executive Director
Ben Pollard, Assistant Director
Sheryl Gibson, Financial Management and Human Resources Assistant Director
Robert Toole, Conservation Programs Director
Greg Kloxin, Water Quality Program Assistant Director
Mike Kastl, Abandoned Mine Land Program Director
Mike Sharp, Information Technology Director
Kevin Varner, District Services Liaison
Mark Harrison, Information Representative
Janet Stewart, General Counsel
Shellie Willoughby, Awards and Recognition Committee Chair
Lynn Weldon, Human Resources Specialist
Ron Hilliard, Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist
Blayne Arthur, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Associate
Commissioner
Rachel Prince, Office of the Governor
Erin Boeckman, eCapitol
Steve Thompson, American Farmers and Ranchers
Kim Tweed, Executive Secretary

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Jett led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Lowrance and seconded by Mr. Rooker to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2011, Commission meeting as written. Those voting aye were: Jett, Rooker, Stunkard, Lowrance and Grego. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT

Mike Thralls, Executive Director, presented the recommendation for appointment of conservation district director as listed in Exhibit #1. A motion was made by Mr. Rooker and seconded by Mr. Jett to approve the appointment as listed. Those voting aye were: Jett, Rooker, Stunkard, Lowrance and Grego. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Sheryl Gibson, Financial Management and Human Resources Assistant Director, presented the claims and financial statement as listed in Exhibit #2. A motion was made by Mr. Lowrance and seconded by Mr. Rooker to approve the claims and financial statement. Those voting aye were: Jett, Rooker, Stunkard, Lowrance and Grego. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Shellie Willoughby, Awards and Recognition Committee Chair, stated that Lynn Weldon, Human Resources Specialist, was named Employee of the Quarter during the December full staff meeting. Ms. Weldon was recognized for her award.

PRESENTATION OF AGREEMENTS

Ben Pollard, Assistant Director, presented the new agreement for approval as listed in Exhibit #3 and recommended approval. A motion was made by Mr. Grego and seconded by Mr. Lowrance to approve the agreement as listed. Those voting aye were: Jett, Rooker, Stunkard, Lowrance and Grego. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUESTS

Mr. Thralls presented the travel request for approval as listed in Exhibit #4. A motion was made by Mr. Grego and seconded by Mr. Jett to approve the request as listed. Those voting aye were: Jett, Rooker, Stunkard, Lowrance and Grego. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

COST SHARE PROGRAM YEAR 13 REQUEST

Robert Toole, Conservation Programs Division Director, stated that the Latimer County Conservation District is requesting to add Practice #533, Pumping Plant: Solar Pumps, to its list of approved practices for Cost-share Program Year 13. He stated that this practice has been approved previously and he recommended approval. A motion was made by Mr. Jett and seconded by Mr. Rooker to approve the request. Those voting aye were: Jett, Rooker, Stunkard, Lowrance and Grego. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mr. Jett reported on attending the Blaine County Conservation District December board meeting.

Mr. Grego reported on working the Commission's booth during the Tulsa Farm Show. He also stated that legislation had been introduced that would add three additional members to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to represent southeast Oklahoma.

Mr. Stunkard stated that he worked the Commission's booth during the Tulsa Farm Show.

OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION STAFF

Administration - Executive Director: Mr. Thralls stated that the Governor's State of the State will be on February 6. The Senate will begin agency performance reviews this month as will the House.

Mr. Thralls provided members with a copy of letter he submitted to the State Geographic Information Council appointing Mike Sharp as the State Geographic Information Coordinator. Mr. Sharp has been Acting Coordinator over the years but due to HB 1086 that was signed into law last year, the appointment was made.

Mr. Thralls updated the Commission on IT consolidation stating that staff will be meeting with Office of State Finance personnel to discuss the transfer of employees. Nick Huber will be the Commission employee that will become part of the OSF IT staff. Mr. Sharp as well as Shellie Willoughby, GIS Specialist, will provide assistance to the Office of Geographic Information which is housed within the Commission. This office has not received funding but will work with the OSF.

Mr. Thralls reported on attending the Cimarron County Conservation District December dinner and stated that Hal Clark will be turning 80 years old on January 10. Mr. Thralls will be attending the Enid Farm Show this weekend.

District Services Division: Kevin Varner, District Liaison, stated that a written report was in the packet and he yielded to questions.

Water Quality Program: Greg Kloxin, Assistant Director, stated that a written report was in the packet and he yielded to questions.

Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program: Mike Kastl, Director, reported on two active sites in the FY2010 grant stating that the Bates/Fullerton project began last week. Under the 2011 Grant, 19 contractors attended the pre-bid meeting on the McSpadden project in Rogers County and the Raspotnik project was completed.

Mr. Kastl also reported that the Lidar project with the NRCS is ongoing. He reported that the annual inspector's workshop will be held January 24-26 in Tulsa and that Charlotte Stieber, the program's administrative officer, will be honored as she retires after 32 years.

Mr. Kastl informed the Commission of a subsidence in Howe, Oklahoma that is being investigated as a possible emergency project.

Financial Management and Human Resources Division: Ms. Gibson stated that staff completed the 2012 employee benefits signup period. She also reported that the P-Card audit is ongoing and that the physical inventory is 90% complete.

Information Technology Division: Mike Sharp, Director, stated that a written report was in the packet and he yielded for questions.

Conservation Programs Division: Robert Toole, Director, stated a written report was included in the packet. He then reported on three new watershed program special projects: hazard classification reviews; breach inundation mapping and emergency actions plan updates.

Administration - Assistant Director: Mr. Pollard stated that a written report was in the packet. He then reported that the final inspection was held on the first Sugar Creek FEMA project. The second contract is scheduled to be submitted in the next 30 days.

OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Mr. Thralls stated that OACD staff is working on the new leadership program and the upcoming state meeting.

USDA-NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Ron Hilliard, State Conservationist, provided a written activities report as well as an annual report the NRCS is required to submit which highlights seven projects.

Mr. Hilliard referenced Page 3 of the activities report listing the number of retirements that occurred in 2011. He stated that three former RC&D Coordinators have been reassigned as follows: Scott Pace, Idabel Field Office District Conservationist; Andy Tucker, Agronomist at State Office; and Tom Lucas, Public Affairs Specialist at State Office. Mr. Hilliard also stated that he has named Chad Kacir as Acting ASTC (FO) for Zone 2 and Caleb Stone as Acting ASTC (FO) for Zone 3.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FORESTRY

Blayne Arthur, Associate Commissioner, reported that Secretary Reese will be attending a meeting in Washington, D.C. on January 24-26 to discuss the lesser prairie chicken.

Ms. Arthur stated that several of their IT employees will become Office of State Finance employees due to the consolidation.

Ms. Arthur reported on the Murphy/Brown Swine Facility stating that it was retrofitted with free ranging gestation stalls.

Ms. Arthur reported that their fire crews were called to Sand Springs and that Oklahoma had five of the nine national fire incidences over the weekend.

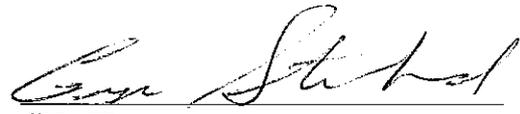
NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission will be held on February 6, 2012, in the Agriculture Building Board Room, 2800 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma beginning at 9:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business a motion was made by Mr. Grego and seconded by Mr. Rooker to adjourn. Those voting aye were: Jett, Rooker, Stunkard, Lowrance and Grego. Nay votes: none. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Approved by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission on February 6, 2012.



CHAIR