

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Oklahoma Conservation Commission met December 1, 2008, in the Agriculture Building Board Room, 2800 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Dan Lowrance. 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 November 25, 2008, at the front entrance of the building.

ROLL CALL

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

Dan Lowrance, Chair
Virginia Kidd, Vice Chair
Matt Gard, Secretary
Mike Rooker, Member
George Stunkard, Member

Others in attendance were:

Mike Thralls, Executive Director
Steve Coffman, Financial Management and Human Resources Director
Robert Toole, Conservation Programs Director
Shanon Phillips, Water Quality Program Assistant Director
Mike Kastl, Abandoned Mine Land Program Director
Mike Sharp, Information Technology Director
Lisa Knauf, District Services Director
Mark Harrison, Information Representative
Dennis Boney, Watershed Technician
George Moore, Watershed Technician
Johnny Pelley, Watershed Technician
Karla Beatty, Conservation Education Coordinator
Tammy Sawatzky, Conservation Programs Deputy Director
Regina Switzer, Assistant Attorney General
Ron Hilliard, Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist
Scotty Herriman, Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts President
Steve House, Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts Vice President
Joe Parker, Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts Vice President
Bradley Hamilton, Oklahoma Association of Conservation District Employees President
Paula Templeton, Oklahoma Association of Conservation District Employees Past President
Becky Inmon, Oklahoma Association of Conservation District Employees Secretary
Coleta Bratten, Oklahoma Association of Conservation District Employees Treasurer
Jason Skaggs, Oklahoma Association of Conservation District Employees Area 1 Director
Patti Christian, Oklahoma Association of Conservation District Employees Area 2 Director

Robbie Bowles, Oklahoma Association of Conservation District Employees Area 4 Director
Steve Thompson, Associate Commissioner, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and
Forestry

Jeanette Nance, Office of the Governor

Marla Peek, Oklahoma Farm Bureau

Bryan Smith, eCapitol.net

Kim Tweed, Executive Secretary

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Kidd led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Gard and seconded by Ms. Kidd to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2008, Commission meeting as written. Those voting aye were: Lowrance, Kidd, Gard, Rooker and Stunkard. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Mike Thralls, Executive Director, presented recommendations for appointment of conservation district directors as listed in Exhibit #1. A motion was made by Mr. Rooker and seconded by Mr. Stunkard to approve district director appointments listed as First Recommendation in Exhibit #1 with terms to expire as indicated. Those voting aye were: Lowrance, Kidd, Gard, Rooker and Stunkard. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

CLAIMS/FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Steve Coffman, Financial Management and Human Resources Director, presented the claims and financial statement as listed in Exhibit #2. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Stunkard and seconded by Mr. Gard to approve the claims and financial statement. Those voting aye were: Lowrance, Kidd, Gard, Rooker and Stunkard. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Karen Potts, Accountant, was recognized for 10 years of service to the state of Oklahoma.

PRESENTATION OF AGREEMENTS

Mr. Thralls presented agreements for approval as listed in Exhibit #3. He recommended approval of the new agreements listed as (a) and (b). After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gard and seconded by Mr. Rooker to approve the new agreements as presented. Those voting aye were: Lowrance, Kidd, Gard, Rooker and Stunkard. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

Mr. Thralls recommended approval of the amended agreement listed as (c). A motion was made by Ms. Kidd and seconded by Mr. Stunkard to approve the amended agreement as presented. Those voting aye were: Lowrance, Kidd, Gard, Rooker and Stunkard. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUESTS

Mr. Thralls presented out of state travel requests for approval as listed in Exhibit #4. A motion was made by Mr. Stunkard and seconded by Mr. Rooker to approve the requests as listed.

Those voting aye were: Lowrance, Kidd, Gard, Rooker and Stunkard. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

STATE GUIDELINES FOR THE CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM - PROGRAM YEAR 10

Robert Toole, Conservation Programs Director, presented the state guidelines for the Conservation Cost-share Program - Program Year 10 for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Gard and seconded by Mr. Stunkard to approve the state guidelines as listed in Exhibit #5. Those voting aye were: Lowrance, Kidd, Gard, Rooker and Stunkard. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

REVISE THE COMMISSION'S FY10 BUDGET REQUEST

Mr. Thralls presented the revised FY10 budget request as listed in Exhibit #6. This revision includes new money for an equipment revolving fund. A motion was made by Mr. Rooker and seconded by Mr. Gard to approve revisions to the FY10 budget request as listed in Exhibit #6. Those voting aye were: Lowrance, Kidd, Gard, Rooker and Stunkard. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

STATUS REPORT ON THE COMMISSION'S RULE-MAKING PROCESS

Kim Tweed, Executive Secretary, gave a status report on Title 155 Chapter 1. Operations of the Commission; Title 155 Chapter 10. Conservation Districts, Title 155 Chapter 20. Conservation Cost-share Program, Title 155 Chapter 35. Coordination of Oklahoma's Geographic Information, and Title 155 Chapter 40. Water Quality Programs. She stated that the Office of Administrative Rules has accepted the Notices of Permanent Rulemaking and will be publishing those notices in the Oklahoma Register on December 1. The comment period for these rules is December 1 through December 31 during which time the public can make comments and request a hearing. Adoption of the rules or a status report will be on the January meeting agenda.

Mr. Thralls reported on Title 155 Chapter 30. Carbon Sequestration stating that a hearing is scheduled for January 16.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marla Peek, Oklahoma Farm Bureau, appeared before the Commission. She stated that the OFB supports the Commission's cost-share program. Ms. Peek spoke about the wetlands program as the Commission approved 2 agreements today dealing with wetlands. She would like to be involved in an ag workgroup for wetlands convened .

Ms. Peek reported that she has sent a letter to Mr. Thralls urging the Commission to continue to seek grants or other funds for the poultry litter transfer program and to extend the areas to be eligible to receive funds.

Delineation of wetlands was discussed and Ms. Phillips reported that the Commission uses the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delineations as their maps are in electronic format where the NRCS maps are in paper form. Ms. Peek stated that the OFB feels that the NRCS should make the delineations.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

Members reported on attending their respective area meetings and stated that there was good attendance. They expressed appreciation to the Commission staff and OACD for their work with the meetings. Mr. Gard reported on attending the Governor's Biofuels Conference and a legislative event hosted by the Garfield County Conservation District. He will be attending the Wind Power Conference this week.

OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION STAFF

Administration: Mike Thralls, Executive Director, reported on attending the Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority meeting where Governor Henry strongly supported the conservation bond issue and recommended that the Council of Bond Oversight reconsider its restrictions and proceed. Restrictions were placed on the bonds due to the threat of a lawsuit.

Mr. Thralls attended the Garfield County Conservation District's legislative event. He thanked the host districts for their work with the five area meetings, and expressed thanks to Mr. Scotty Herriman and Mr. Bradley Hamilton for attending all five meetings.

District Services Division: Lisa Knauf, Director, reported that 2 claims have been processed in the amount of \$12,500 each for the burn agreements approved last month. She stated that 29 percent of district directors and 76 percent of district employees of attended area meetings.

Water Quality Program: Shanon Phillips, Assistant Director, reported on the carbon program stating that staff will hold a half-day verifier training session at the conclusion of the OACD State Meeting. She stated that the pilot project was going well. They had 2 large producers sign up for no-till on over 2400 acres.

Ms. Phillips reported that the Stamper project is proceeding and that Ken Stamper will likely receive funding from Kansas City investors.

Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program: Mike Kastl, Director, stated there are four active sites being reclaimed. Mr. Kastl reported that the OSM has finalized its rules and that the emergency program will not be funded. A meeting is scheduled in Washington, D.C. for December 10 with congressional staff members to discuss this issue. The state of Kansas will represent minimum program states at this meeting.

Financial Management and Human Resources Division: Steve Coffman, Director, stated that Mr. Thralls, Mr. Pollard and he met with the Agriculture Building architects to discuss renovations to the third floor. Mr. Thralls stated that the water quality division and the information technology division will be moving to the Lincoln Plaza offices after the first of the year.

Information Technology Division: Mike Sharp, Director, gave no oral report.

Conservation Programs Division: Robert Toole, Director, gave no oral report.

OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Scotty Herriman, President, introduced Vice Presidents Steve House and Joe Parker. He expressed appreciation to the conservation partnership.

Bradley Hamilton, Oklahoma Association of Conservation District Employees, introduced the following OACDE board members: Paula Templeton, Past President; Becky Inmon, Secretary; Coleta Bratten, Treasurer; Jason Skaggs, Area 1 Director; Patti Christian, Area 2 Director; and Robbie Bowles, Area 4 Director.

Mr. Herriman expressed his appreciation to the OACDE for all their work.

USDA-NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Ron Hilliard, State Conservationist, provided a written report. He reported on attending the Haskell County Conservation District banquet and attendance at all area meetings except the Area 5 meeting. He missed that meeting due to a meeting to discuss the NRCS audit. The NRCS went through a year long audit. The audit found that Acceptable Accounting Procedures were not being met. The NRCS will need to review its records, somewhere close to 6,951 records, to get them in compliance with AAP. This review is being done through December 31 when Mr. Hilliard has to certify that the audit has been completed. Therefore, all leave requests for essential employees during this month have been canceled. He requested assistance from the districts in getting this task finalized.

USDA-FARM SERVICE AGENCY

No representative present.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission will be held on January 5, 2009, 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 Ms. Kidd and seconded by Mr. Stunkard to adjourn. Those voting aye were: Lowrance, Kidd, Gard, Rooker and Stunkard. Nay votes: none. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Approved by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission on January 5, 2008.


CHAIR