

AGENDA
OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Agriculture Building Board Room - 2800 N. Lincoln - Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Monday, September 10, 2012 - 9:30 a.m.

1. Call to Order.
2. Roll call.
3. Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Discussion and possible approval of the August 13, 2012 regular meeting minutes.
5. Discussion and possible approval of Recommendations for Appointment of Conservation District Director (Exhibit #1).
6. Discussion and possible approval of Claims and Financial Statement (Exhibit #2).
7. Recognition of Tashina Kirk, Illinois River Project Coordinator, for 5 years of service.
8. Presentation of Commission Agreements (Exhibit #3):
Discussion and possible ratification of the following amended agreement:
 - a. NRCS No. 68-7335-0-42 to provide NRCS with technical and administrative assistance with vegetative restoration of NRCS Flood Plain Easements in Jefferson, Bryan and Cotton Counties; Amendment 4 reduces the award amount by \$79,000.
Discussion and possible approval of the following amended agreements:
 - b. Cotton County Conservation District (OCC-245) to implement conservation practices to restore vegetation on flood plain easements; Amendment 2 is a no cost time extension to September 30, 2013.
 - c. Jefferson County Conservation District (OCC-288) to implement conservation practices to restore vegetation on flood plain easements; Amendment 1 is a no cost time extension to September 30, 2013.
 - d. NRCS No. 67-7335-0-41 to share cost of copiers in 77 conservation districts (NRCS Field Service Centers); Amendment 1 adds \$20,000 and extends agreement to September 30, 2013.
 - e. Oklahoma State University (OCC-261) to contract with OSU to perform streambank stabilization activities for the Illinois River Streambank Stabilization Project; Amendment 3 extends agreement to December 31, 2012.
 - f. Office of the Secretary of Environment (OCC-168) for the FY2009/2010 319(h) grant; Amendment 4 extends the grant to February 28, 2013 to allow for compilation of data and time to write final reports.
Discussion and possible approval of the following new agreements:
 - g. Office of the Secretary of Environment (FY2012 Special Funds OCC-316) for implementation efforts in the Eucha/Spavinaw, Illinois River and Honey Creek watersheds to address NPS-related impairments to their streams and recipient reservoirs (Phase II).

- h. NRCS No. 68-7335-12-29 for rehabilitation of Barnitz Creek Watershed Site #1 in Dewey County Conservation District.
 - i. NRCS No. 68-7335-12-35 to assist with the implementation of the Wetlands Reserve Program to include the management of design contracts and construction contracts.
 - j. Blaine County and Central North Canadian River Conservation Districts for secretarial service to both districts on a 50/50 basis.
9. Discussion and possible approval of Out of State Travel Request (Exhibit #4)
- a. Texas Water Resources Institute Watershed Planning Short Course, September 27-28, 2012, Bandera, Texas.
10. Discussion and possible approval of the FY2013 Joint Annual Plans of Operation for Cimarron County and Johnston County Conservation Districts.
11. Discussion and possible approval to co-sponsor the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts 2012 Area Meetings as follows:
- a. November 1: Area 1 - Guymon-Victory Methodist Church
 - b. November 7: Area 2 - Oklahoma City-Langston University Campus
 - c. November 8: Area 4 - Chickasha-Grady County Fairgrounds
 - d. November 14: Area 3 - Vinita-Craig County Fairgrounds
 - e. November 15: Area 5 - Wilburton-Eastern Oklahoma State College
12. Discussion of the Commission's FY2014 budget request due October 1 to the Office of Management and Enterprise Services.
13. Discussion on completed and upcoming OETA Dust Bowl Community Outreach Events at the following locations:
- a. Woodward; held on August 16, 2012
 - b. Oklahoma City: OETA Studios with Representatives from State Ag Organizations held on August 28, 2012
 - c. Guymon, To be scheduled in late September or early October
 - d. Altus at the Western Oklahoma State College, October 4, 2012
 - e. Stillwater at the OSU Student Union, November 5, 2012
 - f. Oklahoma City at the Museum of Art, November 8, 2012
 - g. Tulsa at the OSU-Tulsa Campus, November 12, 2012
14. Vote to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of confidential communications between the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and their attorney for the purpose of discussing settlement agreements with landowners involved in the decommissioning of Cottonwood Creek Watershed Site #15 as authorized by the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act in Section 307(B)(4) of Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes.
15. Discussion and possible approval to authorize Mike Thralls, Executive Director, Oklahoma Conservation Commission, to approve settlement agreements with landowners involved in the decommissioning of Cottonwood Creek Watershed Site #15 upon the review and approval of the individual agreements by the General Counsel for the Oklahoma Conservation Commission.

16. Public Comments.
17. New Business.
18. Break (at option of the Chair)
19. Status Reports:
 - a. Oklahoma Conservation Commission Members
 - b. Oklahoma Conservation Commission Staff
 1. Mike Thralls, Executive Director
 2. Lisa Knauf Owen, District Services Director
 3. Shanon Phillips, Water Quality Director
 4. Mike Kastl, Abandoned Mine Land Director
 5. Steve Coffman, Financial Management and Human Resources Director
 6. Mike Sharp, Office of Geographic Information and Technical Services Director
 7. Robert Toole, Conservation Programs Director
 8. Ben Pollard, Assistant Director
 - c. Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts
 - d. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - e. Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry
20. Discussion and possible action to change the time and location of the November 5, 2012 Commission meeting.
21. Next Meeting: October 1, 2012, Agriculture Building Board Room, 2800 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma at 9:30 a.m.
22. Adjournment.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SUCCEEDS</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>	<u>POS#</u>
South Caddo	Ronald Walzer	Self	June 30, 2014	A

OCC AGREEMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION

OCC ID	PARTY	NO	PURPOSE	AMENDMENT PURPOSE	BEGIN DATE	END DATE	AMOUNT TO OCC	AMOUNT FROM OCC	FUNDING SOURCE
a	NRCS	68-7335-0-42	to provide NRCS with technical and administrative assistance with vegetative restoration of NRCS flood plain easements in Jefferson, Bryan and Cotton Counties.	Amendment 4 - reduces the award amount by \$79,000 for a total amount of \$141,682.	9/2/2010	9/30/2013	\$141,682.00		ARRA/NRCS
b	Cotton County CD	OCC245	to implement conservation practices to restore vegetation on flood plain easements.	Amendment 2 - no cost time extension to 9/30/13	10/4/2010	9/30/2013		\$31,300.00	NRCS/ARRA
c	Jefferson County CD	OCC288	to implement conservation practices to restore vegetation on floodplain easements.	Amendment 1 - no cost time extension to 9/30/13	11/7/2011	9/30/2013		\$73,602.00	NRCS/ARRA
d	NRCS	67-7335-0-41	to share cost of copiers in 77 conservation districts (NRCS Field Services Centers)	Amendment 1 - adds \$20,000 and extends date	9/2/2010	9/30/2013	\$60,000.00		NRCS
e	Oklahoma State University	OCC261	to contract with OSU to perform streambank stabilization activities for the Illinois River Streambank Stabilization Project.	Amendment 3 - extends agreement to December 31, 2012	6/1/2011	12/31/2012		\$636,777.00	ARRA

* added after meeting packets were mailed.

OCC ID	PARTY	NO	PURPOSE	AMENDMENT PURPOSE	BEGIN DATE	END DATE	AMOUNT TO OCC	AMOUNT FROM OCC	FUNDING SOURCE
f	Secretary of Environment, Office of	FY2009/10 319H	to provide staff support and funding to implement Oklahoma's Comprehensive Nonpoint Source Program, the rotating basin monitoring program, perpetuate the Blue Thumb pollution education program, and supplement the North Canadian Priority Watershed Project	Amendment 4 - extend the grant to February 28, 2013 to allow for compilation of data and time to write final reports.	1/1/2009	2/28/2013	\$2,636,400.00		EPA319
g	*Office of the Secretary of Environment	FY2013 (Special Funds)	for implementation efforts in the Eucha/Spavinaw, Illinois River and Honey Creek watersheds to address NPS-related impairments to their streams and recipient reservoirs (Phase II)		10/1/2012	12/31/2015	\$431,855.00		EPA
h	*NRCS	68-7335-12-29	rehabilitation of Barnitz Creek Watershed Site #1 in Dewey County CD		9/10/2012	9/9/2013	\$2,520,000.00		Federal
i	*NRCS	68-7335-12-35	to assist with the implementation of the Wetlands Reserve Program to include the management of design contracts and construction contracts.		9/10/2012	9/9/2013	\$900,000.00		NRCS WRP

* added after meeting packets were mailed.

OCC ID	PARTY	NO	PURPOSE	AMENDMENT PURPOSE	BEGIN DATE	END DATE	AMOUNT TO OCC	AMOUNT FROM OCC	FUNDING SOURCE
j	*Blaine County and Central North Canadian River CDs	OCC-318	to provide secretarial service to the Blaine County and CNCR CDs on a 50/50/basis		9/17/2012	6/30/2013			

* added after meeting packets were mailed.

OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUESTS

OCC ID	DATES	SPONSOR	NAME OF MEETING	LOCATION	ATTENDANCE	EST COST	FUNDING SOURCE
a	September 27-28, 2012	Texas Water Resource Institute	Watershed Planning Short Course	Bandera, TX	Phillips	\$0.00	TWRI

**OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION
ADMINISTRATION STAFF - SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES
September 10, 2012**

Administration

- Attended the Dust Bowl Preview event in Woodward
- Participated in a teleconference to plan an Arkansas/Oklahoma hosted Native Pollinator Workshop
- Attended a luncheon and preview of the Dust Bowl film with the ag groups
- Attended the Eastern Red Cedar Advisory Board meeting
- Scheduled to attend the NASCA Annual Meeting in Alaska (September 1-7)
- Assisted in the recognition activities for outgoing district director Bill Wilson
- Participated in several meetings on the Sugar Creek FEMA Project to clear land rights on the third construction project
- Worked with representatives of Blaine County Conservation District and Central North Canadian River Conservation District on a shared secretarial agreement
- Participated in the OACDE Board meeting
- Worked with OACD in developing a legislative strategy for the Commission and Conservation Districts for the coming session
- Met with Water Quality Division staff to review a draft report on monitoring results in the Illinois River Watershed
- Worked with Commission and NRCS staff on an agreement for the Commission to manage Wetland Reserve Program construction contracts for NRCS
- Participated in an OETA/Conservation Partnership Dust Bowl film screening event with representatives from state agriculture organizations
- Worked with OETA, OACD and NRCS in planning additional Dust Bowl community outreach events
- Began work on the Commission's FY 14 state budget request.

Information Officer

- Continued technical management of and updating information on OCC's web page. Created and published the following stories:
 - Ken Burns' THE DUST BOWL "Screening and Community Conversation" Event at Woodward
 - Gov. Fallin Appreciates Expedited Cost-Share Program
 - OCC Commends Dr. Mike Talkington
- Produced OCC monthly newsletter and prepared newsletters for OCC web page.
- Continued using Twitter to communicate messages and news about conservation-related activities under the name OK Conservation Cmsn at the address @conservation_ok.
- Worked on creation of a Social Media/Social Networking policy for OCC.
- Attended and assisted with the OETA/OACD preview screening of Ken Burns' THE DUST BOWL documentary at Woodward.
- Continued arrangements for farm shows, tribal conferences and other display events in communication with Oklahoma Conservation Tribal Advisory Council (OTCAC) representatives.
- Deposited OCC publications with the Publication Clearinghouse of the Dept. of Libraries in compliance with statutes.

- Attended a meeting of the Oklahoma State Web Managers Group
- Monitored Oklahoma City and Tulsa news.
- Working in updating OCC website to new generation template by reconstructing file structure, creating and deleting pages.
- Participated with a display at the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council Conference in Catoosa.
- Participated with a display at the Oklahoma Women in Agriculture and Small Business Conference in Oklahoma City.

Tribal Outreach Coordinator

Coordinated Partnership with the Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (OTCAC) –

- OTCAC had their annual meeting at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation on August 23. I facilitated the meeting attended by over 100.
- I facilitated an OTCAC/USDA/CD meeting in Lahoma, OK on August 2. The meeting was held at the OSU Extension Experiment Station and was attended by over 60. NRCS demonstrated rainfall impacts on soils with different amounts of ground cover.
- Currently working with the Kiowa Tribal Conservation District to get this revitalized and active. Met with KTCDC representatives on 7/13 in Anadarko. Randall Ware, KTCDC Bd. Member and Langston University Outreach employee, has lost his position with Langston due to a funding cut.
- Mark Harrison and I had a booth display at the intertribal Environmental Summit in Tulsa on August 7-8. This event was attended by tribal representatives from Oklahoma (39 tribes), Texas, Louisiana, and New Mexico.

Oklahoma Prescribed Burn Association (OPBA -Tentative)/Liability Insurance –

- I will meet with the Eastern Red Cedar Board in OKC on August 29.
- I will attend a hearing on Eastern red cedar on September 6.
- The OPBA is now recognized by the OK Secretary of State as a non-profit incorporated in Oklahoma. OPBA is working on organizing as a non-profit (501(c)3) under IRS requirements.
- OPBA is currently working with various partners for some base funding to get this up and running. Several organizations have recently indicated that financial support is coming. The Nature Conservancy, NRCS, and ODWC are expecting to help as soon as they can. This will help in organizing the OPBA and also looks better when applying for grants. OPBA is working with a grant writer on other opportunities.

Oklahoma Prescribed Fire Council (OPFC) –

- OPFC will have a meeting in Oklahoma City on September 11.

Oklahoma Invasive Species Council (OKIPC) –

- The annual meeting was held July 10 at ODWC's facility at Arcadia Lake. I am now on the board for this group and will keep you updated on ongoing activities.

Stamper Project –

- Shanon Phillips, WQP Director, has put Mr. Stamper in contact with a group that may bring private investors to the project. This is probably the only viable avenue for funding at this point. No additional possible partners have been found.