

Connections

Connecting people to resources.

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Chair in the Corner

The End is Near!

THE END is NEAR!!

Does that statement grab your attention? "The end of what?" you might ask. The end of summer? For sure, the end of the drought? We hope. The end of the RC&D? Not, if we can help it.

As preparations for the upcoming state RC&D conference are underway and the plans for next year's Western Regional Conference are being made, we are reminded of how many people and how much Resource, Conservation, and Development activity we have directed toward an ongoing RC&D organization. The growing financial support and the addition of new council members give added hope and encouragement to those working for the Resource, Conservation, and Development mission.

The need for developing and conserving our resources has never been greater. The commitment and support to accomplish this mission is for each of us a challenge and will determine whether or not RC&D's "end" is on the "list of ends" coming soon.

The Chair in the Corner,
Dennis Wacker, President

RC&D leadership meets with sponsors

Northeast Nebraska RC&D President Dennis Wacker, volunteer Jan Jorgensen, Knox County representative Virginia Buerman, and program support assistant Carol Peters traveled to Knox County to visit with some of the RC&D Sponsors in July. It was great meeting with our sponsors to update them on the RC&D activities since the "No Federal Funding" decision happened in early 2011. We appreciate what our sponsors have helped us with since that occurred.

The first stop was the Ponca Tribe. Larry Wright has agreed to be our representative on the RC&D Council. The group toured the Ponca Museum, which is most interesting. Mike Crosley, Santee Sioux Nation representative, and Lee Ickes updated the group on projects being done. There is much enthusiasm at the moment about the new motel-casino under construction. The next destination was Center to meet with the Knox County Board of Supervisors. Here the group updated the supervisors on things that are happening at RC&D and answered questions. The RC&D is most grateful for all their sponsors and continued support.



Mike Crosley (green shirt) and Lee Ickes (yellow shirt), representatives of the Santee Sioux Nation, share about the posts being made from cedar trees being cut down on the Santee Sioux Nation's property with RC&D President Dennis Wacker (white shirt), RC&D Council member Virginia Buerman (middle) and RC&D Program Support Assistant Carol Peters.

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Monthly Meeting Review

The July Council meeting was held on July 23 at the RC&D office in Plainview. RC&D President Dennis Wacker, Council member Virginia Buerman, volunteer Jan Jorgensen, and program support assistant met with RC&D Sponsors in Knox County to hear how community projects are unfolding. (More information in this newsletter issue.) Project updates:

- A grant application has been submitted for a Household Hazardous Waste collection.
- A Wildflower Tour was to be held in August. (More information in this newsletter issue.)

The August Council meeting was held on August 27 at the RC&D office in Plainview. Project updates:

- There are no grant funds available at this time for a Household Hazardous Waste collection.
- Plans are underway for an Organic Farming Tour in October.
- The Annual Nebraska RC&D Conference is being held in September at Wayne, with a tour focusing on recycling.

Save the Date

❖ Tuesday, September 25

Northeast Nebraska RC&D Council Meeting @ Wayne:

The next regular business meeting is at the First National Bank Conference Center, 411 E. 7th St., in Wayne at 5 p.m.

The public is welcome to attend. Contact the RC&D office at 402-582-4866 or northeastrcd@plvwelco.net for more information, or check out the website at www.nenercd.org.

❖ September 25-27

Nebraska RC&D Conference @ Wayne: Contact the RC&D office at 402-582-4866 or northeastrcd@plvwelco.net for more information, or check out the website at www.nenercd.org.

RC&D Council welcomes new members

Leonard Janovec is representing Knox County on the Northeast Nebraska RC&D Council. He and his wife, Renee, live in Norfolk but will be moving to Knox County where he owns property. Janovec is owner and operator of Echo Electric in Norfolk and does electrical sales. Some of his hobbies are tours, Nebraska history, four-wheeling, and wildlife habitat. He also wants to help others and learn from other people involved in community and rural volunteer work. He is very interested in statewide RC&D news, events, and tours.



Georgia Janssen from Winside became a new Northeast Nebraska RC&D Council member in July. She and her husband, Richard, live in Wayne County and she is a Wayne County representative on the Council Board. Georgia has three grown children, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandsons. Janssen is a member of the Winside Methodist Church and is also a 14-year member of the Wayne County Convention & Visitor's Bureau. She feels the most valuable aspect of the RC&D is saving our natural resources and feels the need to show our youth the importance in saving our environment. Currently, Ms. Janssen is retired but worked 20 years as manager for the Wayne Senior Center



and enjoys working with people. Some of her reasons for getting on the Council Board are recycling, nature, and promoting Northeast Nebraska.

Larry Wright of Niobrara is also joining the Northeast Nebraska RC&D Council. He is the Buffalo Herd Manager for the Ponca Tribe and is also involved with the Inter-Tribal Buffalo Council and the Santee Water Commission. A member of the RC&D for the past two years, he wants to see that the lands are restored to a natural environment back to native grass. He is also interested in historic site preservation.



Annual Wildflower Tour continues to be big RC&D hit

Big blue stem, little blue stem, Missouri goldenrod, bush morning glory, and way too many others to mention was the focus of the grasses and wildflowers that Nebraska Game and Parks Botanist Gerry Steinhauer identified on the 5th annual Wildflower Tour held August 16. A wonderful day for the tour, 46 people met and boarded the bus at Wildwood Acres Park in Verdigre, sponsored by the Northeast Nebraska RC&D.



Botanist Gerry Steinhauer immerses the group into the prairie ecosystem.

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Steinauer, of Aurora, shared his knowledge of the plants growing on the prairies south and west of Verdigre. The bus traveled on roads rarely traveled to see the effect of the drought this year and see some of the areas where controlled fire burnt off the wild prairies. Fire helps to clean up invasive cedar trees and other species not natural to the prairie.



The group eats lunch at Swanson's Hunting Acres west of Niobrara.

Also partnering with the RC&D on the Wildflower Tour was Pheasants Forever, whose focus was to show the group different aspects of how wildlife is responding to changing land uses, natural stressors including the drought, and habitat management efforts of landowners and public land managers.

"In many of these programs, the benefit to wildlife and the landowner is mutual," said Farm Bill Biologist Cassidy Gerdes. "More ground that is free of cedar encroachment can support both more prairie chickens and more cattle. More ground that has its native plant community intact can better support grazing operations, wildlife, and wildflowers in a summer like the one we're having."

A catered lunch was held at the Swanson's Hunting Lodge west of Niobrara by former RC&D council member Kim Swanson. From there, the group traveled to the Niobrara State Park to see the work being done there to keep the grassland in its natural state. Scott



The group tours the Niobrara State Park.

Wessel, Nebraska Game and Parks wildlife biologist, also talked to the group on the bus about the effects of the 2011 flood.

The guests were welcome to touch and see first-hand the many wildflowers and grasses that grow in the area. As Steinhauer said, "A lot can be learned about the condition of the prairie by what grows and thrives there."

"It's pretty interesting what you can learn from a drought, and it's worth talking about," Gerdes added.



Botanist Gerry Steinhauer talks about the Missouri goldenrod.



Botanist Gerry Steinhauer teaches the tour groups about the grasses on the wild prairie.



Laura and Gene Wagner, walking alongside RC&D President Dennis Wacker, lead the group on a scenic walk through the prairie.



Nebraska RC&D State Association Annual Conference 2012

Information Sheet

The Northeast Nebraska RC&D Council is pleased to be hosting this year's State Association Annual Conference. The theme is "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" and will be recurring throughout the three-day event which will provide several opportunities to showcase Council projects and recycling efforts going on in the region.

The conference registration will run from 4-6 p.m. on Tuesday, September 25th at the main conference location which is the First National Bank Conference Room in Wayne, Nebraska. The bank is located at the corner of U.S. Highway 35 (7th St.) and Windom St. Please use the south entrance door which is accessible from the parking lot.

RC&D Council booth displays will be set up during the registration period and all silent auction items will be entered at that time too. President Dennis Wacker has suggested that the silent auction carry out the conference theme as well, so put on your thinking caps and come up with something you or someone else has created from recycled materials – or not. There might be a prize for the most innovative item!

The Conference will officially 'launch' at 6 p.m. with a dinner which will be followed by a competitive mixer activity. Don't worry; you're sure to enjoy the event! Prizes and surprises will be included.

Wednesday morning's welcome will start at 8 a.m. at the conference site. At 9:30 a.m. the day's tour will depart. The motor coach will return to Wayne in time for viewing of booths displays, silent auction bidding, and visiting of downtown businesses. The evening social time, banquet, speaker and awards will follow at The Max restaurant beginning at 6 p.m.

On Thursday, beginning at 8:30 a.m. informative speakers, announcement of the silent auction winners, and the State Association's business meeting will be held. The conference will conclude at noon with lunch on your own and good wishes for safe travels.

Hope you can come. We're looking forward to seeing all of you! There is so much to do in Northeast Nebraska, if you would like to come early, let me know and we can get you more information. northeastrcd@plvwtelco.net or call 402-582-4866

Sincerely,

Carol Peters, Program Support Assistant

2012 Nebraska RC&D Association
 Annual Meeting
 September 25, 26 & 27, 2012
 Wayne, NE

**Conference
 theme -
 “Reduce, Reuse,
 Recycle”**



Hosted by the Northeast Nebraska RC&D

For more information call 402-582-4866 or email Carol Peters at northeastrcd@plvwtelco.net

Name _____ Representing _____

Spouse/Guest _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Email _____

Registration and payment – Due by September 4, 2012

	Number Attending	Price	Total
Full Conference Registration fee – includes Tuesday night meal, Wednesday tour, lunch & banquet		\$100.00	
Wednesday Only Registration fee – includes tour, lunch & banquet		\$ 75.00	
Additional Wednesday night banquet ticket		\$ 15.00	
Total Amount			\$

Room reservations are your responsibility.
 Blocks of rooms at the following local
 motels have been reserved under the
 Northeast Nebraska RC&D. Cost and
 amenities vary at each location.

Super 8
 402-375-4898

Cobblestone Inn & Suites
 402-833-1300

KD Inn
 402-375-1770

Sports Club
 402-376-4222

**Please enclose checks made payable to the Northeast Nebraska RC&D and mail to:
 702 E. Park Ave., Plainview, NE 68769. No refunds after September 11th.**

This conference is sponsored in part by a grant from the Wayne County Convention & Visitors
 Bureau and support from the Lower Elkhorn NRD

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Northeast Nebraska RC&D Council
702 East Park Avenue
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Please visit us online at NENERCD.ORG.

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Northeast Nebraska RC&D: NENERCD.ORG
August/September 2012

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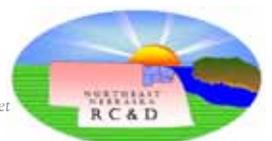
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The purpose of this newsletter is to provide news and updates from the Northeast Nebraska RC&D Council on its projects and activities impacting the six-county area:

- Antelope
- Dixon
- Pierce
- Cedar
- Knox
- Wayne

The RC&D is led by a Council consisting of local volunteers supported by a small staff, and works to improve the quality of life for citizens in Northeast Nebraska through job creation and economic development, community improvement, tourism promotion, agricultural support, and environmental conservation.



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About the RC&D Council

The RC&D Council is made up of 24 positions, each appointed by their county boards to serve a three-year term. The Council members, all volunteer, attend regular monthly meetings, serve on committees, and assist projects of their choice. If you are interested in becoming a member, there are open positions in the following counties:

- Antelope county (one position)
- Pierce county (one position)

Anyone interested in serving Northeast Nebraska through economic, community, and rural development should contact the RC&D office. Otherwise, feel free to contact any member of the RC&D Council with questions, comments, or suggestions for projects to enhance and benefit Northeast Nebraska, particularly the counties of Antelope, Cedar, Dixon, Knox, Pierce, and Wayne.

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