

Loup Basin RC&D Newsletter

February, 2008

Covering: Blaine, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, Howard, Loup, Sherman, Valley, and Wheeler Counties in Nebraska.

Nebraska RC&D's and Ord FFA Recognized at Western RC&D Conference

Thirteen representatives from across Nebraska recently traveled to Las Cruces, New Mexico to attend the Western Resource, Conservation and Development Association's Annual Conference. The Western RC&D Association is made up of local RC&D councils from the ten states of Nebraska, North & South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah.

Nebraska RC&Ds always fair well in the regional and national recognition award ceremonies, but this year Nebraska RC&Ds took all, but one award. "We have all known for a long time that Nebraska's RC&Ds lead the nation, but now it appears the rest of the nation recognizes it, also", said Nebraska State Conservationist, Steve Chick.

The Ord FFA Chapter won the Outstanding Youth Award. The Ord FFA was nominated for this award by the Loup Basin RC&D. Dan Hruza, President of the Loup Basin RC&D Council accepted the award on behalf of the Ord FFA.

To learn more about the work and projects of the Loup Basin RC&D call 308-728-3393 or go to website www.loupbasinrcd.net.



Nebraska award winners at the Western RC&D Meeting are left to right;

Verlin Bruns accepting the Outstanding Sponsor Award for The Chadron Native American Center; Dennis Wacker and Bud Knuth receiving the Outstanding Council Award for the Northeast Nebraska RC&D Council; Dan Hruza accepting the award for the Outstanding Youth Involvement Group for the Ord FFA; Joe Leichtnam, President of the Western RC&D Association; Jan Jorgensen receiving the Outstanding Coordinator Award and Donna Christiansen receiving the Outstanding Council Member Award.

Not Pictured, Dottie Holiday received the Outstanding Program Support Assistant Award.

Keep Loup Basin Beautiful keeping you in the "Loop"

**YOU GET ANOTHER
CHANCE TO WIN!**



Keep Loup Basin Beautiful has again been awarded a Troy-Bilt Chipper Shredder to be used to promote the Great American Cleanup, March 1 through May 31, 2008.

This is a heavy duty 3 in 1 machine that will get rid of debris by chipping, shredding and vacuuming it up. It will make mulch from 1 ½ inch branches. It will be given away to any community, school, church, club organization, youth or adult group (large or small) that has the most successful documented beautification/ clean-up/ improvement project during the Keep America Beautiful Great American Cleanup. Winners will be judged on documentation, volunteers' effort, and total impact of the project.

This project could be an individual school or church yard, park, abandon city block, river or lake shore, any public property or even a whole community.

The contest will held from March 1, 2008 through May 31, 2008. Glad trash bags will be provided. We also have banners, and posters for advertising the event and recruiting volunteers. Supplies will be available after March 1th. If you live outside Valley County, arrangements can be made to deliver the supplies to you. Stop by the office and take a look at the Troy Bilt.

If you are interested, contact Linda Studnicka at 308-728-3393 to sign up.

Grow Your Own Fuel! Alternative Crop Workshop to be held in Ord (Alternative oil seed crops)



The Loup Basin RC&D Ag Diversity Network Group will be hosting an Alternative Crop Workshop on March 7th in the Loup Basin Technology Center at the Valley County Fairgrounds. The workshop will cover alternative oil seed crops. The workshop will be held from 10am—4pm with registration from 9:30am—10am. Please register by calling the Loup Basin RC&D at 308-728-3393. Pre-registration fee is \$10 by February 29th and \$15 at the door. Sponsors include Triumph Seed Company, Ord Equipment, Green Line Equipment, SonPower Industries, and Nebraska Screw Press. More sponsors may be added later.

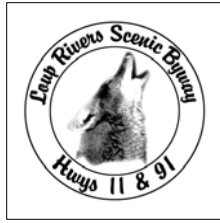
Successful Grant Writing and Administration Class Completed

On Wednesday, February 13th, 21 people attended the Grant Writing and Administration Workshop hosted by the Economic Development Committee of the Loup Basin RC&D. Topics covered included basic grant writing, some grants available, and grant administration. Six presenters talked to the group about grants they have written, administered, reviewed, or awarded themselves.

If there is interest in another Grant Workshop or even a possible two day Grant Workshop please contact LeRoy Jons, Program Coordinator at the Loup Basin RC&D. Phone 308-728-3393.



Marty Skomal with Nebraska Arts Council speaks to the 2008 Grant Writing and Administration participants in the Loup Basin Technology Center.



Loup Rivers Scenic Byway Annual Meeting to be held March 3rd!

The Loup Rivers Scenic Byway Annual Meeting for 2008 will be held March 3rd at 1pm at the Loup Basin RC&D at the Valley County Fairgrounds. Tom Tabor with the Nebraska Division of Travel & Tourism is scheduled to speak. Topics to be covered include changes from 2007, review of last year's minutes, and election of officers. Please attend and be a part of the 2008 changes!



The Loup Basin Technology Center hosted the Business After Hours in February. Above Alec Baillie the Loup Basin Technology Center Director demonstrates some of the equipment in the Tech Center to a group of visitors at the Business After Hours.

Loup Basin RC&D Council Meeting Agenda

– Tuesday, February 26, 2008 – 2pm

(Covering the Nebraska Counties of: Blaine, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, Howard, Loup, Sherman, Valley, and Wheeler)

2:00pm—Ord—Loup Basin RC&D Office at the Valley County Fairgrounds

1. Introductions -
2. Minutes of the January meeting in Ord -
3. Treasurer's Report -
4. Staff Reports -
5. Committee Reports -
6. President's Report -
7. Old Business -
 - A. Endowment Update
 1. Set meeting for committee
8. New Business -
 - A. Close out projects
 1. Grant Writing and Administration Workshop
 2. Burwell Fire Department Grant
 - B. Reimbursement to Adeline for car/gas for getting and taking mail

Announcements -

9. Next Meeting – 2pm in Blaine County

Loup Basin RC&D Council Minutes

December, 2007 and January, 2008 Meeting held on Tuesday, January 29, 2008

In attendance: Errol Wells, Dale Melia, Peggy Haskell, Doug Wrede, Bill Weber, Alec Baillie, Richard Bolli, Jim Eschliman, Mary Drudik, Dean Rasmussen, LeRoy Jons, Sara Neemeyer, Dan Hruza, and Linda Studnicka.

Dan opened the December meeting at 2pm.

The minutes from the November meeting were presented to the group. One error was found in regards to the speaker from Nebraska Community Foundation. Jana Jensen spoke at the November meeting. It had been reported in the minutes that Jana Jensen was with the Nebraska Community Development and this should be Nebraska Community Foundation. This change has been made to the minutes. Errol Wells motioned to accept the minutes with correction. Richard Bolli seconded. Motion carried.

There was no business for the December meeting.

The December meeting was closed at 2:10pm.

The January, 2008 meeting was opened at 2:10pm.

1. Treasurer's Report – The Treasurer's report was presented to group and copies were given for review. Dan Hruza said that it was learned at the Western RC&D Conference that a motion is not needed to accept the Treasurer's report. That the Treasurer's report can be reviewed and referred to audit.

2. Staff Reports – Sara Neemeyer, Linda Studnicka, Alec Baillie, and LeRoy Jons all gave staff reports at the meeting. The reports were available to the group for review.

3. Committee Reports –

Byway/Tourism Committee – Peggy Haskell gave a report on the Byway/Tourism Committee. The articles of incorporation for the Byway Committee are complete. The next step is to work on the 501(c)3 status. The Byway would like to be independent from the Loup Basin RC&D by January 1, 2009. The Annual Byway meeting will be held March 3rd. Peggy passed around a brochure that will go to print soon. The brochure will be used to recruit members. Twenty thousand Junk Jaunt brochures have been printed and anyone who wants to disperse them can get them at the Loup Basin RC&D office.

Economic Development Committee – Richard Bolli gave an update on this committee and talked about the 15 county bio-friendly region that will be having a meeting on February 19th. Richard also said that if anyone is interested in the locally produced electricity projected they are welcome to attend the next meeting. LeRoy Jons gave an update on the sub-committees that have been formed.

4. President's Report – Dan Hruza gave a report on the Western RC&D conference that was held in January in New Mexico. Dan reported that 13 people from Nebraska were at the conference and that of the 12 success stories presented at the conference two were from Nebraska. Nebraska won all but one award at the conference. Many training sessions were available and attended by Dan, LeRoy, Richard, and Alicia.

Dan also gave an update on the budget and it is still being worked out. There is currently a hiring freeze on hiring and North Center RC&D and Trailblazer RC&D are without permanent coordinators.

LeRoy Jons gave an update on the area plan. It has been approved by Steve Chick and Ken Noonan and is at Washington DC for approval.

5. Old Business – Endowment update – Dan Hruza reported that the committee will be getting together soon for the first meeting.

6. New Business –

A. Invoice due for National Association of RC&D Council – Dan Hruza said that this invoice needs to be paid by April 1st. Richard Bolli moved to pay the \$450 dues and Dean Rasmussen seconded. Motion carried.

C. New Projects to Adopt –

I. Grant Writing and Administration Workshop – Richard Bolli moved to approve the Grant Writing and Administration Workshop and Doug Wrede seconded. Motion carried.

II. Alternative Crop Workshop – This workshop is scheduled for March 7th. Dean Rasmussen moved to accept the Alternative Crop Workshop and Dale Melia seconded. Motion carried.

III. Nebraska DEQ grant for Keep Loup Basin Beautiful – Dale Melia motioned to accept the NDEQ grant and Errol Wells seconded. Motion carried. Linda Studnicka gave an update on upcoming project and what in-kind things she can use such as vehicle mileage and space where her desk is located.

III. Wood Chipper for Loup City – Doug Wrede motioned to accept the Wood Chipper for Loup City project and Richard Bolli seconded. Motion carried. Linda Studnicka has written a letter of support for this grant.

This project is asking for technical assistance only for the grant that is going to be prepared.

D. Byway Checking account to be transferred to the Loup Rivers Scenic Byway committee. Peggy advised that Alicia Toczek, who was absent from the meeting, was going to recommend that the Byway checking account be transferred to the Byway Committee. The Byway does have completed Articles of Incorporation. Dale Melia motioned to transfer the Byway checking account to the Loup Rivers Scenic Byway Committee. Dean Rasmussen seconded. Motion carried.

E. Agency Employee Review – This was an item that was added to the agenda at the meeting. The Loup Basin RC&D office will have EEO/Civil Rights review and training on the 25th and 26th of February. In regards to this, agency employees are to advise the various groups we work with of the importance of outreach to the various target groups, to insure that there is an awareness of the various programs offered through the USDA and NRCS. It is also important for councils to continually seek ways to broaden the representation on the council and in the various committees. It is also encouraged to consider ways to reach out to minority or under-served groups for inclusion in the RC&D program.

7. Announcements –

Alec Baillie gave an update on the Business after hours that will be hosted by the Loup Basin Tech Center on February 6th from 4pm to 7pm.

Doug Wrede thanked the Loup Basin RC&D for the link to the Irish Greeley Festival on the Loup Basin RC&D website. Doug also reported that Howard County Public Power and NPPD have a site in Greeley County for a possible wind energy study.

Mary Drudick with Loup Basin Public Health gave a report on what the Loup Basin Public Health does for the area and the services that they provide. These services include educational programs for students at the schools and education to school nurses. There are many other services available.

Dale Melia gave a report on a program called “Overall Women” in regards to farming women. Dale thought that a program like that in this area would be a good idea.

Richard Bolli reported he had information in regards to slaughtering horses and an e-commerce if anyone was interested in it.

Dan Hruza let everyone know they had a brochure on the MarketPlace that will be held in Columbus in February. Dan also talked about the leadership conference that will be held in Washington DC on February 24th – 27th. Dan and said that there is money in the budget for one person to attend if anyone was interested.

Next Meeting – Dale Melia motioned that the next Loup Basin RC&D Council meeting be held in Ord. Richard Bolli seconded. Motion carried. The meeting is being moved so LeRoy Jons can attend and the Civil Rights inspection possibly the same day.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:25pm



Serving the Nebraska Counties of
Blaine, Custer, Garfield, Greeley,
Howard, Loup, Sherman, Valley,
and Wheeler.

Loup Basin RC&D Area Calendar

- February 26** Loup Basin RC&D Council Meeting, 2pm at the Loup Basin RC&D Office in the Ag Complex at the Valley County Fairgrounds.
- March 1** Start of the Great America Cleanup. Call Linda at 308-728-3393 for details and supplies.
- March 3** 2008 Annual Scenic Byway Meeting, 2pm at the Loup Basin RC&D at the Valley County Fairgrounds.
- March 7** Alternative Biofuels Crop Workshop—hosted by the Loup Basin RC&D Ag Diversity Committee at the Tech Center in the Ag Complex at the Valley County Fairgrounds. Registration 9:30am-10am. Workshop 10am—4pm. Registration \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Call 308-728-3393 to register.
- March 12** Loup Basin Technology Center meeting—at the Tech Center in the Valley County Fairgrounds. 12noon—1pm.
- March 17** Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- March 20** Cedar River Stabilization Meeting—7pm, Cedar Heights meeting room in Spalding. Call 308-728-3393 for details.
- March 22** Loup City—Easter Egg Hunt on the Courthouse lawn— 11am.
- March 25** Loup Basin RC&D Council Meeting, 2pm—TBA
- March 29** Loup City—Chamber President's Banquet—TBA
- March 29** Ord—Kid's Fair, 10am in the Ag Complex Building at the Valley County Fairgrounds.
- May 31** End of the Great America Cleanup. Keep up the Good Work!

Send Events to Sara at
Loup Basin RC&D
801 "S" St, Suite 2
Ord, NE 68862
308-728-3393 or sara.neemeyer@ne.usda.gov
www.loupbasinrcd.net

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RC & D Council Board & Staff

President—Dan Hruza

1st Vice President—Dale Melia

2nd Vice President—Richard Bolli

Secretary—Dean Rasmussen

Treasurer—Alicia Toczek

RC & D Program Coordinator—

LeRoy Jons

Program Support Assistant—

Sara Neemeyer

Keep America Beautiful—

Linda Studnicka

Marketing Director/Site Coordinator—Loup

Basin Technology Center—Alec Baillie

Meeting Notices!!!!

February 26—Loup Basin RC&D Council Meeting at the Loup Basin RC&D in Ord at 2pm.

March 3—Loup Rivers Scenic Byway Annual Meeting at 1pm at the Loup Basin RC&D in Ord in the Valley County Fairgrounds. See inside for more details.

March 12—Loup Basin Technology Center meeting, 12noon—1pm at the Tech Center at the Valley County Fairgrounds.

Loup Basin RC&D Council
Loup Basin Tourism Committee
801 “S” St. Suite 2
Ord NE 68862