

WCDEA General meeting  
November 18, 2014  
WACD Annual Convention, Sheridan, WY

President, Anita Bartlett, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Introductions were made around the room and a sign in sheet was passed around. Please see attached for those in attendance.

**Minutes**

The minutes from the 2013 Convention and 2014 Winter Training were reviewed. Jeri Trebelcock moved to approve the minutes as presented. Jennifer Hinkhouse seconded, motion carried.

**Financial Report**

Anita presented the financial report and stated that the current balance of the WCDEA account is \$12,205.950. There has been some confusion as to where to send dues payments this year; Anita asked that all remaining payments be sent to her at Powder River Conservation District for the time being. Diana Olson moved to approve the financial report. Lisa Ogden seconded, motion carried.

**Partners Reports**

**WDA:** Jason Fearneyhough stated that the legislation session is coming up and that the WDA is working on several issues such as: the private property crossing issues as they relate to water monitoring/sampling, hemp/marijuana, sage grouse, and Waters of the U.S.

Chris Wichmann discussed some of their programs and the funding. They have received \$250,000 to be used for wild horse research. \$10,000 of that money has been given to the University of Wyoming for range impact research to include a population census and baseline resource research. Mr. Wichmann reminded attendees that the second request for Proposals for the RHAP program was just released. There is \$202,000 available for this biennium.

**NRCS:** Astrid Martinez reported that several NRCS offices are undergoing conservation compliance spot checks. They are working diligently on resolving technical errors dating back to the 80's. There are several vacancies in Wyoming currently and there is a system to work through to advertise and fill positions including an Easement Specialist and a Farm Bill Program Specialist. The EQIP batching date is December 17, 2014. Ranking is currently scheduled to be done around February 22, 2015 and funds are expected to be obligated between May 1 and June 1. A brief explanation of the Conservation Delivery Program was given. Astrid stated that NRCS is still operating on FY14 budget. There is a new MOU being created between NRCS and NACD. The Receipt for Services program which is rolling out December 1, 2014 was discussed.

**WACD:** Shaun Sims shared his concern that as employees move on there is intrinsic knowledge that goes with them. How do we make sure that knowledge is passed on and not lost? Employees are strongly urged to take the water quality monitoring re-certification if it applies to them. WACD is trying to develop a format to promote districts that are trying for mill levy funding. Districts are encouraged to apply for WDA grant project money. The Water Quality RFP deadline is December 5th and the RHAP deadline is December 16th. There will be another RFP for the Applied Agriculture Research Grant in the spring.

### **Blue Cross Blue Shield Program Changes**

Bobbie Frank stated that the \$500 deductible plan will no longer be available. The plan deductible choices will now be \$1,000, \$1,500 or \$1,500 high deductible. Bobbie will email documents to all employees that include the old plan, coverages under the new plan and the different cafeteria plan options.

### **Committee Reports**

**Scholarships** -Lisa Ogden gave the Scholarship Committee report and stated that \$604.66 in funds had been awarded for employees to attend Winter Training. There is \$2,895.34 remaining in the budget.

**Training**-Cathy Rosenthal, WACD Watershed Coordinator, asked employees to contact her with any training needs they have as districts. Diana Olson reported on behalf of the Training Committee. Please see the attached report for details regarding the Training Committee activities. Suggestions from the audience for future trainings included Land Use Plans, contracting, health plans, tree school (emerald ash borer), statewide EWP training, mitigation banks, conservation easements, invasive species, district forms and reporting.

**Website**-Diana Olson gave an update of the Website Committee. Robb Sgroi, Amy Doke, Diana Olson and Joan McGraw worked on this committee since last years' convention. Please see the attached report for details regarding the Website Committee activities.

### **Old Business**

**By-Law Changes**-Anita Bartlett discussed potential changes to WCDEA by-laws and why the changes were needed. The changes include clarifying the Secretary duties, giving the Alternate Area Representative voting rights in the absence of an Area Representative and the addition of signature lines. Ann Trosper moved to accept all changes to the by-laws as presented. Lisa Ogden seconded, motion carried.

### **New Business**

**Election of Officers**-Lisa Ogden nominated Michelle Huntington for Secretary. Seeing no further nominations, Michelle Huntington was re-elected as Secretary.

Lisa Ogden nominated Crystal Kellebrew for Vice President. Seeing no further nominations, Crystal Kellebrew was re-elected as Vice President.

Anita Bartlett read the letter of resignation submitted by Robb Sgroi for the position of Treasurer. Dave Morneau moved to accept the letter of resignation effective immediately. Ali Johnson seconded, motion carried.

Debbie Hepp nominated Lisa Ogden for Treasurer. Seeing no further nominations, Lisa Ogden was elected as Treasurer to fill the unexpired term.

**WACD Liaison**-In light of Jeri Trebelcock's retirement at the end of the year, the WACD Board will be seeking a new WACD Liaison. The WACD Board will make the appointment and are open to suggestions.

**Emerald Ash Borer**-New information is coming out regarding infestations of the EAB in communities. Everyone is encouraged to attend the Forestry Committee meeting to learn more.

**Silent Auction**-Tables for the Silent Auction are set up in the hallway outside the meeting rooms. Help is requested to move auction items in and out the WACD office each morning and evening. The auction closes at 11 a.m. Thursday morning.

**Barnyards and Backyards**-Jenny Thompson stated that they are looking for authors to write articles for the Barnyards and Backyards magazine. The latest RFP for small acreage workshops is out now. The team is working on putting together an irrigation guide and a pollinator guide.

Seeing no further business, Lisa Ogden moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:54 a.m. Jennifer Hinkhouse seconded, motion carried.