

Shawnee Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

46th Annual Meeting March 26, 2013

The 46th Annual Meeting of the Shawnee RC&D Area, Inc. was held on Tuesday March 26, 2013, 6:15 p.m. at the Field of Dreams Banquet Center near Carbondale. Members and guest in attendance:

Susan Odum	Karla Gage
Tracy Boutelle Fidler	Patrick Haley
Chris Evans	Chuck Medvick
Stephanie Brown	Keith Browning
Rick Street	Tom Fisher
Jodi Hawkins	Ryan Guthman
Phyllis Mace	Diann Browning
Glenn Seeber	David Fligor
Jerry Pirtle	John DePuy
Norbert Rider	Roberta DePuy
Jim Warder	Gary Poshard
Tom Anderson	Cathy Poshard
Doris Heaton	Charlie Nolan
Eliot Ayres	James Kirkland
Tabitha Ayres	Carla Kirkland
Gail Nolan	Dale Shumaker
Linda Shumaker	Allen Nicholas
Alex McCree	Rudy Rice

Shawnee RC&D Executive Director, Tabitha Ayres, welcomed all members and guests to the meeting.

Tabitha invited Jim Kirkland to come forward to give the invocation. Everyone enjoyed a great meal catered by Kitten's Catering.

Sustainable Living Expo – Stephanie Brown stated that this was the 3rd year for the Expo with 2,133 in attendance for 2012. It is believed that this is the largest turnout for any event at the DSAC. The biggest complaint they had was that there was too much to see. There were 24 sponsoring organizations. It was reported that D&C Sheet Metal sold 6 geothermal units to contacts made at the Expo. Grover Webb reported that he found a local distributor for his business at the Expo also. These are just two success stories. Stephanie is no longer with Connect SI. She is looking for funds to support the planning and programs for a 2013 Expo. The tentative date for a 2013 Expo is October 26th. Stephanie thanked Shawnee RC&D for their involvement to help make this event such a success.

Friends of the Dixon Springs Ag Center – Stephanie reported that this grant ends at the end of May. She is having committee meetings to complete the 5 year Strategic Plan and they will have one social event.

High Country Forest Partnership – Stephanie is working with the Prescribed Burn and FRC as well as a few other organizations who have limited resources, whose missions overlap, to partner on projects. This would hopefully help with the limited funds and people that these organizations are struggling with. She stated that she would like to see Shawnee RC&D involved.

Stewardship Week – Jim Kirkland reported that 2012 Stewardship Week was four days with approximately 2,500 students attending. Jim remarked that they are seeing presenters who were there as students at one time. He is expecting 1,800 to 2,000 students this year. He is still looking for a few presenters.

Official Business Meeting

Glenn thanked those attending. He remarked that this was our 46th Annual Meeting and David Fligor was the only one here tonight who had attended the 1st Annual Meeting.

Last year's Annual Meeting Minutes -motion made by Chuck Medvick and seconded by Susan Odum to accept. Motion approved by the council.

Financial Report – Phyllis gave the Treasury Report as of February 28, 2013. Butch Rider made the motion to accept and Rudy Rice seconded. Motion approved by council. Glenn added that we had just received \$5,000 tonight from AT&T for the Harrisburg ReLeaf project and received the grant to sign for the Cache Watershed for \$64,590 from The Conservation Fund.

Tanner Marlo CPA – Patrick Haley and Alex McCree attended the meeting. Patrick Haley talked about the auditing process. We had a Net Asset decrease and stated that we should watch our expenses. A motion was made by Phyllis Mace and seconded by Susan Odum to accept the audit report. Motion carried.

Glenn asked that everyone look over the Annual Report. Tabitha is working on our Website. This coming year we are hoping to strengthen it in the areas of “About Us” and “Programs”. We also need to put on our website a report of results for grants that have been completed. He is working on updating the Personnel and Operations Manuals. Planning to have drafts to the Executive Committee and Council for approval within the next 6 months. Council must receive 10 days before voting. Grantors sometimes ask for these documents and they have not been updated in some time. We also need to get the occupations of all our council members, as this is another item we are sometimes asked. Glenn talked about our cash flow issues. He stated that we have a high percentage of grants which require that we pay must outlay monies and then apply for reimbursement. We are now having each grant audited at a cost of \$100 per grant. Some of the things we have accomplished are; changing our logo, new brochure, by-laws, insurance for council, an audit we feel comfortable with and helping other groups and not-for profits.

Tabitha, our Executive Director, discussed that since the last Annual Meeting in which she was very new, she has a better understanding of our grants and she has worked with the Expo, Stewardship Week, U of I, IDNR, Harrisburg ReLeaf and other projects. Tabitha stated that we need to let people know who we are and the work we are doing. She has worked on the TransCanda grant that will piggyback with Tracy's grant. We have received another Grand Victoria honorarium for \$5,000. This was made possible because by Chris Evan's excellent reputation with Invasive Species.

Glenn discussed the upcoming Steak Fry and the date is May 23, 2013.

Council Meetings - We will tentatively have the next full council meeting June 4th at 7 p.m. and then one in September, January and Annual Meeting in 2014. The Executive Council will most likely meet more frequently.

Council Nomination & Officer Elections – Jodi Hawkins gave the committee’s report. Two new council members names were presented; Jesse Riechman and Jerry Pirtle. Fred Becker, Bob Lorinskas, Charles Nolan and Butch Rider were also presented for reappointment to the council. Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair were requested. Glenn Seeber was nominated for Chair and Susan Odum was nominated for Vice Chair. Motion was made by Rudy Rice and seconded by Tom Anderson to accept all recommendations of the committee and elect Glenn Seeber, Chair and Susan Odum, Vice Chair. Motion passed.

Chris Evans and Karla Gage gave a presentation on their work with Invasive Species. They discussed the many different species threats that we have in Southern Illinois and their work to eradicate them. Early detection is a key component. They also train volunteers and work with interns to give them more eyes and hands in the field working toward the common goal. Chris gave some history about CWMA and the relationship with Shawnee RC&D. Some of the projects have been the Stiltgrass Summit, Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month, Boot Brush stations, a Multi-State Survey Project of aquatic invasives that mapped 300 sites between here and Pennsylvania. Chris has also published several publications on weed control. Chris and Karla will be coming out with a few more in the future. There is now a way that anyone can report invasive species on the CWMA website. Chris talked about his new state wide position as the IWAP Campaign Coordinator for the state. Not only is he working on eradication of invasive plants, he also is working on the Emerald Ash Borer, Jumping Carp, Wild Hogs and the White Nose disease in bats. Chris stated that Shawnee RC&D is a local and national leader for Invasive Species and a model nationwide. Karla explained that she is working with the nursery trade in southern Illinois to make them aware of invasives and will supply signage to those nurseries who participate by not selling invasive species, to show their clients that they are acting responsibly.

Glenn shared that Jody Shimp was named our “Partner of the Year”. Jody was not able to attend due to a meeting conflict. Certificates for Invaluable service were given to Jim Kirkland and David Johnson.

Motion was made by Tom Anderson and seconded by Rick Street to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.