

Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retired Employees

Minutes of Meeting

October 28, 2016

Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retired Employees met at the Golden Corral Buffet at 520 South MacArthur Blvd. in Oklahoma City. Forty-nine people were in attendance. Many attendees arrived early for visiting before the meeting was called to order as the Golden Corral opens their doors at 10:00 am.

President Gordon Moebius called the meeting to order. Rebecca Blan continues to need prayers and is recovering from a stroke. Bettie Todd recently underwent knee replacement surgery. She is doing well but is not yet cleared to travel. Fred Fortney provided the blessing for the meal and everyone enjoyed the buffet meal.

Following the meal, President Gordon Moebius again called the meeting to order. First time attendees introduced themselves: Mark Conkling retired as Resource Specialist from the Clinton Technical Office approximately a year ago. His wife Debbie accompanied him to the meeting. He purchased his family farm at Thomas and is - currently growing sesame. He is putting the conservation practices on the land which he worked with during his tenure with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. He and Debbie reside in Clinton. Ott and Virginia Johnson currently reside in Stillwater. He started his career in Hughes and Pittsburg counties but worked in various states during his career as a geologist. He was in the first class to graduate from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater (formerly Oklahoma A&M). Others in attendance introduced themselves and their spouse or guest if in attendance.

Sandra Hough thanked Vice-President Dan Runnels, Randy Freeland and Les Conner for filling in at the April 2016 meeting during her absence as well as the absence of Gordon Moebius. Dan conducted the meeting, Randy took minutes and collected dues and Les took pictures for the newsletter. Thank you too for any other members who assisted in any way.

Secretary/Treasurer Sandra Hough read the minutes of the April 22, 2016 meeting. They were approved as read. The treasurers' report showed a balance at the last meeting of \$710.78 with \$230.00 dues deposited for a beginning balance of \$940.78. Expenses for this meeting were \$163.23 leaving an ending balance of \$777.55. There were 311 notices mailed, 9 returned and 3 re-mailed. Correct addresses are needed for Otis Bennett, Carl (Earl) Webb, Dennis Stipe, Greg Kindell, Kay Gafford, and Robert Graves.

Members were reminded that we collect \$10 per year from each member for expenses for the Association. They can be paid in April or October each year. Dues are collected from members only during the current year. Dues are not collected for prior years.

Randy Freeland passed around forms for retirees to provide information about their retirement activities (i.e. volunteer work, travel, part-time work, activities, etc.) This information is used for the Oklahoma Retired SCS/NRCS Employees Association newsletter.

Randy also announced that our retiree group now has a new website www.joepad.com. His brother, Joe Freeland, has graciously agreed to keep it updated for us. Thank you Joey!!! It will continue to have pictures, minutes, and attendees from each of our meetings.

Brent Reavis is the only retiree since our last meeting. He was the Resource Specialist at the McAlester Technical Service Office. He previously was the DC at Holdenville. Brent is currently teaching AG and science in Holdenville.

Fred Fortney read a list of retiree deaths since April 2016: They were: former Chief Pearlie S. Reed, 4/12/16, Arkansas; Fred A. Perryman, 89, DC Clinton FO, retired in 1991, 7/10/16; Ruel Bain, 85, DC and Soil Scientist, Antlers, retired in 1994 as Area Soil Scientist at McAlester, 8/10/16; Stacy Henslee Mathis, 54, DC, Atoka, 10/10/16; Jackie Henslee, Konawa 3/2014 (just learned of this death, father of Stacy); Jerry Walker, 68, retired DC, Miami, 26 yrs service, 10/16/16; and Nelson Mueller, 70, retired DC, Sulphur, 10/22/16, received notice of his death during the meeting. A moment of silence was observed and Fred Fortney offered a prayer.

The Oklahoma Conservation Museum group held an organizational meeting on October 6, 2016, in Oklahoma City. No officers were elected. In addition to Tom Lucas, there were eight individuals in attendance. Another meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 5, 2016, at the Oklahoma Conservation Commission Board Room at the State Department of Agriculture in Oklahoma City. Everyone is asked to talk to others about artifacts that might be available for loan or donation once the museum is established. If anyone is interested in serving on the board of directors for this effort, please contact Tom Lucas, 580.727.4397 or tom.lucas717@gmail.com.

Gordon Moebius presented a slide program on his activities since his retirement. He has established a company GEM Services LLC. His company does soil sampling and investigations for landowners interested in soil farming. He outlined the various steps which must be taken before any material can be put on land which is then incorporated on the land.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 28, 2017, at the Golden Corral on MacArthur Boulevard in Oklahoma City. The group was reminded that Golden Corral now opens at 10:00AM so there is extra time for visiting before the meeting starts at 11:30AM.

There was no other business to bring before the group and the meeting was adjourned.