

Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retired Employees

Minutes of Meeting

October 27, 2023

Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retired Employees met at the Golden Corral Buffet at 520 South MacArthur Blvd. in Oklahoma City. Twenty-six people were in attendance (20 retirees & 6 guests/spouse). Many attendees arrived early for visiting before the meeting was called to order.

President Kirk Schreiner called the meeting to order. President Schreiner welcomed everyone to the meeting. John Pewthers provided the blessing for the meal and everyone enjoyed the buffet meal.

Following the meal, President Schreiner again called the meeting to order. First time attendees were: Chad Kacir - Retired September 28, 2023, (only 27 days ago). He had served in Oklahoma as an Assistant State Conservationist (FO) for 8 years (2011-2019). He retired as the State Conservationist of Louisiana which he served since 2019. Jamey Wood – Retired May 31, 2023. He worked in Oklahoma in various positions across the state (1988-2019) before accepting a position as a member of the Policy and Program Analysis Division under the Management and Strategy Deputy Area in Washington, D.C. from which he retired. Those in attendance introduced themselves and their spouse/guest.

Secretary-Treasurer Sandra Hough read the list of those retiring since April 2023: Chris Stoner, State Conservation Engineer, Stillwater SO, 5/30/2023, 36 years service, only the sixth engineer to serve as State Conservation Engineer (1987-2023); Jamey Wood, former ASTC Management & Strategy, 5/31/2023, 34 years service, went to Texas in 2019; Steve Alspaugh, State Soil Scientist, Stillwater SO, 7/28/2023, 32+ years service; Chad Kacir, former ASTC (FO) 8 years in Oklahoma (2011-2019), 9/28/2023, 21 years service, State Conservationist of Louisiana at retirement.

Sandra also read the list of known retirees who have passed since April 2023: Paul Hamilton, 77, retired AC, McAlester, retired in 1995 with 25 years service, passed on 5/3/2023; Victor Slowik, 56, Resource & Design Engineer in Oklahoma, Supervisory Civil Engineer @ Soil Mechanics Lab in Fort Worth, TX since 2019, 32 years service, passed in service 5/5/2023; Shawn Fleming, 51, Resource Conservationist, Shawnee, passed in service 5/13/2023, almost 30 years service; Steve Mornhinweg, 73, retired DC, Ada, 30+ years service, passed 7/14/2023; Glen Williams, 92, retired Soil Scientist, Stillwater, passed 8/9/2023; Norm Smola, 85, retired State Forester, 33 years service, passed 8/11/2023; Jim Stover, 75, retired GIS Specialist, State Office, passed 9/4/2023; Dellas Anderson, 91, retired from Chickasha Watershed Planning Staff, 38 years service, passed 9/15/2023; Loretta Burton, 87, wife of Dural Burton, retired SCT at Chickasha, passed 9/14/2023; Ed Abernathy, 92, retired Soil Scientist, Poteau, retired in 1985 with 31 years service, passed away 9/19/2023; Ronnie Warren, 69, retired SCT,

Altus, retired in 2016 with 40+ years service, 9/25/2023; Bobby Birdwell, 90, retired State Soil Scientist, Stillwater, retired in 1988 with 34 years service, 10/19/2023; Nancy Ellis Wycoff, 82, retired Area Clerk @ Claremore and former Secretary at Nowata FO, 20 years service, passed 7/13/2022.

Sandra presented the minutes of the April 2023 meeting and provided the treasurer's report. Beginning balance was \$868.26 plus the \$190 in dues paid and less the \$51 expenses for this meeting (postage & copy cartridge). The balance is \$817.26. There were 72 notices mailed and one returned for incorrect address.

Randy Freeland asked the new retirees in attendance to complete an information sheet and other retirees to provide their retirement activities (i.e. volunteer work, travel, part-time work, activities, etc.). The short form is for retirees previously in attendance and the long form to obtain more basic information on retirees who have not been in attendance. The forms could be left on their table or given to Randy at the end of the meeting. This information is used for the Oklahoma Retired SCS/NRCS Employees Association newsletter along with the minutes of the meeting. Many retirees have expressed their appreciation for the information presented on the website www.joepad.com. When they are not able to attend the meetings, the website provides pictures, list of attendees, etc. Joe Freeland, retired Construction Engineer, has been very gracious to keep the website updated after each meeting. Thank you Joe!

Everyone was reminded the \$10 dues are annual dues whether paid in the spring or fall. The dues are used to cover expenses of the meetings including cost of printing meeting notices, postage and name tags. Retirees should email Randy Freeland randy.freeland@suddenlink.net to request an email meeting notice in lieu of a mailed meeting notice and to report a change in mailing address or email address.

Harry Fritzler, board member, provided the group an update of the activities of the Oklahoma Conservation Historical Society (OCHS) in its sixth year of operation. Fifty conservation oral histories have been completed and are available on the OSU Library's website. NRCS is providing funding for four additional oral histories. Work on these oral histories is underway. The four individuals are: Rick Jeans, Greg Scott, Paula Templeton & Ed Mouss. Work is nearing completion with the Oklahoma Historical Society on a conservation photo collection available to the public on the OHS Gateway to Oklahoma History website. There will be 12 to 15 thousand photos in the collection when completed. A grant has been secured from the Oklahoma Historical Society to create a traveling photo exhibit of Oklahoma's conservation history. There will be ten panels and will primarily use the conservation photos from the collection to tell the story. The exhibit will be completed the first of the year. It will be available to conservation districts to use for events or to set up in local museums. Oral histories which were gathered can be accessed at: <https://library.okstate.edu/digital/>. Several conservationists who have provided oral histories are now deceased emphasizing the need to obtain as many as possible before it is too late. The photos may be accessed at: <http://gateway.okhistory.org/explore/collections/OKCHS>. The website can be accessed at: <https://www.oklahomaconservationhistory.org>.

President Schreiner challenged each retiree to contact one or more retirees before the next meeting and encourage them to attend our semi-annual meetings in April &/or October. There may be retirees who would like to attend but are not able to bring themselves. Offering to provide them transportation might further encourage their attendance.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 26, 2024, at the Golden Corral on MacArthur Boulevard in Oklahoma City. The Golden Corral opens at 10:30 AM so there is extra time for visiting before the meeting starts at 11:30 AM.

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