

Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retired Employees

Minutes of Meeting

April 23, 2026

Oklahoma SCS/NRCS Retired Employees met at the Golden Corral Buffet at 520 South MacArthur Blvd. in Oklahoma City. Thirty-three people were in attendance (25 retirees & 8 guests/spouses). The 25 retirees represent 850 years total federal service. Many attendees arrived early for visiting before the meeting was called to order.

President J. Kirk Schreiner called the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone to the meeting. Les Conner 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 retirees attending the meeting were asked to introduce themselves: Steve Elsener, Ken Hamar & Larry Hood, Gary Soderstrom (although he had attended a year ago). Each provided a brief introduction of themselves, many of which had been retired a number of years. Each was welcomed to the meeting. Others in attendance introduced themselves & spouse or guest and told the group how long they had retired and how many years of service they had upon retirement. Josh Ketch, Assistant for Management & Strategies (State Administrative Officer), introduced himself. He is learning his new position.

Jeanne Jasper, Oklahoma State Conservationist, was asked to introduce herself and provide information about her. Jeanne has 28 years of service with the last 2 years in Oklahoma. Montana is her home state. She was raised in rural Montana. She also provided an update to happenings within NRCS in Oklahoma. The number of current employees is less than 200 employees but they are still obligating 60 million dollars a year in programs and review agreements. They are currently working to upgrade one employee working outside of their grade level. The positions of Chief and Associate Chief are now political appointees not career employees. Watershed rehabilitation funds are available and there are two watershed inspectors employed. There is an EWP (Emergency Watershed Protection) site in Poteau. The USDA Reorganization Plan has not yet been finalized.

Randy Freeland asked the first-time attendees to the retiree meeting to complete an information sheet and other retirees to provide their retirement activities (i.e. volunteer work, travel, part-time work, activities, etc.) with at least one sentence. 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. Randy also

has enrollment forms to join ARCSE, Association of Retired Conservation Service Employees. Dues are \$18 per year which includes receipt of the newsletter. First time participants receive one free year of membership. He invited everyone to join this organization. Joey Freeland, retired Construction Engineer, has been very gracious to keep the website updated after each meeting. We were able to thank Joey in person.

Randy also reported he had heard from Sherman Lewis & Harry Fritzler. Harry Fritzler is driving Route 66 in his Jeep from its origin in Chicago, Illinois and hopes to end his trip at the end of the Route 66 in Santa, Monica, California covering the 2,448 miles across eight states. Route 66 was officially established on November 11, 1926. This year, 2026, is the 100th year anniversary of the road. Phil Perryman reported he had talked to Earl Weisner's wife. Earl had experienced a stroke and has been in rehab. He is not yet up to attending the meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer Sandra Hough read the list of known retirees who have passed since October 2025: Jerry J. Latty, 81, Soil Conservation Technician, Tahlequah, passed 5/29/25; Leona Miller, 85, Clerk Typist Clinton Area Office, 12-year service, passed 11/14/25; Helen Cole, 92, widow of Everett Cole, passed 11/17/25; Odos Henson, 93, Soil Scientist/Agronomist, Stillwater State Office, passed 12/13/25; Bobby Sue Gerloff, 100, Area Clerk, Woodward Area Office, 50+ year service, passed 1/5/26; Everett "Junior" Evans, Jr., 88, Soil Conservation Technician, Oklahoma City, 40+ year service, passed 3/9/26; Phyllis Adams, 90, wife of Bud Adams, retired District Conservationist, Altus, passed 3/17/26; Durl Ray "Wimpy" Burton, 91, Soil Conservation Technician, Fort Cobb, passed 3/31/26; Clifford Frick, retired DC, Guthrie, passed 2/1/26. A moment of silence was observed in their memory. There were two known retirements: Diana Perry & Ron Merrick.

Sandra provided information from the minutes of the October 2025 meeting which are posted on the website. They were approved as posted. She also provided the treasurer's report. Beginning balance was \$673. The \$41 expense for this meeting included postage & card stock for meeting notices mailed. The balance is \$632.00. There were 59 notices mailed with one returned: Bob Burngarner, address in Duncan, unable to forward.

Notices are still mailed to those who wish to receive a notice through the mail. 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. Those who may not be receiving a mailed notice and wish to, should email Sandra Hough tshough@sbcglobal.net or send a note to 1308 Littell Ave., Clinton, OK 73601.

The next meeting is scheduled for THURSDAY, October 22, 2026, 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.