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## August 2014 Newsletter

The next meeting of the Sandhills Task Force will be on **August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014** at the Lonely Grill (formerly Brahmer's) in Thedford starting at **10:00 A.M. Central**. The back room has been reserved and Shelly will bring a laptop and projector.

Please let Shelly know if you have additional agenda items.

Shelly Kelly, Sutherland  
Program Director

### Agenda Items

Meeting called to order  
Opening Prayer  
Introductions  
Approval of minutes  
Financial report (Kelly)  
Sandhills Hydrology presentation by Gene Mack  
Partners for Conservation - Private Lands  
Partners Day – 2015  
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Grant  
2015 Nebraska Environmental Trust Grant Application  
NRCS – Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Grant  
Middle Republican NRD Weather Station Use and Fee  
Program Director Salary Budget  
Sandhills Perception Study  
Conflict of Interest/Code of Conduct Discussion  
Program Director Update (Shelly & Kyle)

**NFWF Grant** – Kyle, Kenny, Shelly, and many others have been working with the Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), Rainwater Basin Joint Venture (RWB JV), US Forest Service (USFS), and others to submit a grant application which would enable the Sandhills Task Force to fund more wetland restoration, grassland enhancement, and cedar removal projects.

**2015 NET Grant Application** – Should STF submit an application(s)? The deadline is September 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the location focus is on the Sandhills. We have roughly \$180k left in our general grant from 2012; however much of that will be allocated to current and future projects.

**NRCS – RCPP Grant** – To use funds from this source, the rancher has to be in an NRCS contract (EQIP or CSP). This limits what STF can contribute to the project. More discussion to come at the meeting.

**Program Director Salary Budget** – It would be helpful if STF would create a budget to clarify what funds are used to pay the salary. This will help with grant reporting.

**Conflict of Interest/Code of Conduct Discussion** – Barb has found some examples of guidelines that will be handed out at the upcoming meeting.

**Partners for Conservation (PFC) – Private Lands Partners Day 2015 Proposal** – The PFC Board is seeking proposals from Nebraska and Florida for the 2015 meeting that is typically held in September.

**Parker Ranch Conservation Easement** – The appraisal is done, the baseline documentation report is nearing completion, and Jim has submitted the easement language and the appraisal to the NRCS for review. The NRCS is waiting for 2014 funds to be released before the next review can be completed.