

Sandhills Task Force

"Where the people and land are one"

P.O. Box 787

Wood Lake, NE 69221

January 2012

Next Task Force Meeting:

The next Task Force meeting is on Thursday, January 12th, in Thedford. Stub's is now called Brahmer's and is located on east HWY 2 just west of the HWY 83 junction. **Please note, at board request, meeting convenes at 10:30 Central.**

Agenda Items:

10:30 Meeting called to order

Introductions

Ratify new board appointments from August 24th

Election of officers for 2012

Approval of minutes

Financial Report (Barb Cooksley)

12:00 Lunch

Project Coordinator update (Van Winkle)

2010 NET Award update (Grant County project)

FRPP contract and project update (Loup County project)

Nebraska Land Trust (Funding for Loup County FRPP project)

Nebraska Bird Partnership grant application (VFD Award)

Update on various projects past and present

Crane Trust Research Project update

Committee recommendation on remaining board vacancy (Hansen-Mack-Luchsinger)

Website expansion/update (Graham)

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Discuss NET grants for 2011 Application period

Sheridan County Projects

STF recently completed a project with a landowner along the Niobrara River south of Gordon. The project entails a planned grazing system and removal of cedar trees along Johndreau Creek.

Grant County Project Receives NET Funding

The STF was notified in August that \$150,000 of a \$192,000 2010 grant application was approved at the last NETF board meeting. The purpose of the grant application was to provide funding for a wetland restoration project that would result in permanent protection. Progress has been slow with no appraisal agreement reached as of this time. Further details will be available at Thedford

STF Website Update

As approved at our last board meeting work has been underway to update the STF website. Some sample pages will be available for the board in Thedford. NG&PC has approved the access for links to a wide variety of very pertinent Sandhills related documents and articles.

Nebraska Land Trust

Nebraska Land Trust board has recently taken action and approved funding to STF in the amount of \$180,000 to be used as our non federal match portion of our Loup County FRPP project. Having completed several successful FRPP agreements, their staff experience is invaluable.

VFD Award Program update

Proposed changes will be discussed. NBP grant opportunities including the potential for training and certifications options for VFD members.

USFWS Documents approved

Thanks to the leadership of Kenny Dinan his staff and the combined efforts of various board members STF has completed the new process for being able to accept USFWS grant funds for 2012 and beyond.

USFWS Sandhills Biologist in the news

Kyle Graham and his wife Kimber welcomed a healthy new baby girl into their family just in time for Christmas. Sienna along with her brother Sawyer and sister Willow are all home and doing well.

STF Board Member Seeks Higher Office

Sheridan County board member Jack Anderson has been the first to throw his hat in the ring for the 43rd legislative seat that is currently held by Senator Deb Fisher who is unable to refile due to term limits.

