

### **Next Task Force Meeting:**

The next Task Force meeting is on Thursday March 14<sup>th</sup> at Stub's Restaurant in Thedford. The meeting begins at **9:00 a.m. central**. Please note the earlier time as per the request of several board members.

#### **Agenda Items:**

9:00 Meeting called to order  
Introductions  
Approval of minutes  
Financial report (Cooksley)  
Election of STF officers for 2013

Project Coordinator update (VanWinkle)

Strategic Planning Committee Update

12:00 Lunch

NPPD R Line update (Terry Warth)  
Cherry County Wind Landowners update  
(Matt Coble & George Johnson)  
Board decision on easement defense fund

3:30 Adjourn

### **2008 NET grant final funds expended**

Barb submitted the final claim for the remainder of our 2008 NET grant funds during the first quarter. Future STF/NET projects will now be funded with reimbursements from our 2012 successful NET grant. With projects in the development stages varying from water control and stream restoration to grazing system development it is expected that 2013 will result in large draw downs of NET funds.

### **Strategic Planning Committee Meets in N.P.**

Ted LaGrange, Kyle Graham, Homer Buell, Kenny Dinan, Mike Kelly and Jim Van Winkle met recently in North Platte for a work session on the 2013 strategic planning process. The process to date has been very healthy and should be off great use in the future to drive board priorities and projects.

I want to again thank Ted for putting together the work products of all past STF planning efforts and taking a real leadership role in capturing all the activity of the board and committee.

### **VFD Award program for 2013.**

The Cody VFD recently completed a prescribed burn for a landowner that involved an ongoing STF project to remove cattails and create better habitat on a small Sandhills Lake. Lack of wind the day of the burn hampered the ability to carry the fire as well as hoped. The VFD is using the opportunity to train their membership as well as test communication gear and equipment. With persistent drought conditions effecting most of the region participation may be low this spring but some landowners and VFD's are planning at this time.

### **Sand County Foundation's Leopold Award.**

The Buell family were the winners of the 2012 award. Deadline for 2013 applicants ended March 1 and the award winner will be announced April 19<sup>th</sup>. The award is given to a private landowner(s) who has demonstrated good sustainable stewardship of the land. Last year the Board supported that award by providing \$3000.

The Sand County Foundation is planning a July 24-26<sup>th</sup> Symposium in Nebraska entitled "Private Conservation for the Public Good" with guest speakers including Homer Buell. The Rainwater Basin and Spring Creek Prairie Preserve are featured sites to be included.

### **NPPD to inform STF Board on RLine status.**

Terry Warth NPPD sales and marketing manager, Craig Holthe project manager, Larry Linder environmental manager and Al Beierman the NPPD land manager will update the board and answer questions on the proposed RLine.

### **Cherry County Landowner Wind Association**

President George Johnson and Vice President Matt Coble will represent the 45 member landowner association representing over 400,000 acres of Cherry County to update the STF board on their environmental planning and wind data collection activities.

### **Long Pine Creek Watershed Project Fund.**

The STF supported a grant application to NET to kick off restoration planning for this severally degraded stream in Brown County. Our Lidar project will also contribute to the efforts.

### **Future Sandhill Lake Renovations.**

Kyle and Jim met recently with the NG&PC fisheries staff. 2013 planning is to renovate several large carp infested lakes. STF has an opportunity to expand the reach to include additional adjoining properties.

Jim Van Winkle

