



# WESTERN PRAIRIE RC&D AREA INC. ANNUAL REPORT FOR FY2010

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**CHARTER SPONSORS**

*The County Commissions and Conservation Districts of Cheyenne, Decatur, Logan, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas, and Wallace counties.*

**OUR VISION**

The counties of northwest Kansas as a unified region working cooperatively to attain economic viability, enhanced quality of life, and realizing regional growth compatible with a quality environment.

**& MISSION**

To be the vehicle to establish an environment of cooperation that will promote economic growth, stability, and enhanced quality of life within the counties of northwest Kansas.



*Nanette Baumfalk,  
WPRCD/SER Office Assistant*

**RC&D STAFF :** *Duane Cheney, RC&D Coordinator & Nanette Baumfalk, Office Assistant*  
**WESTERN PRAIRIE RC&D, 915 EAST WALNUT, SUITE 3, COLBY, KS 67701**  
**Phone: (785) 462-7671 Ext. 5 Fax: (785) 462-9726 [www.wprcd.org](http://www.wprcd.org)**

## *2010 Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development Area Council*



*Duane Cheney - RC&D Coordinator*  
*Sandy Rodgers - Council President*  
*Greg Nemechek - Council Vice-Pres.*

- President.....Sandra Rodgers, Sherman County Conservation District Rep.*
- Vice-President.....Greg Nemechek, Sherman County Commissioners Rep.*
- Secretary/Treasurer.....Diana Solko, Decatur County Conservation District Rep.*
- Member.....Myra Hyde, Cheyenne County Conservation Dist. Rep.*
- Member.....Elmer Kellner, Cheyenne County Commissioners Rep.*
- Member.....Jack Benton, Decatur County Commissioners Rep.*
- Member.....Marlene Erickson, Rawlins County Conservation District Rep.*
- Member.....Chris Sramek, Rawlins County Commissioners Rep.*
- Member.....Troy Dewey, Sheridan County Commissioners Rep.*
- Member.....Dean Schemm, Wallace County Conservation District Rep.*
- Member.....Bruce Buck, Wallace County Commissioners Rep.*
- Alternate Member.....Bob Martin, Rawlins County*
- Alternate Member.....Fred Hall, Sherman County*

**WPRC&D— NW  
Kansas Development  
With Purpose**

*Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) areas are 501(c)(3) Corporations governed locally by grass-roots councils. Councils include people from all walks of life who volunteer their time to help make positive things happen in their RC&D area. Councils provide technical and/or financial assistance to people in their area for their natural resources, culture, and communities in a way that improves the local economy, environment, and standard of living.*

*Many Kansas rural communities find it difficult to locate and acquire funds and other resources to improve the quality of life for their citizens. Western Prairie RC&D provides those resources.*



**WPRC&D  
Micro-Enterprise Project**

WPRC&D provided assistance to an opening of a new business, “Final Finish Auto Body & Repair” in Atwood as a continued effort in Community Development. Chris Sramek was instrumental in introducing this business to WPRC&D Council as a great addition to the commerce of Atwood and NW Kansas. WPRC&D provides a revolving loan to new and existing businesses within the 8-County area.

**RC&D Program**

The RC&D program, first authorized by the Food and Agriculture Act of 1962, P. L. 87-703, received permanent authorization as part of the 2002 Farm Bill. The Natural Resources Conservation Service administers the program.

The purpose of the RC&D program is to encourage and improve the capability of volunteer, locally elected,

and civic leaders in designated RC&D areas to plan and carry out projects for resource conservation and community development.

Projects relate to the following four areas:

- (1) Land Conservation
- (2) Community Development
- (3) Land Management
- (4) Water Management

The RC&D program helps

people care for natural resources and improve the quality of life in their communities. The RC&D Council (volunteers representing public and private sector sponsors and other local organizations) undertake community driven actions that are strategically focused on regional resource conservation and economic viability. RC&D priorities are set by area residents to meet their needs.

More than 32,000 volunteers are serving on and with RC&D councils. On average, RC&D volunteers donate over 100,000 days per year. To date, 375 areas across the Nation including Guam, American Samoa, Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands have been designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as RC&D areas. They serve more than 85 percent (2,666) of U.S. counties and over 77 percent of the U.S. population. There are 25 Councils waiting for USDA designation.

These Councils have been very effective in obtaining external funds, bringing in over \$333 million to implement projects in their communities.

**WPRCD Goals Met This Year**

**Continue to Support Land Conservation in NW Kansas**

Western Prairie RC&D promotes the land conservation programs provided to local producers and schools in the area.

**Provide Assistance for Water Management**

Western Prairie RC&D is providing assistance in the development of watershed planning and local water conservation.

**Encourage Economic Development and Community Sustainability**

Western Prairie RC&D is providing assistance to Brewster Community Grocery Store in accessing funds for operation equipment.

Western Prairie RC&D provides assistance to Home Town Competiveness Activities that help youth put down roots in their hometowns.

**Protect and Sustain Urban and Agricultural Land Through Land Management Programs**

Western Prairie RC&D is assisting Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Organization which is a eight-county hub. The hub includes Cheyenne, Rawlins, Thomas, Logan, Gove, Decatur, Scott and Sheridan counties. Scott County recently joined the hub this year. The recycling hub is reducing the cost of solid waste, accessing affordable transportation, and in

(Continue to page 3)

(Continued—WPRCD Goals Met this Year)

creasing marketing. The hub has included e-waste to their efforts in solid waste recycling.

**Strengthen WPRCD Organization and Council Effectiveness**

Western Prairie RC&D Council keeps abreast on council, state association, regional, and national RC&D activities. The RC&D continues in updating their project accountability in northwest Kansas.



**WOMEN IN DENIM**

**Republican River Restoration Partners**



September 22 was the gathering of 28 Kansas women at the Prairie Museum of Art and History, Colby, Kansas.

The day began with Doris Johnson of Abilene, Kansas. She is the author of “Gutsy Women” that provided the humor and tears of six women in our rural area that were very influential to her life.

Jeanene Brown, RN,MS, Education Manager at Citizens Medical Center, and Courtney McCarty, RDLD and Dietician for CMC Inc., gave a presentation on osteoporosis, heart disease, diabetes, cancer, prevention with life styles.

Duane Cheney, RC&D Coordinator, provided information on composting for better garden soil.

Greg Nemechek, WPRC&D Vice President, provided safety topics on grain safety, power take off safety, and the use of CPR..

The ladies enjoyed a home cooked meal by Bob Amos and lyrical entertainment by Wild Rose Poet, Helene Landenberger. (NWKCEA - Northwest Kansas Conservation and Environmental Alliance has made this an annual event that provides helpful information to the women of our rural area.)

The mission of the Republican River Restoration Partners is to provide leadership in bringing federal, state and local entities together in the planning and coordination of sound conservation practices in the Republican River Basin. RRRP is anticipating the three states (Kansas, Colorado, and Nebraska) working together to achieve long-term benefits.

The Great Plains region is blessed with one of the largest aquifers in the world with a natural recharge system. Its maintained stream flows regardless of weather conditions prior to its development for agriculture. Abuse of these resources and water mining has diminished the supply of fresh water. Renovating this natural system is the goal to reach.

Objectives that the Republican River Restoration Partnership will use to attain their vision are:

- ⇒ Become informed and inform others
- ⇒ Encourage all three states to work together in improving the health of the Republican River and its tributaries

- ⇒ Continue implementing sound/acceptable conservation practices that enhance the quality of our farm land and streams and restore the desired ecology of the Republican River
- ⇒ Have an effective organization to carry out the mission and achieve the vision

This exciting new phase will require technical services from many state and federal agencies, universities and interested organizations. These services will help support these plans in order to achieve long term benefits for every citizen living in the basin.

**RC&Ds**  
**Helping You Help Your Land**

# PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

## Betz Saint Home - "Green" Home Project

BEFORE RENOVATION



DURING RENOVATION



**Brian Nemechek -**  
NW Kansas Technical College  
Carpentry Instructor



Western Prairie RC&D Council partnered with NW Kansas Technical College, Extension, Goodell's Greenhouse, and Sharp Brothers Seed Company to develop a lapidated property in Goodland to a home that will use the "Green" concept renovated residential home. NW Kansas Technical College was donated property from the Betz family. The college made this property an educational part of the curriculum in carpentry, plumbing and electric application.

Greg Nemechek, Sandy Rodgers, and Bruce Buck (All as part of the RC&D Council) took lead in find-

ing ways to add to the green project by creating a green landscape that will require little watering.

Dana Belshe, Sherman County Extension, was able to design the landscape and the RC&D Council pitched in on planting the site.

This property will be sold to a new home owner and money from the proceeds will go to another NW Kansas Technical College project similar to this one in the future.



COMPLETED PROJECT

## Partnerships Delivering Positive Change in America's Communities

### Oberlin Senior Citizens and Youth Recreation Building Complex:



Golden Age Center and the Oberlin Theater were housed in a building that was deteriorating and the community saw a need to replace the structure with a building complex that will house both activities along with a bowling alley. With exceptional community effort the Golden Age Center and the theater will soon be completed. The bowling alley is the third phase of the complex. Western Prairie RC&D is presently researching possible funding sources for their third phase.

### NW Kansas Conservation and Environmental Alliance - "Kids Conservation Roundup"



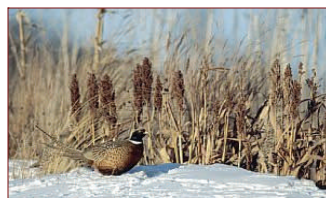
Over 300 fourth and fifth graders from eight area counties tramped into the Colby Community Building on the fourth annual Kids Conservation Roundup, clutching brown-bag lunches for a day long event.

### Brewster Community Grocery Store:

Non-Profits without a 501(c)(3) IRS designation find it hard to access grant from local and major foundations. Western Prairie RC&D Area, Inc. holds that IRS designation and is able to be a fiscal agent (flow through) for organizations to complete needed projects. A local foundation was able to award the grocery store to purchase equipment to continue to operate.



### Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project



This program is administered via a MOA between Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) and the Western Prairie RC&D (WPRCD). Within this 26 county area, USDA approved activities were used to enhance upland game bird habitat on CRP, with emphasis on acres enrolled in WIHA and WHIP.

In FY 2010, 2,826 acres had BMPs applied that totaled \$24,361 expended.

Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area, Inc. is governed by a 15 member Council representing Decatur, Rawlins, Cheyenne, Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan, Logan, and Wallace counties.

Sponsored by the Northwest Kansas Conservation and Environmental Alliance, the hands-on workshops featured segments on wetlands, range land, reptiles, recycling, skins and skulls, "water jeopardy," forestry, a stream bank trailer, "CO2 tag green house gases" and global warming, and weather.

**DUES PAYING  
WPRCD AREA  
SPONSORS**

**WPRCD Financials**

**FY2010 Financial Report**

10-01-2009 to 9-30-2010

	<u>General Acc.</u>	<u>Loan Acc.</u>
<i>Cheyenne County Commissioners</i>		
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$ 51,096.95</b>	<b>\$ 71,477.16</b>
<i>Cheyenne County Conservation District</i>		
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Sponsorship Dues / Commissioners/ Districts	\$ 4,700.00	\$ _____
<i>Decatur County Commissioners</i>		
Annual Meeting	\$ _____	\$ _____
RC&D Project Support	\$ 257.95	\$ _____
<i>Decatur County Conservation District</i>		
Project Adm. Fee	\$ 510.00	\$ _____
Loan Program - Principal Payments	\$ _____	\$ 15,215.78
<i>Logan County Commissioners</i>		
Loan Program - Interest Payments	\$ _____	\$ 534.22
Loan Program - Administration Fees	\$ 1,567.43	\$ _____
<i>Logan County Conservation District</i>		
Loan Program - Business Incubator Funds		
To be serviced	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b><u>TOTAL INCOME</u></b>	<b>\$ 7,035.38</b>	<b>\$ 15,750.00</b>
<i>Rawlins County Commissioners</i>		
<i>Rawlins County Conservation District</i>		
<b><u>Expense</u></b>		
<i>Sheridan County Commissioners</i>		
Annual Meeting	\$ 46.95	\$ _____
Dues	\$ 825.00	\$ _____
<i>Sherman County Commissioners</i>		
Insurance	\$ 685.00	\$ _____
Office Supplies and Postage	\$ 1,324.48	\$ _____
<i>Sherman County Conservation District</i>		
RC&D Project Support	\$ 31,089.88	\$ _____
Council Meeting Expense		
(Travel, meals, rooms, registrations)	\$ 772.84	\$ _____
<i>Thomas County Commissioners</i>		
State Corporation Report Fee/IRS Fee	\$ 350.00	\$ _____
<i>Thomas County Conservation District</i>		
Accounting/Legal Expenses	\$ 889.25	\$ _____
Transfer to Admin Fees	\$ 510.00	\$ _____
<i>Wallace County Commissioners</i>		
Loan Program Business loan payments	\$ _____	\$ _____
Loan Program Business Loans	\$ _____	\$ 20,000.00
<i>Wallace County Conservation District</i>		
Loan Program-Transfer to WPRCD Adm. Fee	\$ _____	\$ 1,567.43
<b><u>TOTAL EXPENSE</u></b>	<b>\$ 37,173.40</b>	<b>\$ 21,567.43</b>

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

<i>Charter Member - City of Oberlin</i>	<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 20,958.93</b>	<b>\$ 65,659.73</b>
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# WPRCD Budget

## FY - 2011 BUDGET

### Income

Sponsor Dues	4,700.00
Associate Member Dues	60.00
Annual Meeting	300.00
RC&D Project Support	60,000.00
Project Adm. Fee	600.00
Miscellaneous	100.00
Loan Program - Administration Fees-12 mo.	370.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 66,130.00</b>

### Expense

Annual Meeting Expenses	200.00
Dues:	
State	200.00
Regional	175.00
National	450.00
Insurance	700.00
RC&D Project Support	40,000.00
State Privilege Fee	60.00
Accounting Services/Audit Services	1,700.00
Website Service	600.00
Office Supplies	1,200.00
Training and Travel Expense (for council)	3,500.00
Miscellaneous	100.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$48,885.00</b>

(The amount of the \$20,000 difference on RC&D Project Support will be carried over to the next fiscal year due to projects Western Prairie RC&D Area, Inc. Council acts as a fiscal agent or flow through for other non-profits)

## **Proposed Annual Dues**

### **SPONSORS**

**County Commissioners \$500.00**

**Conservation Districts \$100.00**

### **ASSOCIATES MEMBERS**

#### *Individual*

**Bronze Level \$25 - \$49**

**Silver Level \$50 - \$99**

**Gold Level \$100+**

#### *Business*

**Bronze Level \$100 - \$499**

**Silver Level \$500 - \$999**

**Gold \$1000+**

*(Individual or Business Associate Members who give \$500 or more initially are classified as Lifetime Associate Members)*

## **Partnerships Delivering Positive Change in America's Communities**

### **Statement of Non-Discrimination**

***All programs and services of the RC&D Councils are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital or family status, disability or political beliefs.***



