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Prairie Hills RC&D Council Members

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Bob Champlin, Canton, IL
Jeff Harris, St. David, IL
Doug Manock, Canton, IL
Jeff Rohlwing, Lewistown, IL
Mark Rothert, Canton, IL

Hancock County

Charles Bair, Carthage, IL
Steve Bolton, Hamilton, IL
Charles Gilbert, Nauvoo, IL
Mary Holmes, Augusta, IL
Brenda Pyatt, Carthage, IL

Henderson County

Charles Bell, Stronghurst, IL
Curt Eisenmayer, Stronghurst, IL
Bob Livingston, Macomb, IL
Judy Roessler, Media, IL
Larry Sterett, Biggsville, IL

Knox County

David Asbury, Gilson, IL
Dale Parsons, Galesburg, IL

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Jere Greuel, Industry, IL
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Gary Sherer, Macomb, IL

Warren County

Michael Pearson, Monmouth, IL
Karen Starbuck, Roseville IL
Carol Stombaugh, Monmouth, IL
Rick Winbigler, Monmouth, IL
Jolene Willis, Monmouth, IL

Staff

David King, Coordinator
Tracy Meredith, Program Assistant

Mission: Helping Communities help each other

Vision: Sustainable growth-productive ecosystems

Prairie Hills Resource Conservation and Development

SUMMER/FALL EDITION 2007

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New Projects for Prairie Hills RC&D, Inc.



At the July Council Meeting, Prairie Hills had guest speakers Charles Curry and Mark Jackson of Interstate RC&D in Milan, IL. The gentlemen presented the Council information on their "SMART Bus" project which stands for "sharp minds are reading thoroughly". After seeing a need to promote literacy in their 5 county area, Interstate RC&D came up with this "Bus" project to reduce illiteracy by providing books and educational programs to young children.

Interstate RC&D's "SMART Bus" had all the passenger seats removed. Bookshelves were installed to hold books for middle school aged children. The bus travels to different organizations and events such as County Fairs, Vacation Bible Schools, Boy and Girl Scout Camps and others. The Children are

allowed to walk through the bus and choose a free book to keep. Interstate RC&D has paid and volunteer staff who travel with the bus providing educational agricultural and environmental presentations.

Prairie Hills Council approved this project at the July meeting. A committee consisting of Dale Parsons, Judy Roessler, Brenda Pyatt and Elaine Stone was formed.

Prairie Hills RC&D coordinated with Interstate RC&D to do a pilot run to access the need and interest for this bus in Prairie Hills six county area. Dale Parsons made arrangements for the "SMART Bus" to appear at the Boys and Girls Club "Back To School Kick off" event held September 29, 2007 at the Carver Center in Galesburg, IL. Around 90 children were in attendance. A presentation was given by Ann Sullivan of Interstate RC&D on wildlife species in Illinois. After the presentation, children were invited to

walk through the bus to choose a book to keep.

With the success and interest the piloted "SMART Bus" project had September 29, the "Bus" committee has decided to go forth with the project. The first steps will be trying to locate a bus, researching grants, and also finding middle school aged children's books.

One other project that was approved at the July Council meeting was "Wheels for Work". This project is intended to provide donated vehicles to qualified low income individuals. This will provide opportunities for the individual to find better employment by use of affordable transportation.

Prairie Hills is looking for volunteers for the "Wheels to Work" committee. If you would like to join this committee or the "Bus" committee, or have general questions regarding these projects, please call the office at (309) 833-4747.

Prairie Hills RC&D July Council Meeting

On July 12, 2007, Prairie Hills held it's summer Council Meeting at Grisham's Diner in LaHarpe, Illinois.

Guest Speakers in attendance were Charles Bair, Western IL Economic Development Authority, Charles Curry and Mark Jackson of Interstate RC&D in Milan IL, and Bob Dean, Assistant State Conservationist for USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Charles Bair spoke on enterprise

zones and low interest bonds for construction of businesses over \$1.5 million. Charles Curry and Mark Jackson spoke on the "SMART Bus" which stands for Sharp Minds are Reading Thoroughly". This project was developed to promote literacy in the Interstate RC&D area. The bus travels to events providing a free book and presentation to children. Bob Dean spoke briefly and commended the RC&D council for the hard work and unique programs it

provides to the communities.

The Council appointed Judy Roessler from Henderson County! Other business included the approval of "Wheels for Work" and "SMART Bus" projects. Alice Henry updated the council on the progress of the Prairie Land Conservancy.

More information on the PLC can be found on page 2. More information on the Council meeting can be found on Prairie Hills website: www.prairiehillsrccd.org

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ "SMART Bus" stands for Sharp Minds are Reading Thoroughly
- ◆ Prairie Hills RC&D is working to establish their own "Bus" in it's six county area
- ◆ This is intended to help promote literacy for underprivileged children
- ◆ Children listen to agricultural and environmental presentations and select a book to



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Prairie Land Conservancy-New for Landowners

You and your family have kept your land free from harmful development for years. Whether a working farm, forest land, open space, or critical habitats, you would like it to remain as it is for future generations.

The good news is that **you can protect your land!** Working with Prairie Land Conservancy, (PLC), a division of Prairie Hills Resource Conservation and Development, Inc., there are many ways you can save land of conservation, historic, scenic or other open space value— but only if you make plans for your lands protection.

The Prairie Land Conservancy is now operating within a ten county area in West Central Illinois and would like to talk



with you to explore unique options for the future of your land through conservation easements, land donations, or bargain sale of land.

Conservation Easements leaves

land in private ownership and can result in an income tax deduction and reduce property and estate taxes. Land Donations can result in substantial income tax deduction and can be structured in a way that allows you to continue to live on the land or receive a life time income. Bargain Sale of Land combines income producing benefits of sale with tax reducing benefits of donation.

For more information on the Prairie Land Conservancy, please contact the office at (309)833-4747 or by email at prairie@macomb.com.

HAVE A SAFE
AND HAPPY
FALL!



319 Grant for Livestock Management and Ecosystem Restoration

In September this year, Prairie Hills RC&D accepted a \$250,000 grant on behalf of the LaMoine River Ecosystem Partnership from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

This grant is intended to provide livestock operators alternative watering sources to the river and improved pasture grazing helping protect the river from erosion and pollution of sediment and animal waste.

Livestock graze the vegetation along the stream banks which in turn creates erosion from the loss of plant life. The vegetation also serves as a natural filtration system to the streams and rivers. Without the vegetation, waste and sediment erodes and washes

into the streams and rivers. It also impacts the wildlife habitat by reducing food and shelter.

The grant monies will assist the



owner/operator fence livestock out of the streams and rivers, and provide alternative watering sources such as man-made ponds, and wells, and improve pasture land by encouraging rotational grazing. This program will provide Best Management Practices (BMP) in upper

reaches of the LaMoine River Watershed. Installation practices will address water quality, stream bank erosion, runoff, and habitat degradation through coordinated livestock management in the targeted watershed.

Each site will be evaluated to determine which practices are necessary. Examples of some of the practices are fencing, watering facilities, soil testing, nutrient management plans, prescribed grazing, stream crossings, upland erosion control, stream bank stabilization, grade control and wetland riparian re-vegetation.

For more information on this grant, please contact the office at (309)833-4747.

Council Member Spotlight

Each quarter, Prairie Hills RC&D profiles members of the Council to give you an opportunity to learn more about these leaders! This quarter we have selected Carol Stombaugh, Warren County, and Jeff Rohlwing, Fulton County.

Carol and her Husband Ronald whom is an attorney, currently reside in Monmouth, Illinois. Carol and Ronald have 5 children/stepchildren, and 15 grandchildren.

Carol attended Carl Sandburg College specializing in Accounting, Real Estate Sales, and Bank and Finance I, II, and III. She also received a certificate from the University of Illinois for Savings and Loan career development training and completed training from the National Development Council for Economic Development Finance. Carol has worked several careers to include Real Estate Management, Administrative Assistant, business Owner, Program Administrator, Director and Man-

ager. She is currently the Certified Business Specialist for the Illinois Small Business Development Center at Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois. Carol has volunteered and served on several committees and boards to include the following: Rotary, Economic Development Committee, Illinois Enterprise Zone Association, and the Warren County United Way. She has been a member of Prairie Hills RC&D since January 2001 and currently serves on the Executive Board. She has also served on Prairie Hills Loan Committee in the past. Carol enjoys home renovation, gardening, landscaping, and home projects such as ceramic tiling and painting. She also enjoys spending time with her children and many grandchildren!

Our second Council Member is Jeff Rohlwing. Jeff and his wife Jodi currently reside in Lewistown, Illinois. They have two children, one son and one daughter.

Jeff was raised in Marengo Illinois on a Dairy Farm. He graduated from Western Illinois University and is currently a Branch Manager and Assistant Vice President for Mid-America National Bank in Lewistown, Illinois.

Jeff enjoys hunting, golfing, farming, coaching baseball, and riding four wheelers.

Jeff joined Prairie Hills Council in March of 2007.

Thank you to both Council Members for sharing your information and for your dedication to the Council!

Prairie Hills appreciates all the hard work its Council Members do! Its members are what make Prairie Hills so unique and successful! If you would like to be in the spotlight, or have a story you would like to share, please contact the office at (309)833-4747 or by email at prairie@macomb.com.

Women in Ag Meeting

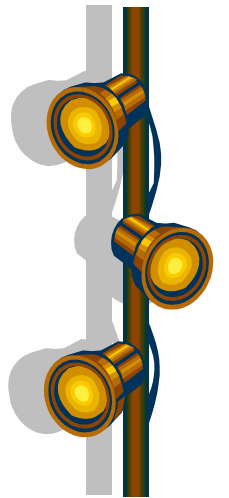
On August 12, 2007, a “Women in Ag” meeting was held at the Red Cross Center in Macomb, Illinois.

Nine women attended the meeting which featured agricultural and family related presentations from local organizations.

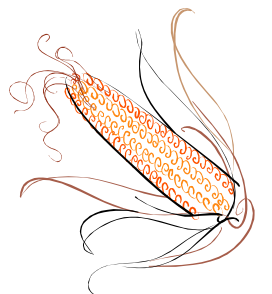
Speakers on hand at the event included the following: Greg Jackson, District Conservationist, Beau Thomas, Soil Conservationist, and Sue Phelps, Soil Conservation Technician of USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Cindy Moon, Administrative Coordinator,

and Duane Mansir, Resource Conservationist of the Soil Water Conservation District, David King, Coordinator, and Tracy Meredith, Program Assistant of Prairie Hills Resource Conservation and Development. Topics included EQIP and CRP programs, Small Business Loan Programs, Conservation Easements, Inheritance and Wills and more.

Refreshments were served by Cindy Moon of the SWCD and each participant received a pair of gardening gloves to take with.



Happy
Thanksgiving!



Up-Coming Dates

The following dates have tentatively been scheduled for future events. For more information contact the office at (309)833-4747 or check out the website at www.prairiehillsrcd.org.

Council Meeting

December 12, 2007

Executive Board Meeting

October 25, 2007

December 13, 2007

Fee Hunting Workshop

March 7, 2008