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**NONPROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
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 Program Assistant: Tracy Meredith

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Prairie Hills Resource Conservation and Development Council

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Bob Champlin, Canton, IL
 Mark Rothert, Canton, IL
 Erick Schenck, Canton, IL

Hancock County

Mary Holmes, Augusta, IL
 Ed Owen, Carthage, IL
 Brenda Pyatt, Carthage, IL
 Don Walker, Carthage, IL

Henderson County

Charles Bell, Stronghurst, IL
 Curt Eisenmayer, Stronghurst, IL
 Larry Sterett, Biggsville, IL

Knox County

Diane Bruening, Galesburg, IL
 Kevan Cooper, Galesburg, IL
 Dale Parsons, Galesburg, IL

McDonough County

Patti Calvert, Macomb, IL
 Jere Grœuel, Industry, IL
 Bob Harwick, Macomb, IL
 Gary Sherer, Macomb, IL

Warren County

John Ockert, Monmouth, IL
 Mike Pearson, Monmouth, IL
 Carol Stombaugh, Monmouth,

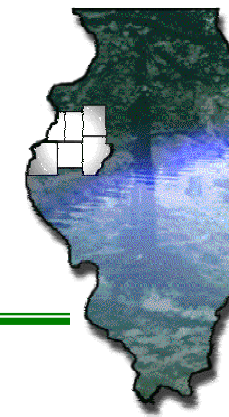
Jolene Willis, Monmouth, IL
 Rick Winbigler, Monmouth, IL

Staff

David King, Coordinator
 Tracy Meredith, Program Assistant

MISSION: Provide local leadership
 & program integration to improve
 the quality of life.

VISION: Putting development into
 rural.



PRAIRIE HILLS
 Resource Conservation Development

Wind Energy Feasibility Study

Spring Newsletter
 May 2006
 Volume 26, Issue 2

A crowd of people interested in wind energy for their local area schools met at West Central High School on March 25, 2006 for a discussion on a wind energy feasibility study presented by Wes Slaymaker, P.E. Director of Wind Energy Development, EcoEnergy LLC, and David King, Coordinator for Prairie Hills RC&D.

Prairie Hills RC&D had nine schools in our six county area participate in the wind energy study using weather stations. These schools included Biggsville, Galesburg, Nauvoo-Colusa, Roseville, Macomb, Hamilton, Abingdon, Avon and Cuba. The equipment was purchased with a grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation.

The weather stations took readings to include wind measuring anemometer over a one year period. The data was compiled and sent to Wes Slaymaker, who provided a feasibility study for each of the nine schools. The grant helped pay for part of the consulting fee and each of the nine schools contributed the remaining cost.

The purpose of the study was to determine if a wind turbine could meet the energy consumption needs of the individual school districts in a cost effective manner.

Slaymaker said Saturday that it would be difficult for the districts to make money on the installation of a wind turbine without the help of grants for the equipment purchase and installation.



Weather Station at Macomb High School.

Three different possible sizes of turbines were reviewed. Another idea to consider, Slaymaker said, is one where school districts combine cooperative effort to install the turbines in just one location. He said costs, such as installation would be considerably cheaper if more than one is put up in

the same area.

Slaymaker said all of the school districts would have further study and leg work to do if they are still considering putting up a turbine.

One benefit to the Prairie Hills study was the education provided by the weather stations. Teachers were able to incorporate readings from the stations into their weather and energy related lessons.



Upcoming Council Meetings!

Mark your calendar for upcoming Council meetings on June 8 at the Macomb City Hall, and August 12, 2006 at the Historic Nauvoo Hotel in Nauvoo!

The June 8 meeting will feature Steve Black, Director of The Land Conservancy a division of Southwest IL RC&D Inc., speaking about land donations and conservation easements. It will be held at the Macomb City Hall.

Musical performances will be provided as entertainment after the business meeting has adjourned for the August 12 Council meeting. Council members are welcome to bring a spouse or friend to enjoy the afternoon in the historical hotel! The meeting will be held in Nauvoo, IL. Information will be made available at a later date, and if you have any questions please call the office at (309)833-4747.

12th Annual Fee Hunting Workshop A Huge Success



The 12th Annual Fee Hunting Workshop took place March 3, 2006 at Dickson Mounds Museum in Lewistown, IL. This years successful workshop had over 50 new and current outfitters and landowners in attendance!

Important topics such as liability and insurance, wildlife and habitat management, business and marketing management and updates on new Illinois laws and regulations were covered. Speakers on hand were as fol-

lows: Kyla Kruse and John Pike, U of I Ext., Bill Gardner, Country Insurance and Financial Services, Kim Smail, NRCS, Mike Rahe, Spring View Acres, Bob Lowry, Warren County White Tails, Mark Ludolph, Attorney, Dan Sandman and Brian Clark of IDNR.

We would to thank our sponsors Dickson Mounds Museum and University of Illinois Extension Fulton County for their support .

Local artists and taxidermist were available to show off some wonderful talent! Bill

Swango had on display many beautiful hand carved wooden pieces. Richard Mason, Masons Mounts Taxidermy, and Cooper Johnson, Central Illinois Wildlife, captured your attention with their realistic picturesque mounts!

Joe Gizdic of Roodhouse Illinois was the winner of the Mossberg O/U 12 gauge gun raffle! Thank you to all who purchased tickets in which the proceeds will go to support rural development initiatives.

13th Annual Workshop to be held March 2, 2007!

Annual Council Meeting Held In January

Prairie Hills RC&D, Inc. held it's annual Council Meeting on January 25, 2006 at Geppetto's in Canton, IL.

Guests who attended were Bill Gradle, USDA-NRCS State Conservationist , and Ron Zessin and Doug Mannock from the Fulton County Board. Also in attendance were Prairie Hills three new Council members

Bob Champlin and Mark Rotherth of Fulton County, and Diane Bruening, of Knox County.

A presentation on Prairie Hills Small Business Loan Program was given by Dave King. The 2006 Budget and Plan of Operations were reviewed and approved. Larry Sterett was nomi-

nated as Council President again. New Business was discussed and Council's EEO and Civil Rights responsibilities were reviewed .

If you have any questions please call the office at (309)833-4747. Please refer to the inside article for information on the upcoming council meeting.

Mark your Calendar for Thursday June 8, 7-9 pm! There will be a Council Meeting at the Macomb City Community Room in Macomb, IL! More information to be released at a later date.



Council Member Spotlight

Each quarter, Prairie Hills RC&D will profile members of the Council to give you an opportunity to learn more about these leaders! This quarter we have selected the four following Council members: **Jere Greuel, McDonough County, Jolene Willis, Warren County, Brenda Pyatt, Hancock County and Dale Parsons, Knox County.**

Jere and his wife Paula reside on their farm in Industry, IL. They have one daughter Amanda, and twin sons, Levi and Nathan. Amanda , who is engaged to be married this fall works at McDonough District Hospital. Nathan is currently attending college at SIU and Levi at WIU. Both boys recently returned from serving one year in Iraq. Levi is currently engaged to be married this year also.

Jere and his brother currently farm approximately 2000 acres of corn and soybeans along with custom trucking. He has a BS and Masters in Industrial Education from Western Illinois University.

Jere has served on the McDonough County Board in previous years, and currently serves on the Industry Kiwanis and is President of the Vermont Christian Church Board. He enjoys coin collecting, farming and spending time with his family.

He has been a member of Prairie Hills Council since 1996 and is a member of the Small business loan Committee and Secretary/ Treasurer of the Executive Board.

Jolene and her husband Chad, a teacher at ROWVA High School, reside in Monmouth, IL. Jolene was raised on a grain farm in Iroquois County and is an

alumna of Hoopeston Area High School.

She is currently the Executive Director of Western Illinois Economic Development Partnership, a public-private non-profit organization in Warren County. Jolene graduated from University of Illinois with a BS in Agricultural Communications. She is also a certified consultant for Business Retention and Expansion International.

Gardening, reading, photography, genealogy and agriculture are some of her interests and hobbies. Jolene is also involved with several organizations such as Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce, Highway 34 Coalition, and BNSF US 34 Logistics Corridor to name a few. She is currently a member on several different committees to include the Monmouth Rotary Club and Monmouth Technology Committee. Jolene has been a council member for Prairie Hills since 2003.

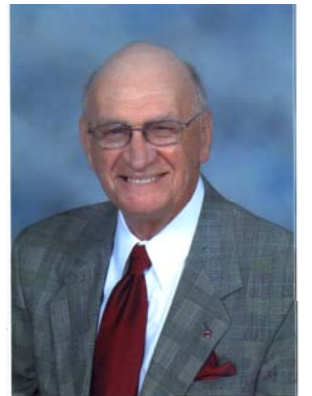
Brenda and her husband William, a pastor at the United Methodist Church, currently reside in Carthage, IL. Their daughter Lauren is a Senior at Bradley University and their son is a Senior at Carthage High School. Brenda is originally from Convoy, Ohio, and spent some of her young adulthood in New York City near the United Nations.

She is currently the community development director for Carthage, IL. Brenda received her BA from Heidelberg College in Ohio, and a Masters of Science from SIU.

Brenda has been to Jamaica and Europe three times and loves to travel all over

the world. She also enjoys baking, singing and building furniture when time allows. Brenda is also involved with community projects such as Christmas Toy Share, Church projects, building sidewalks for seniors, and courthouse landscaping. She has been a council member with Prairie Hills since 2002 and serves on the Small Business Loan Committee.

Dale currently resides in Galesburg, IL He has a son Michael and a daughter Michelle. Dale was born in 1932 in Youngstown, IL and is a Knox County Board member.



Dale currently works part time at Continental Men's Clothing Store, as a retail sales clerk. He volunteers on the Boxing Community for Carver Communicator Agency, and the Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive and is also currently active in the democratic party. Dale has volunteered with great success and support for 16 plus years in the Tootsie Roll Drive which raises money to provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities. He volunteers his time securing sponsors, writing letters for support and making calls. Dale also enjoys history and working within the community. He has been a member for Prairie Hills since 2004 and is also a member on Prairie Hills Executive Board Committee.

As always Prairie Hills appreciates the effort and time put forth from it's members!