



**Northeast  
Nebraska RC&D  
Annual Report  
2014**



702 East Park Ave.  
Plainview, NE 68769  
[www.nenercd.org](http://www.nenercd.org)

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As we transition from one year into the next it's appropriate to think back over the last year's events and forward to the next as we make plans and set goals for the future.

In this process we might also ask ourselves if we are doing what we should be doing.



Having learned from those who have gone before us and from our own experiences, wise use of what we have is important.

The mission of the Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) has always been to develop and conserve the natural, human and financial assets that we have. This is also known as good stewardship. It's the smart thing to do. It's a good thing to do and it's the right thing to do.

Last, but not least, it's the Biblical thing to do. In the account of creation in the first chapters of Genesis, God instructs Adam to oversee His creation. Humanity is charged with the responsibility of taking care of God's creation. Even if you choose not to believe the Bible's account of how things began, good stewardship is still essential.



RC&D's, "Rock On!"

Dennis G. Wacker, President





# Resource Conservation & Development



## PROJECT RESULTS

### Recycling:

- E-waste Recycling – Recycletronics of Sioux City, Iowa and the RC&D Council in cooperation with Laurel Recycling collected over 11,000 pounds (5.5 tons) of electronics! There were 143 hazardous CRT monitors, laptops, and TVs, which contain harmful substances such as mercury, lead and phosphorus that often can end up back in the groundwater if they are thrown into the landfill. This project helped 76 households and businesses from 9 communities. Thanks to all who chose to responsibly recycle outdated electronics at these events in September.
- Document Shredding – Kudos to those who took time to reduce the potential for identity theft and to support recycling by properly disposing of 5 tons of confidential files safely. The community of Orchard shredded years' worth of old KENO records that up until now had been multiplying like rabbits in their storage shed, village office, and other places around town. The contractor was Security Shredding of Laurel.



## Educational Activities:

- Grant Writing Workshop – Thirty-four professionals got an opportunity to learn from grant funders themselves about projects they would perhaps be interested in contributing to and how they want them to be presented. Participants developed personal relationships with funders, a big key to getting the grant.
- Grand Day for Grandparent & Grandchildren – This fun and educational activity had grandparents and grandchildren together on an outdoor adventure. They learned about the habits of elk and buffalo at Kreycik’s Riverview Ranch and Native American traditions by experiencing a Pow-wow.
- Northeast Nebraska Weed Management Area – Reducing infestations of noxious weeds and tackling them together makes this group tick. Results this year: 2000+ purple loosestrife roots collected and sent to Niobrara Public Schools and Yankton Correctional Facility bucket gardens to propagate biocontrol insects; 244 containers of purple loosestrife beetles and leafy spurge weevils were released; hundreds of Salt cedar trees were destroyed along the Missouri River.



## Local Foods Movement:

- Plainview Farmers Market – This new venture improved the opportunity for citizens to obtain fresh fruits and vegetables during the growing season. Nine vendors and 182 customers enjoyed the weekly market and they’re looking forward to next year’s offerings. The added exposure gained by hosting the event at the office was good for the RC&D Council too!
- Aronia Berries – As a result of the RC&D Council conveying information about health values, ease of growing, and opportunities for an alternative crop, over 10,000 Aronia berry bushes were planted. Now, 4 years later, local farmers harvested thousands of pounds and are reaping the benefits. Haskell Ag Lab has aronia berries in their buffer strips and the staff wants people to come and pick them because they’re just going to waste. They make great jelly, wine, and more!



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## The “rest of the story” - Current projects not highlighted in this report:

- Showcasing Entrepreneurs & Artists
- Heritage Museum Network
- Madison Co./PrairieLand One-year Pilot Project
- Millerboro & Mars Historical Preservation
- Radon Kit Distribution
- Wandering in Wildflowers
- Weeds & Wings
- Wynot Cemetery Repairs

“Entrepreneurs and their small enterprises are responsible for almost all the economic growth in the United States.”

Ronald Reagan



## FINANCIALS

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2014

1/1/2014 to 12/31/2014

#### Income

Membership Fees	\$18,800.00
Projects & Grants	\$42,175.71
Other Income	\$ 195.75
Interest Income	\$ 1,080.40
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$62,251.86</b>

#### Account Balances 12-31-14

Checking Account	\$62,802.48
Certificates of Deposit	
Farm to Family	\$ 3,257.37
RC&D	\$16,618.32
Endowment	\$25,537.06

#### Expenses

Donations & Memberships	\$ 1,375.00
Projects & Grants	\$27,280.72
Rent & Utilities	\$ 4,176.91
Payroll Expense	\$17,157.50
Professional Fees & Insurance	\$ 2,470.80
Travel & Registrations	\$ 571.19
Office Expense	\$ 1,800.06
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$54,832.18</b>

**Net Income** **\$ 7,419.68**

## BOARD MEMBERS

**Antelope County** – Sandy Patton, Brunswick; Jerry Fields, Tilden; Susan Fields, Tilden

**Cedar County** – Glen Anderson, Coleridge; Gary Stapelman, Laurel; Maurice Ketter, Wynot

**Dixon County** – Brad Kellogg, Wakefield; Bruce Kneifl, Newcastle; Rhonda Kneifl, Newcastle

**Knox County** – Janet Gill, Bloomfield; Leonard, Janovec, Norfolk; Chris Kreycik, Niobrara

**Pierce County** – Joan Alexander, Plainview; Judy Rasmussen, Plainview; Dennis Wacker, Osmond

**Wayne County** – Lin Brummels, Winside; Georgia Jansen, Winside; Jim Rabe, Winside

**Natural Resource Districts** – Gary Howey, Hartington, Lewis & Clark NRD; Bob Huntley, Norfolk, Lower Elkhorn NRD; Brad Mahon, Verdel, Lower Niobrara NRD; vacant, Upper Elkhorn NRD

**Native American Tribes** – Larry Wright Sr., Ponca Tribe of Nebraska; Mike Crosley, Santee Sioux Nation



New officers for 2015: (left to right) Dennis Wacker, Vice-President; Joan Alexander, Secretary; Janet Gill, Treasurer; James Rabe, President

### Special Thanks –

Without the continued financial and moral support of generous donors, Sponsors, Associate Members, Board of Directors, office staff, and committed volunteers, this RC&D Council most likely would not be able to continue. A big THANK YOU to all who've helped this RC&D Council remain viable.

The RC&D Council looks forward to continuing their service to citizens through projects that will make life better for people in the area of Antelope, Cedar, Dixon, Knox, Pierce, Wayne as well as Madison counties.

