

# Northwest Oklahoma Alliance



## Annual Meeting

Thursday, November 13, 2008

10:00 am – 2:30 p.m.

Northwestern Oklahoma State University - Woodward Campus- Room 118  
Woodward, Oklahoma

### Minutes

Welcome and Opening Remarks – Sonja Cook, NwOA President, called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Cook welcomed the members and visitors to the Woodward Campus of NWOSU. She also introduced Dr. Deena Fisher, Dean of the Woodward Campus. Cook then introduced the NwOA Board Members: Cook, President; Barclay Holt, Vice President; Patti Wilber, Secretary; Brian Gaddy, Melissa Washmon. Matt Gard and Vicki McCune, board members, were unable to attend. Number of attendees: 40.

Cook then introduced Jeannette Funderburg, Friendly Web Guru, who is the webmaster of NwOA's web site. Using NwOA's Internet web site of [www.nwoka.com](http://www.nwoka.com), Funderburg showed attendees the new design and its features, including the Members Only section. The web site will continue to add features as members submit suggestions and other items to post. Suggestions from the group included: adding membership application, expand Projects section, adding blog, and posting key issues on the front page or Project section.

Ray Murphy, Center for Rural Development at Northeastern State University, presented an economic development tool useful to site developers, communities, and ED professionals. Oklahoma Virtual Community and City Vue were developed by Dr. Murphy and offer the most current data available. Samples were shown how this may be used to recruit businesses to the area. NWOSU has a collaborative agreement with Dr. Murphy to assist in inputting profile data and to coordinate with northwest Oklahoma in its use.

Lunch was provided by Apple Catering and sponsored by Northwestern Electric Cooperative/Touchstone Energy. Thank you to the sponsors for the great meal.

Terry Brix, Brine Electric, was the luncheon keynote speaker who discussed the possibilities for northwest Oklahoma. Through his company, Mr. Brix informed the group of his company activities including 300 patents since 1984 related to petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, and natural products. He has been actively involved with the iodine industry near Vici, Oklahoma. Titled, "Eastern Red Cedar and Brine: The Odd Couple," Mr. Brix explained the richness of natural resources in the region and what uses can be made of them. Points of interest

included iodine production; current oil/gas activity; brine uses; biomass; gassification; and geothermal possibilities. A question/answer period followed his presentation.

Kylah McNabb, Oklahoma Department of Commerce Energy Program Manager, presented “Energy Resources in Northwest Oklahoma: Do We Have What It Takes?” Ms. McNabb, formerly with the Wind Energy Coalition, serves as an expert in the wind energy industry. She explained the current and projected activity regarding wind energy and wind farms in Oklahoma and northwest Oklahoma. A questions/answer period followed.

Barclay Holt, Legislative Event Committee Chair, announced that the 3<sup>rd</sup> NwOA Legislative Event will be held February 17, 2009, at the State Capitol. A dinner will follow that evening at the Oklahoma History Center. Approximately 300 people attended this event last year. County signs used last year in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Rotunda will be used to display northwest Oklahoma communities. Holt asked that each county designate a contact person(s) responsible for getting him information from that county on the legislative event participation and sign information. Additional details will be sent to members in the future.

Brian Gaddy, Business/Industry Committee Chair, presented “Keeping Young People in Northwest Oklahoma”. Currently, population is decreasing by the same number as graduate each year. What is unknown is where they are going, why they do not work at the jobs available, and what kind of jobs are really out there. Other questions are likely to exist to address the workforce issues. While several theories exist as to the answers, proof is lacking to substantiate. Members were then asked for help to solving the issues. Ideas and suggestions may be sent to Mr. Gaddy at [bgaddy@autrytech.com](mailto:bgaddy@autrytech.com) or the NwOA Board. Another idea presented is to hold a conference in the spring to create an action plan by involving schools, cities, businesses, and community leaders to solve this problem.

The NwOA Annual Business Meeting was then opened by President Cook. Board members present: Cook, Holt, Gaddy, Wilber, Washmon, numerous guests and NwOA members for a total of 40 attendees. Minutes from the November 30, 2007 annual meeting were presented. Mark Faulkenberry made the motion to accept the minutes; Washmon seconded. Motion carried.

Melissa Washmon presented the Financial Report. NwOA income: Grant, \$75,000; 2008 Legislative Event, \$9,995; 2008 Membership, \$6,010; 2006 Land Run, \$20,600 for a total of \$111,605. Expenses: Advertisement, \$22,577; Web site, \$750; Consultants, \$45,712; Insurance, \$2,790; 2008 Legislative Event, \$10,790; Postage/Delivery, \$70; Supplies, \$285; High Plains RC&D (accounting), \$2,100; Oklahoma Wildlife and Prairie Heritage Alliance, \$53.

NwOA board elections were held with three seats for election: At-Large, Retention/Recruitment, and Finance/Treasurer. Brian Gaddy nominated Con Pekrul, seconded by Mark Faulkenberry to fill the Retention/Recruitment position. Vote taken; Pekrul elected. Holt nominated Melissa Washmon to fill the Finance/Treasurer position,

seconded by ??????. Vote taken; Washmon elected. Sonja Cook was re-elected to the At-Large position.

An open forum was then held to solicit ideas, suggestion, feedback and other input from the members and guests to further NwOA.

President Cook adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm.