

**Bear River Resource Conservation and Development
Annual Meeting
Thursday, December 13, 2007 at 12:00 p.m.
Ruby Tuesday Restaurant**

Attending:

Mick Atkinson	Scott Ferguson	Cami King
Dallan Nalder	Montain Kunz	Jay Hardy
Lloyd Rasmussen	Dennis Duehren (District Ranger for Montpelier District)	

Not in Attendance:

Tom Weston

Excused:

Lynn Lemon

Welcome and Minutes

Dallan welcomed those in attendance. The council read the minutes. Jay motioned that the minutes be accepted as written. Mick seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Rotation of Leadership

The council discussed having the current year's 1st Vice-Chair move into the position of Chair. Jay motioned that Mick Atkinson be the Chair and Lynn Lemon remain as Secretary/Treasurer. Lloyd seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Dallan told Mick that the Utah RC&D Association will be meeting in the near future to form an executive committee. Mick asked that any meeting notices be forwarded to him.

Coordinator Report

Scott presented the Annual Report for 2007. The various projects were summarized with text and photos. The council asked questions about Cottom's Oaks and the Water Jet Stinger. Scott told the council that the oak tree seedlings were available as an outreach item for anyone interested in growing a hybrid oak, free of charge.

Scott shared a letter from the State of Idaho which outlines that grants obtained from them must be used within the state boundaries. The council discussed how this will impact the U&I CWMA and other interstate agreements. The council agreed that a letter should be drafted for their approval at the next meeting regarding the difficulty that this will create. Cami and Scott agreed to write the letter. Jay asked that the RC&D contact the RC&D in Cassia County, because a similar difficulty exists in treating star thistle between Box Elder and Cassia counties. The Idaho commissioners agreed to contact Dave Radford, Bonneville County Commissioner and High Country RC&D council member. The council would also like the letter to be sent to the Idaho RC&D Association as well.

Financial Report

Cami presented the financial report which was accepted with a motion from Lloyd and a second from Jay.

Youth Camp

Cami presented a draft of the written policies and the brochure that would be sent to advertise the Youth Camp. The council and Dennis gave a few suggestions for the brochure. A list of potential recipients for the brochure was presented. The council suggested that LDS stakes in the 7 county RC&D area also receive the brochures.

Dennis reminded the council that the special use permit was granted to make a wilderness camp for youth and we need to make a reasonable effort to make the reservations available for youth groups in order to keep the special use permit. The family groups that have been using the camp need to be informed that reservations for families will take place later in the spring.

Dennis felt that the camp could be utilized year-round, adding that scout groups may be interested since year-round camping is encouraged by the Boy Scout program.

Mick expressed concern that hiring a camp host may be difficult since there are no hook-ups for a recreational vehicle. Dennis stated that most of the Forest Service campsites are lacking hook-ups as well. He agreed that finding a host with commitment can be a challenge, but there are hosts who do a great job. He stated that a regular weekend patrol or other monitoring tools we set up may be effective (Search and Rescue, Highway Patrol.) A gate at the entrance would also deter the free camping that he has observed taking place at the Youth Camp.

Dennis explained how the water is currently supplied to the Youth Camp and stated that he cannot guarantee a flawless delivery of water in the future. He explained what would be required to develop a spring, stating that a test to show that the water is not being influenced by surface factors will be required every 3-5 years, costing approximately \$500 each time. The area around the spring must be fenced and free from deep rooted vegetation. If the council wants to mark the spigot as “not potable” then testing may not be required. Mick would still like to explore the option of a spring and Dennis asked that he be notified before any soil is moved.

Dennis suggested that digging a well may be the most cost effective choice. He stated that if we keep things as they are currently and there is not water at our camp, campers are welcome to use the water in reasonable amounts from Emigration campground which is nearby. Filling a 500 gallon storage tank is not a reasonable amount.

Dennis reminded the council that it is the responsibility of the RC&D to maintain the vegetation in the camp, including the treatment of noxious weeds and removing any branches that extend into the roadway. The Forest Service will be removing hazardous fuels (timber) in 2009 in the areas just outside of the camp. Approval has been given to move forward with removal of timber within the camp. It was suggested that the best time to do this may be after the camping season of 2008.

Follow-up on weather stations

Dallan said that Bannock County would also like to acquire a weather station along with Bear Lake, Caribou, Franklin, and Oneida counties. NRCS cannot offer any funding, but a group concerned with the sage grouse has been approached. He will continue to inquire of the Farm Service Agency and Don Dixon to make sure that stations are acquired that meet the requirements for gathering data.

Next Meeting

The council agreed to meet next on February 21, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. in the conference room in the USDA Service Center.

The council voted to give Cami a Christmas bonus of \$250.