

**Bear River Resource Conservation and Development
Council Meeting
Wednesday, August 29, 2007
RC&D Youth Camp, 1:00 p.m.**

Attending:

Lloyd Rasmussen
Lynn Lemon
Jay Hardy
Mick Atkinson
Dallan Nalder
Montain Kunz
Cami King
Scott Ferguson

Lyle Holmgren
Lyla Dettmer
Gerry Bates
Jon Hardman
Jeff Schick
Bill McMullin

Not in Attendance:

Thomas Weston
Kyle Tackett

Excused:

Boyd Bradford
Larry Mickleson
Ron Davidson

Welcome and Minutes

Dallan welcomed all to the meeting and thanked Lyle Holmgren and his wife for providing the meal. The minutes were reviewed by the council. Mick motioned that the minutes be accepted as written and Lloyd seconded. The motion carried.

Coordinator Report

1. Hiring of new employees

The RC&D has hired two additional employees to work as technical service providers in the Logan and Tremonton NRCS offices, bringing the total to three employees. Jon Hardman and Jeff Schick, District Conservationists, explained that purchase orders, as well as a contract with Utah NRCS, has made the funding for these employees possible. The RC&D invoices NRCS based on the tasks performed. Cami administers the payroll. Lynn made sure that unemployment insurance and worker's compensation are in place.

2. Hazardous Fuels Removal

Scott introduced Gerry Bates, an Idaho Community Forestry Assistant, to the council. He is currently contracted with the RC&D as the project coordinator for the Cub River Subdivision Hazardous Fuels Removal Project. Gerry reported that Hull Tree Care, the contractor for the project, is doing a very good job. The first task, now complete, was to create a 25 foot clearance on each side of the road entering the subdivision. This will allow access for fire fighting equipment. The next task will be to create survivable and defensible space around five homes that applied and were approved for inclusion in the project.

Two grants have made this project possible through the Idaho Department of Lands. Funds that were originally designated for Bear Lake County (\$27,700) has been transferred to Franklin County and was approved by the RC&D Council in February 2007. A grant for \$39,000 was awarded prior to that and does not expire until August 2008. Gerry thinks

that the project will actually be completed by the end of September 2007. Additional homes need to be protected in the area and a grant application has been submitted.

Lynn asked if projects like this could be done in Utah and if Gerry has a Utah counterpart that could be contacted. Gerry explained that hazardous fuels removal is handled by a different bureau in Utah called the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands and is run by the Department of Natural Resources. In Utah, a contractor is generally not hired, but the work is done by the bureau.

A newspaper article written by the Herald Journal about the project was made available to the council members. Mick noted that the article should have credited the fire district for organizing the meeting with the home owners and not the county.

3. Landscaping for Franklin County

Franklin County is interested in applying for a Community Transportation Enhancement grant from Idaho Department of Lands to obtain landscaping for their city's entrance. They need help in document preparation and Gerry suggested to them that Scott could assist. Mick motioned that Scott assist Franklin County and Jay seconded. The motion carried.

4. NRCS grants not awarded

The 3 mini-grants that the RC&D applied for through Utah NRCS were not awarded. The three proposals were: 1) Wood chipper for Franklin County; 2) Youth Camp hazardous fuels removal; 3) Bag of Woad.

5. Utah and Idaho RC&D Association Meetings

The council was asked to participate in the upcoming meetings of the state RC&D associations. Dallan volunteered to attend the Utah meeting. Dallan and Mick volunteered to attend the Idaho meeting.

6. Youth Camp

Lyle explained that water to the camp has not been available much of the summer because of a broken Forest Service pump/generator. Once fixed, the RC&D discovered that there were repairs to be made to the line coming into the youth camp. These repairs are now complete. The water has been tested and approved by the Bear River Health Department. Jay expressed concern that the lack of water may affect the number of people wanting to use the camp in the future.

Lyle reported that he has met with the Forest Service and that there are many things that they would like to have improved at the camp. Their first concern is that the camp be used by youth groups, and that the seven Bear River RC&D counties receive adequate advertising. A gate and lock need to be installed to restrict entrance. A camp host needs to be at the camp during the months of operation to ensure that it is maintained and cared for. The council members and Lyle suggested other improvements to the camp that could help: signs on the restroom doors; privacy screen for restrooms replaced; repair screening in the restroom; a larger sign on the road; and repairs to the picnic tables.

The fees were discussed and the Jay suggested that the \$50 deposit be changed to a base fee for each group, with the per person fee being added onto that. USU Extension has done the reservations and fee collection in the past, but Lyle has suggested that possibly the RC&D begin doing this. Cami is willing to do this and the council voiced no objections. Lyle suggested that youth groups be allowed to make reservations first, with families and others allowed only to make reservations after May 15.

Jay motioned that the fee be \$2 per night per person with a \$50 base fee per group. Lloyd seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The council suggested that the Boy Scouts, 4-H, and church groups in all the counties receive an updated flyer. Two 10-foot pipe gates were suggested for the entrance gate. Lyle stated that he would like to stay involved with the maintenance.

Financial Report

Cami explained the financial report. The report was accepted by a motion from Lynn and a second by Mick. The motion carried. The anticipated income and budget were displayed in spreadsheets for the council's information.

Council Member Concerns

Dallan expressed concern that his county has not been able to access relief funds for wildfires because of a lack of weather related statistics. He asked if there is any way the council could find funds for weather stations to be used in different valleys in the counties.

Next Meeting

The council agreed to meet again on Wednesday, October 17, 2007 at the Bear River RC&D conference room in Logan.