

**Bear River Resource Conservation and Development  
Council Meeting  
Thursday, June 14, 2007 at 1:00 p.m.  
Riverdale, Idaho – Home of Mick Atkinson**

In attendance:

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

Not in attendance:

Tom Weston

**Welcome and Minutes**

Dallan welcomed all to the meeting and thanked the Atkinsons for hosting the meal and meeting. The minutes were reviewed. Lynn made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Lloyd seconded, and the motion carried.

A letter from Idaho Representative Mike Simpson was summarized by Dallan. His letter, stating that he was aware of the RC&D and our programs, was sent in response to our request for continued federal funding.

Dallan reported that the National RC&D has sent informational flyers on alternative energy. Mick, Monte, and Lloyd requested a copy, which Cami will send out.

**Coordinator Report**

Mick and Scott proposed that Hull Tree Care from Preston, Idaho serve as the contractor for the Hazardous Fuels Removal Project in the Cub River, Idaho subdivision. Mick explained that Hull Tree Care was the lowest of 3 companies that submitted bids, and the only bid received from a Franklin County business. Gerry Bates, the project coordinator, has given his approval to hire Hull. Five homes will be treated, as well as the road made more accessible. Lloyd motioned that the council hire Hull Tree Care and sign the contract, Jay seconded, and the council agreed unanimously. A contract to hire Gerry Bates as the project coordinator was also signed. Gerry is a private contractor for the Idaho Department of Lands. Mick said that the Herald Journal would like to have Kelly Hafen and a photographer do a story for the newspaper during the project. Mick will call Scott and have him go along.

Scott discussed changes made to the personnel policy. Sick leave and Annual leave have been changed to state that 3 minutes are earned per hour worked by both part-time and full-time employees. The council discussed whether temporary employees should have

any benefits, since the Technical Service Providers that are employed by the RC&D are temporary. Some council members felt that the benefits should match those of the federal employees that are working alongside the federal employees. Jay made a motion that the personnel policy be approved as written, Lynn seconded, and the council agreed.

Scott asked the Council members to update the RC&D Committees for each county. An organization chart was provided to each member. In the past each county committee had money available to spend, but now they are used to help the RC&D council revise the Area Plan (every 5 years) and to gain public input. Scott emphasized that anyone connected to any community organization can be selected, with the only obligatory position being the District Conservationist with NRCS.

NRCS Utah has grant money available for RC&Ds who apply in the next two weeks. Scott suggested 3 possible projects:

- A. Hazardous fuels removal at the youth camp (\$8000)
- B. Bag of woad for each county in the RC&D area (\$10,360)
- C. Wood chipper for Franklin County (\$15,000)

The council suggested that the amount for the Bag of Woad grant be set at the maximum of \$15,000. Mick asked if there was a possibility of applying for money for the pumping station for irrigation water for Riverdale, Idaho. Scott asked that Mick get more detailed information to him, suggesting that this could be a possibility for next year's NRCS Utah grants.

## **Financial Report**

Cami presented the financial report, showing that \$40,000 has been transferred into the money market account. The council suggested that additional money be transferred if possible. Jay asked if there was a predictable cash flow. Cami explained that with grant awards it is hard to predict, but she will look into that further. Jay motioned that the report be accepted, Lloyd seconded, and the motion carried.

## **Open meeting law**

Cami reported that the open meeting law of Utah applies only to state created entities or subdivisions. She has inquired of the Utah attorney general's office and other state groups and found that they have unanimously agreed that the RC&D does not fit the description that must comply with these laws. The Idaho council members would like the same confirmation from Idaho before ceasing to worry about our compliance with this law. Cami will inquire. The council agreed that there is no reason to comply if the RC&D does not need to.

## **Liability at Youth Camp**

Cami told the council that the RC&D's Youth Camp does not presently require a release form from the users of the camp. Lynn suggested that a release be required, but pointed out the importance of our maintaining the camp. The camp is covered with liability

insurance, but the council suggested that an event rider be added to the policy for the summer.

### **Bag of Woad**

The council agreed that the money not used by Franklin and Oneida counties for the 2007 Bag of Woad mini-grants offered by the RC&D can go to Box Elder and Cache Counties. The council discussed the effectiveness of this program, expressing a desire to have the weed supervisors educate the public more extensively on eradication of Dyer's Woad. An approach of "adopt-an-area" was also suggested. The board would like ensure that the weed supervisors are requiring that the root come out with each plant. Lynn suggested that the youth be encouraged to stay off of other's crops, unless given permission. He also felt it would be good to encourage service groups to help eradicate this weed even without a bounty payment.

### **NFWF Grant**

Mick requested that the money from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation Grant that has benefited Bannock and Franklin Counties with The Leafy Spurge Weed Project be reimbursed to his county only after he has conferred with the Franklin County Weed Department. He said that the Weed Department does not want the money to go into the general fund. No one on the council objected and Mick will call Cami with further instructions.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at the Youth Camp on Wednesday, August 29, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. Scott will contact Lyle