

**Bear River Resource Conservation and Development
Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, May 16, 2005
The Coppermill, Logan, Utah**

Those in attendance:	Cami King	Those Excused
Tom Weston-Chairperson	Bill Gilson	Suzanne Rees
Lynn Lemon	Joel Merritt	Lloyd Rasmussen
Mick Atkinson	Ernie Hendricks	Heather Sisson
Dallan Nalder	Jon Hardman	
Conrad Michaelson		
Scott Ferguson		

Welcome and Minutes

Tom welcomed all in attendance. Dallan motioned that the minutes of the March 21, 2005 Committee Meeting be approved. Conrad seconded, and the motion carried.

Financial Report

Cami presented a check detail report for the past 2 months, as well as a balance total for each active account. The board agreed that they would prefer to see a balance sheet that can be easily compared to the bank statement. Lynn also asked for a reconciliation report to be available in the future. Lynn motioned that the financial report be tabled until the next meeting. Dallan seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Steven's Grant Proposal

Ernie Hendricks asked for the committee's support to administer a fuel hazard reduction project. The money for this project comes from the National Fire Act that is passed through the Idaho Department of Lands to the RC&Ds to pay for fuel hazard reduction on private land that is adjacent to federal lands. The Forest Service is proposing a controlled burn on 600 acres of Federal land and 50 acres of adjacent private land in the Malad watershed. The burn would occur in the spring of 2006. The RC&D would get \$400 for the administration of the project. Ernie explained that the money must go through a local group.

Lynn and Conrad expressed concern that the RC&D not be held liable. Ernie stated that the RC&D would assume no liability. The Forest Service would be totally responsible as stated in the prescribed burn.

Conrad motioned to approve the proposal; Dallan seconded, and the motion carried. Scott will sign for approval of the project when that paperwork arrives.

TSP NRCS Contract

Jon Hardman asked for the RC&D to administer the payroll for two employees with \$23,000 that has been made available to the NRCS. Farm program data entry will be the main activity of these Technical Service Providers (TSP), thus lightening the load for the NRCS and allowing them more of a chance to work one on one in the field. Jon will oversee these employees, and the RC&D will take 10 percent of these funds to administer the payroll. Workers compensation will come out of the \$23,000. Lynn will sign the paychecks. These are temporary positions without benefits. Dallan motioned to approve this contract; Conrad seconded the motion; and the motion carried. A copy of this contract is available for anyone to examine.

Utah Weed Supervisors Agreement

Bill Gilson and Joel Merritt presented information on the agreement between the RC&D and the Utah Weed Supervisors Association (UWSA). The council originally agreed to support this cooperative agreement in the January 2005 meeting. The UWSA may administer weed projects in any county in Utah. Bill and Joel will act as the board of directors in managing and approving the expenses. The administrative assistant of the RC&D will issue the checks as the various invoices are presented by them. Various reports and record keeping activities will also be required. Conrad expressed concern that the workload may be too much for the administrative assistant. It was agreed that after a year this should be evaluated. Lynn motioned to accept the agreement; Dallan seconded; the motion carried.

Contract for Aimee

Aimee Belliston needs a contract because she will not make over \$600 per year working as the courier. Concern was expressed about whether she is getting reimbursed for miles. Conrad motioned to sign the contract, Lynn seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Cami needs to be put on the payroll with the two new technical service employees so that taxes are taken out. Scott proposed that she be paid \$10 per hour as Heather had originally presented the job to Cami. Dallan motioned for Cami to be paid \$10 per hour. Lynn seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Scott proposed that Cami continue working after Heather's return to work with the finances, since Heather, as a NRCS employee, is to not handle the money. This will be decided after Heather's return on June 10, and it is determined if enough hours of work are available to Cami.

Bates Contract & Fire Project Attachments

Scott gave an update on the \$31, 500 available from the Idaho Department of Lands for fire reduction home evaluations. Caribou County is currently the only county slated for the removal of hazardous fuels around 10 homes. No match from the home owners is needed. Gerry Bates will contract for \$3990 to get the job done (send out the bids, give reports, etc.) Conrad expressed interest in the availability of funds to have this done in Bear Lake County also. Scott said that Gerry would be willing to work with

Bear Lake, but that Conrad would need to help make the arrangements. The work needs to be done and the money spent by August 30, 2005. Lynn moved that the project be approved with the stipulation that Bear Lake County be included. Conrad seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Review of Mike Crapo Letter

Senator Mike Crapo sent a letter in response to the letter sent by the Idaho commissioners about the need to keep the RC&D open. A copy of this was given to all in attendance. His letter communicates that he will continue to press to keep the RC&Ds open.

Report of April 14th Meeting

Suzanne Rees represented the council at a meeting of the 3 Utah RC&Ds that are slated to be closed if the 2006 budget passes. Scott, who also attended, learned that no funds are being offered at this time to help remedy the possible closures. Scott expressed concern to the council that there will be no one to administer some remaining grant funds (in 2006.) Suzanne talked to Bill Gilson, the weed manager from Box Elder County, who then wrote a letter to Sylvia Gillan, NRCS State Conservationist. He pressed her for details on how he was to meet his obligations that go beyond 2005 without the RC&D to administer these funds. No response has arrived. A copy of this letter was distributed to those in attendance.

Status of Cloud Seeding Letter

Scott asked if it was appropriate to have Mick Atkinson sign the letter that is going to the Franklin County irrigators asking for help with funding for cloud seeding. This will be on Bear River RC&D letterhead and Mick is working with Lyla Detmer to get this letter ready to send. The board agreed.

Youth Camp Grant Status

A call was received today from the Forest Service to inform us that \$17,000 has been awarded to redo the road to the youth camp. Mick needs to call Lyle Holmgren to coordinate this project. Mick was given Lyle's phone numbers.

Note: In review of this, Scott realizes that he erroneously stated the amount of \$17,000. This is the amount that was applied for, but the amount of the actual grant is \$10,000.

Funder's Fair

Scott reported that he participated in a Funder's Fair in Idaho Falls that informed local municipal workers where they could get money for projects. Utah does not have anything like this, and Scott suggested it could be helpful. It can be sponsored by a senator or congressmen. Lynn suggested the possibility of doing this in the next year.

He said that there are small community fire departments that need this kind of information. Copies of the Funder's Fair pamphlet were distributed.

Tax Filing

Jones Simkins had informed us that we do not need to file a form 990. This has since been researched and Scott has learned that we must file because the RC&D is a public charity (a 501C3), not a unit of the government. It is stated in our IRS tax-exempt determination letter that if the gross receipts exceed \$25,000 then the form 990 must be filed. The council agreed that we should take no action in regard to contacting the IRS on this mix up, but that if they contact us we will then turn to Jones Simkins for assistance.

RC&D County Committee Group

Scott asked that this agenda item be addressed at the next meeting. Scott has the list of the committee members that he will bring.

Next Meeting

It was decided that the next meeting will be held at the Youth Camp in July. A date will be determined after checking with Lyle and considering the council members' calendars. (The Idaho County Commissioners have their meeting on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.)