

**Bear River Resource Conservation and Development
Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 27, 2008**

Attending:

Thomas Weston
Lloyd Rasmussen
Lynn Lemon
Suzanne Rees
Mick Atkinson
Dallan Nalder
Conrad Michaelson
Scott Ferguson
Heather Sisson
Thayne Mickelson
John Hardman
Jay White
Lyle Holmgren
Vaughn Rasmussen
Dwight Cochrane

Excused:

Cami King

Welcome, Introductions, and Minutes

Tom welcomed all in attendance. Scott introduced Thayne Mickelson as the new UACD Area 1 Coordinator, replacing Penny Trinca.

Road to Youth Camp

Scott thanked those involved with the road improvement to the Youth Camp. A \$10,000 grant had been awarded, as well as funds from Franklin County that helped to make that possible.

Fire Reduction Grant

Scott announced that the Idaho State Land Fire Fuels Reduction Grant will expire August 31, 2005. Camp Bartlett, a Boy Scout camp in Emigration Canyon will use up the remainder of the grant money (approximately \$25,000) removing hazardous fuels, if Idaho State Lands Department will give final approval.

Youth Camp

Lyle reports that the Forest Service has expressed concern about the fire hazards at the Youth Camp. They would like to see some of the trees inside the camp removed.

They have offered to mark the trees that need removal and have a logger remove the trees.

Lyle suggested the possibility that the youth camp could offer a 4-day educational wilderness experience to increase its use among the seven counties and offer more opportunities for youth. He has in mind several activities in the area that could be included, and suggested that possibly older teens could be hired to supervise the youth. He suggested that this could fill up a two-week period each summer, leaving the remainder of the time for organized youth groups or families to reserve the camp.

Suzanne asked about who would carry the liability. Lyle believes the cost would have to be covered as part of the registration, unless it was a 4-H group, which is covered with the state. Lyle would like to meet with those who operate 4-H camps to learn more about this possibility.

Concern was expressed that several camps already exist in the area. Many agreed that it is important not to let the camp sit idle.

Lyle also reported that two adjacent Forest Service campsites had been offered to be included in the Youth Camp.

Steven's Grant

Scott reported that the Steven's Grant has been awarded and that the controlled burn of 650 acres in Oneida County will take place in the spring of 2006 under the supervision of the Forest Service and Idaho State Lands Department.

Annual Work Plan

Scott requested a signature from the council for the Annual Work Plan that lists all of the current projects. This is based on the Area Plan that was drafted five years ago. A copy was provided for everyone. Suzanne motioned that the council approve the plan for 2005. Conrad Michaelson seconded the motion and the motion carried. Chairman Weston signed the Annual Work Plan, which will be forwarded to Sylvia Gillen for the signature.

Idaho Association of RC&Ds Fall Meeting

There is a fall meeting of Idaho RC&D associations in Coeur d'Alene. Our RC&D has not been represented at this meeting for a couple of years. Scott will let the Idaho commissioners know the dates.

Status of Bear River RC&D

The council asked for an update on the proposed closing of the RC&D. Scott reported that the Senate and the House have rejected the Administration's proposal. A

copy of a letter regarding this topic from Orrin Hatch to Bill Gilson was provided for each in the council.

Fiscal Report

The Certificate of Deposit is currently earning 1% at Zion's Bank. It was reported that Lewiston State Bank would provide 4% interest. The council agreed that we should see what the penalty is to move our account to Lewiston and if it is reasonable to then move the account. Suzanne expressed that the checking account could possibly be moved as well since Zion's has been difficult to work with on changing the names on the account.

The bank statement, balance sheet, and reconciliation report were provided and approved.

Report on RC&D Concepts Meeting

Heather reported on the training she received and reminded the council that she has e-mailed them the ideas she learned about. Having the RC&D sponsor a grant-writing workshop was proposed. This would involve selling tickets to members of the counties for \$200 to attend a workshop given by Community Systems. The RC&D would cover the remaining cost for the workshop with grant moneys. Ultimately, this would create a profit for the RC&D, if all 30 seats for the workshop can be sold, as well as provide a service to the community.