

**Bear River Resource Conservation and Development
Council Meeting
Wednesday, October 17, 2007 at 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room of the USDA Service Center**

Attending:

Mick Atkinson	Scott Ferguson	Cami King
Dallan Nalder	Lynn Lemon	Lyle Holmgren
Mountain Kunz	Jay Hardy	

Excused:

Lloyd Rasmussen

Not in Attendance:

Tom Weston

Welcome and Minutes

Dallan welcomed those in attendance. Mick motioned that the minutes be accepted as written. Monte seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Coordinator Report

Scott presented the annual plan of work for 2008. Scott explained that all of our projects need to fall within this plan and that this is a document required by NRCS. Added to the plan for this year are more activities in maintaining the camp and making the reservations. Seeking funding for weather stations has also been added. Jay motioned that the council accept the plan of work, Mick seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Scott reported that the Preston Citizen printed an article about the Cub River hazardous fuels removal project. The project is nearing completion with only a steep one-acre hillside left to clear. The stumps will be treated in the springtime. Other homeowners will be assisted next year in the same subdivision if funding is awarded.

Financial Report

Cami presented the financial report. Jay motioned that it be accepted as presented. Lynn seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Youth Camp

Lynn reminded that council that the purpose of the youth camp is to provide a wilderness experience for youth groups. He suggested that family groups be eligible for reservations only after May 15 each year.

Cami presented various ways of charging the fees for the camp, suggesting that the “per person” fee can be problematic. It does not discourage small groups, and therefore the

profitability of the camp is compromised. Also, keeping track of how many people are at the camp every day can be challenging to youth leaders since youth tend to be very mobile.

A flat fee was discussed, but the council decided up a sliding scale based on the number of people. Mick motioned that the council adopt option 5, Monte seconded, and the motion carried. Various other policies regarding the reservation of the camp were discussed and the council suggested that Cami type up policies that seem reasonable and present them at the next council meeting for approval.

The council suggested that Dennis Duehren, USFS District Ranger, attend the next meeting in order to explore the possibilities of securing our own water source at the youth camp. Lyle believes that there is a spring that could be accessed.

The council discussed the effects a gate would have on the camp. Unless required to install a gate, the council agreed that it would be a challenge to manage. Mick stated that unless fenced, the gate only keeps the honest out. Lyle pointed out that a key can be duplicated. Maury Young from the Forest Service has indicated to Cami that a gate was not required.

The council asked Cami to draft a letter for their approval that would temporarily excuse the council from having a camp host. The need for a camp host may become necessary when the demand for the campground increases. For now the council would like to focus on securing a dependable supply of water and advertise the camp, so that enough revenue can be generated to eventually have a host.

Cami also told the council that a 6% sales tax and a 2% lodging tax will need to be collected for the state of Idaho.

Timber Sale at the Youth Camp

The Forest Service has stated that the RC&D is responsible for tree thinning at the youth camp. Lorenzo Griffeth, the owner of Academy Ranches (a boy's ranch in Weston, Idaho) has asked if he can participate with us in removing the hazardous fuels which would provide wood to be cut by the boys at his sawmill. The Forest Service has provided their forester to help identify the trees for removal.

The caveat is that any timber that is removed from the forest must be paid for by somebody. The estimated cost of the timber is \$300-500 per acre. The youth camp has about 3 acres. Lorenzo Griffeth has offered to remove the timber, if the council will pay the Forest Service for the timber. Scott has suggested that the boys' ranch could also build a buck and pole fence around the parking area at the campground with the logs. The Griffeths have given us a copy of their liability insurance. Scott and Lyle will monitor the project. Payment for the timber must be made before any timber leaves the forest. The total will not exceed \$1500. If the boys' ranch should fail to do their part, the

RC&D would still own the timber and could arrange for someone else to do the logging. Jay motioned that project be accepted, Mick seconded the motion and the motion carried.

New Noxious Weed

Mick told the council that Jim Hull from the Franklin County Weed Department has identified the presence of a new noxious weed, *Brasica elongata*. They are seeking that this weed be designated as a noxious weed with the state of Idaho so that it can be treated. A hand out with details was given to each council member. Mick feels that this weed has the potential to be as bad as Dyer's Woad. Currently the weed is known to be in Cache and Franklin counties. If council members have an opportunity to help educate lawmakers or their weed managers about the potential problems of this weed, Mick would like them to know that an aggressive program will likely be needed.

Weather Stations

Dallan reported that his county is still in need of learning more about weather stations in order to qualify for drought disaster relief. His county has no working weather station. Dallan feels that there are other groups that need the data and they may be willing to help fund the stations. He asked that the council members help him to learn from their local FSA offices what requirements are needed to establish more weather stations.

Next Meeting

The council agreed to have the annual meeting at the Copper Mill in Logan on December 13, 2007 at noon. The meeting was adjourned.