

**Bear River Resource Conservation and Development
Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 8, 2008**

Attending:

Thomas Weston
Lloyd Rasmussen
Lynn Lemon
Suzanne Rees
Mick Atkinson
Dallan Nalder
Conrad Michaelson
Cami King
Heather Sisson

Thayne Mickelson
John Hardman
Chet Fitzgerald
Jeff Schick
Lyla Dettmer
Andre Shumatof
Becky Johnson-Bob's Service Station
Kerry Goodrich

Excused:

Scott Ferguson

Welcome, Introductions, and Minutes

Tom welcomed all in attendance and introductions were made. The minutes were reviewed, Suzanne moved they be approved, Lynn seconded, and the motion carried.

Bio-Diesel

Andre Shumatof from the Utah Bio-diesel Cooperative explained the benefits and drawbacks of bio-diesel fuel. He said that though there are only three commercial sites in Utah, corporations and fleets are the main purchasers of bio-diesel. As of now, there is no production plant in Utah. Suzanne wanted to know if safflower could be used to produce this since there is a lot of this grown in our area. Andre did not know if it could be used, but was willing to answer that question by email.

Utah Bio-diesel Cooperative (UBC), a non-profit organization based in Park City, gives a discount to those who pay a yearly membership. Making the per gallon price range from \$2.30 to \$2.50, (with regular diesel currently at \$3.10/gallon). Home brewing of bio-diesel is possible. Classes are offered on a monthly basis by the UBC.

The UBC's goal is to have a 600-gallon processor plant/cooperative in this area. They assist in providing the information about licensing. A handout with all the information was provided.

Cloud seeding

BR RC&D is the sponsor of the Cloud seeding Consortium in Southeast Idaho. Lyla has learned that better training would improve results. She proposed that the training could

possibly take place in October. This would create an expense that the RC&D council will need to provide from the general account.

Each of the counties involved currently contribute \$3400 per year to cloud seeding. Money ran out last year, and Lyla is concerned that the price of acetone will go up again this year since it is related to the price of gasoline. She will send out letters to the irrigation companies, as was done last year, requesting they contribute \$100-300, hoping this will ensure that there are enough funds to last. She offered the suggestion that she could simply bill them if the council desired. Currently the State of Idaho pays nothing toward cloud seeding, though there have been efforts to get this funding.

The person that would do the training is from California and is very knowledgeable. She invited Rich County to send someone to the training if they would like.

Mick noted that in the 1980s the larger irrigation companies in Franklin County paid for approximately half of the funds needed for the cloud seeding. He suggested that the larger companies be asked to give more.

Lyla requested that someone send a letter to Glen Pond requesting the donation he typically has given (\$1000). Trent Clark also needs to be contacted about contributing. Lloyd agreed that he would take care of making those requests.

The council agreed to continue with the cloud seeding and to have the training in Preston. Lyla will let the commissioners know the date for the training.

Technical Service Providers

Jon reminded the council of the two employees that have been hired since May through a Technical Service Provider (TSP) grant from the Conservation Security Program. The RC&D received 10% of the \$23,000 grant. Jon reported that the employees have done a very good job. Four hours leave has been provided for every 80 hours of employment. The same ratio (.05 hour of leave earned for every 1 hour of work) will be continued during their part time work if there are no objections. The money for this grant will run out in November.

Similar grant money for the Tremonton area will be available for 2006. There is a possibility that the amount will be larger and will last longer. A 10% administrative fee would be available again for the RC&D. Jon would like to have Jenny Wisner, one of the current TSP employees, continue on in that position.

Heather suggested that this could possibly be coordinated with a work-study program. Jon said that stretching the dollars like that would mean more employees could be hired but the RC&D would need to decide if it was worth the additional management, payroll, and bookkeeping effort.

Coordinator Report

Fuels Reduction at Camp Bartlett: Lyla reported that some of the trees that had been slated for removal were left in place because the Boy Scouts did not get their stuff out of the way in time. A few trash piles remain in the area that will be burned at a later date.

A \$45,000 grant request for hazardous fuels removal in the Malad Summit area has been submitted by Dallan.

The Idaho RC&D Association meeting will be held on November 2-3. Heather will forward information to Mick as it becomes available.

The RC&D program manager from Idaho would like to meet with Scott and any available council members (even if only by phone) on the morning of Sept. 28. Dallin and Tom agreed to be available.

Program Assistant Report

Heather suggested that a project proposal form needs to be included on the RC&D website. She showed a couple of formats from other RC&Ds. This would help in gathering project ideas for the five-year plan that is due in 2006.

Heather suggested that one possible project might be to obtain renewable energy grant money to help locally owned service stations to stay in business. An example is Bob's Service Station (who were in attendance at this meeting to hear the bio-diesel fuel presentation) because their business will be hard pressed once a Maverick station builds nearby, and they are hoping bio-diesel could give them a chance to compete.

Heather will be attending a grant-writing class and asked if there were any specific grants she could apply for while taking the class. Lynn suggested weather-modification, and Suzanne suggested engineering help for Box Elder County's drainage problems. Dallan suggested that part of Malad City needs funds for a deficient water system as it relates to fire and safety. Tom suggested that Garden City needs \$4.5 million for a water treatment plant since theirs has been condemned. Heather agreed to look into these ideas and said that these are the kinds of things that could be considered for our five-year plan.

She informed the council of a web site that lists available grants. It is available for the next 6 months for the council to use without charge. After that there is a \$399 per year cost. She will get the website and login information to each of the interested council members.

Conley Thompson of Nibley City had inquired if money is available for their city to get a fire station. Heather thought that possibly FEMA may have such a grant. Lynn suggested that CDBG has money dedicated to fire for this year. Bio-fuel, open space, developing ordinances, and obtaining a GPS unit were also things Nibley City inquired about. Tom suggested that the Rich County Recorder was able to get a GPS unit with a

grant if Heather would like to inquire further. Dallin said that his county's weed people also had obtained one with a grant.

Heather announced that she would like to start a newsletter that would keep all informed of the current projects.

Financial Report

Lynn made a motion to leave the Certificate of Deposit at Zion's Bank until it comes due again in January 2006. Suzanne seconded this and the motion carried.

Suzanne asked if there was a limit on the amount of money the RC&D could carry over. Lynn suggested that Cami ask Kirk Leetzow, the accountant to be sure, but the consensus was that there was no limit.

Dallan asked if any of the carry over amount was earning interest. No interest is earned from the current checking account. The council asked that a portion of the money be put in an interest bearing account (savings or checking with interest).

Lynn motioned for the financial reports to be approved, Suzanne seconded, and the motion carried.

Next Meeting

The council agreed to hold the next meeting on December 8, 2005 at noon at the Coppermill in Logan.