

**Bear River Resource Conservation and Development
Council Meeting
Thursday, October 2, 2008 at 12:00 p.m.
Bear River RC&D Youth Camp**

Attending:

Mick Atkinson	RC&D Chair, Franklin County
Scott Ferguson	Project Coordinator, RC&D
Cami King	Financial Assistant, RC&D
Montain Kunz	RC&D Vice Chair, Bear Lake County
Lynn Lemon	RC&D Secretary/Treasurer, Cache County
Jay Hardy	RC&D Vice Chair, Box Elder County
Dennis Duehren	District Ranger, USFS , Montpelier District
Gerry Bates	Idaho Community Forester, Idaho Falls, Idaho
Scott Workman	Candidate for Franklin County Commission, unopposed

Excused:

Lloyd Rasmussen	RC&D Vice Chair, Caribou County
Dallan Nalder	RC&D Vice Chair, Oneida County
Ron Davidson	RC&D Program Manager, Utah
David Rose	Acting RC&D Program Manager, Utah

Not Present:

Bill Cox	RC&D Vice Chair, Rich County
----------	------------------------------

Welcome

Mick welcomed all and called the meeting to order. The minutes were reviewed, with Lynn motioning that they be accepted as written; Montain seconded; the motion carried. Scott Workman was welcomed as the future commissioner for Franklin County. Scott and Cami gave him a brief explanation about the RC&D. Cami will have training materials available for Mr. Workman.

Financial Report

Cami presented the financial report. Lynn suggested that the majority of the money be kept at Zion's bank because it has a highest interest rate, up to the level of the federal insurance. Jay motioned that the financial report be accepted, Lynn seconded, and the motion carried. Mick emphasized the importance of keeping the second bank account so that the RC&D can continue to assist the U&I Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA.) Since the governor of Idaho has insisted that all of the weed funds stay in Idaho, the U&I CWMA still meets monthly to support each other, but no longer shares funds from the Idaho Department of Agriculture weed grants with the Utah counties.

Timber Thinning at Youth Camp

The contract from the Forest Service for thinning the timber at the Youth Camp has been delivered. The payment to the FS of \$311 has been sent and work can begin once the

contract is signed and the money has cleared the bank. Hull Tree Care will be the contractor doing the work. The RC&D is giving Hulls the timber and they will not charge us for their work. The FS marked the trees. Dennis recommended that Hulls chip the slash and distribute it on the ground. An extra charge may exist for the chipping, but Dennis feels it may reduce the crew's labor to chip, thus there may be no charge. The camp gets the benefit of the chips, and there will be no charred piles of slash to deal with. The council members concurred. Scott will ask Hulls. Lynn motioned to accept the contract, Montain seconded, and the motion carried.

Dennis reported that Kelly Jensen from Ovid will be thinning trees in the area around the youth camp. It may be several years before he actually does the work, since he will wait for the best economic setting in order to sell the harvested timber. The thinning could have a negative impact on the number of campers using the Youth Camp because of a reduction in cover of the surrounding forest.

Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Scott reminded the council that the Idaho Department of Lands no longer has grants for removal of fuels around homes for individuals, as was done in 2007. The grant that has been awarded to the RC&D is for reduction of big tooth Maple on forest boundary in the Cub River canyon. Gerry Bates, the community forester, will assist in informing property owners. Two additional hazardous fuels reduction grant applications for Franklin County have been submitted by the RC&D, but news of grant awards has not arrived.

Signer for November

Mick will not be available for signing checks in November. Jay agreed to act as the second signer until the first of the year. Montain made the motion, Lynn seconded, and all agreed.

Association Meetings

Mick will need to cancel his attendance at the Idaho RC&D Association Meeting because of a friend's funeral on Monday. The Utah Association of RC&D meeting will be held on November 12, 2008 in Layton. Mick encouraged the Utah council members to support the UARCD, but Lynn said that this conflicts with a statewide county meeting. The council agreed that Cami should attend in their place.

Youth Camp

Cami reported that several improvements have been made at the Youth Camp: the kiosk and a wooden privacy screen have been rebuilt, the latrine venting system has been altered, hurricane tie-downs have been added to the latrine, and the fabric screening in the latrines has been repaired. A gate with a reprogrammable combination and sign has been added to the entrance of the camp. A drain in the water line has been repaired. Mick welded a table leg for the picnic table in the A-frame. A rubble rock fence near the gate has been started.

Cami shared the end of year report for the camp, stating that every weekend was reserved except for one. No youth groups used the camp this year, but one has already scheduled

for next year. The current balance for the youth camp is near \$6000 after this year's expenses and income. The total number of users is approximately 308, generating \$1795, over 27 nights of camping. Cami and Scott feel that the best advertisement has been the gate and the sign, but have also mailed flyers to many organizations in all of the council member's counties. Lynn has also dispersed some of the advertising flyers.

Lynn asked when the lease with the Forest Service will expire. Dennis will get us this date. (The Special Use Permit expires 12/31/2020.)

Dennis reported that Forest Service campgrounds were used more than ever this year with the downturn in the economy. The council would like to eventually give priority to youth groups by having other groups unable to reserve until after a certain date. At this point the council supports the idea of just filling up the reservation calendar until the camp is better known and has more youth groups showing interest in the camp. Dennis reminded us of the importance of making the youth our priority. He warns that there will be disgruntled people the year we decide to reserve only to youth groups up to a certain date.

Cami needs to get the new combination to the Mick for Franklin County emergency personnel. The Forest Service will install a padlock.

Dennis reported that a hydrologist came to the camp to look at the possibility of developing the spring, as the council has desired. The hydrologist concluded that the drain field area is not large enough to provide the amount of water needed. The long-term maintenance of the 100-foot clearance area is also a concern. Dennis has vetoed the idea and would like us to look at other options. The current system of relying on the Forest Service source has worked well for the 2008 season. Jay suggested that a water trailer be used if water is not available from Forest Service. Dennis is supportive of that idea. Such a tank could be made permanent and have water brought to it, or be portable and be taken to a nearby source to fill up. The water could be listed as non-potable.

Improvements for the camp were discussed with the only suggestion being made by Dennis. He suggested that a wheelchair accessible campfire is a possibility now. The camp could advertise this as one of the amenities.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Bear River RC&D will be on December 11, 2008 at noon at Blackstone Restaurant.