

**Bear River Resource Conservation and Development
Council Meeting**

**Thursday, April 23, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room, Fire Station in Preston, Idaho**

Attending:

Bill Cox	RC&D Vice Chair, Rich County
Boyd Bradford	District Conservationist, Franklin County
Cami King	Financial Assistant, RC&D
Dennis Duehren	Montpelier District Ranger, US Forest Service
Elise Boeke	RC&D Program Manager, Utah
Glenn Lackey	Recreation Technician, US Forest Service
Jay Hardy	RC&D Vice Chair, Box Elder County
Laren Nalder	District Conservationist, Oneida County
Larry Etherington	RC&D Vice Chair, Oneida County
Lloyd Rasmussen	RC&D Vice Chair, Caribou County
Lynn Lemon	RC&D Secretary/Treasurer, Cache County
Montain Kunz	RC&D Vice Chair, Bear Lake County
Scott Ferguson	Project Coordinator, RC&D
Scott Workman	RC&D Chair, Franklin County

Welcome & Introduction & Minutes

Lloyd welcomed all and expressed appreciation that all of the council were in attendance. Introductions were made, particularly for those new to the functions of our council. Elise Boeke will oversee Scott Ferguson and the other RC&D project coordinators in Utah. Glenn Lackey will be involved in administering the recreation concerns in the area of the Youth Camp. Laren Nalder is the new DC for Oneida County. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Lynn motioned that they be accepted as written, Jay seconded, and the council concurred.

Bear River Basin Corps

Scott Ferguson reminded the council that in December 2008 they approved a project application for Keith Shaw, a private citizen, to use the services of the Bear River RC&D to apply for grants that would fund a conservation corps. The first application got turned down, but the second one was awarded through the National Park Service. This means that the work that the corps does will be on some trail or park that is part of the National Park Service. The RC&D staff has yet to learn about the details, but in the mean time is seeking an accounting firm that can help to establish the required indirect cost rate. The rate will allow the recoup of the RC&D's overhead costs for administering the grant and providing the payroll for the corps.

Dennis was curious if the work will be on Forest Service lands. Scott stated that the California and Oregon Historical Trails are possible projects but do not cross forest lands. The Naomi Peak National Recreation Trail does involve the Cache Forest and Keith has

already talked to the Cache District Ranger about that possibility. Keith will attend the next council meeting when more is known about this project.

Youth Camp Improvements

Scott Ferguson reminded the council that an application for three separate improvements for the Youth Camp was recently submitted to the Southeast Idaho Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). The RAC turned the application down because they apparently thought that the camp was maintained by a private for-profit organization. Dennis made several suggestions for how to improve our chances for approval next year. Cami and Scott made note of these.

The council then discussed the possibility of doing some of the projects with the council's current funds. It was concluded that the council decommission the one-man outhouse. With Jay making the motion and Larry seconding, the council agreed to spend \$1000 to have the outhouse pumped. Another \$500 was set aside to have the vault filled and the house hauled away. Bill offered to help move the building and suggested that an attempt be made to sell it on ksl.com. Dennis suggested that we wait until July to do this work, so the ground is dry enough. He also suggested that a bid for pumping be requested from a vendor in Bennington.

Bill questioned the prudence of building a log fence as was proposed in the RAC grant application, stating that and that the heavy snows break them down and then campers sometimes use these for firewood. He has observed a fence around a camp in the Monte Cristo area which has not even lasted ten years. Dennis and Glenn concurred and suggested that we consider the use of large boulders for the fence.

Cami stated that the current policy of the council is to reimburse anyone cancelling their reservation for the camp for the full amount of their \$50 deposit. Cancellations are infrequent, but when they occur it represents a loss of income because the camp is often left vacant for those dates. The cancellation also takes time to process a check. Cami suggested that the council change the policy to a reimbursement of only \$25. Lynn motioned that the council change the policy to a \$25 reimbursement, Bill seconded, and the council gave their consent. The council also suggested that Cami not pay the sales tax on the deposit until the camper's bill is paid in full. Cami will update the policy.

Hazardous Fuels Reduction Projects

Scott Ferguson informed the council that the Idaho Department of Lands has approved two hazardous fuels reduction projects for Franklin County. The Cub River project (\$12,600) is on Forest Service boundary and was suggested by the Franklin County Fire Chief. Scott has yet to contact the property owner and Scott Workman identified who should be contacted. This project must be done this year. The Translator Mountain project (\$62,055) involves steep terrain and the property owners have not yet been identified. These funds have not yet been released and a Memo of Understanding will be forthcoming. This project will be done in 2010.

RC&D Stimulus Money Project Status

The only stimulus money project that has passed the first level of approval from all of those submitted by the council members to Scott was the methane digester for Cache County. It fit the criterion for renewable energy and is now undergoing further review. Thanks to the council for working with Scott Ferguson on submitting the ideas.

Timber Sale Status

Though the timber sale occurred last fall for the tree thinning at the Youth Camp, the work has yet to be done. Hull Tree Care is hoping to do the work early in the summer, before the campers arrive.

Financial Report

Cami presented the financial report for the last two months. The funds for the U&I CWMA were inadvertently deposited in the Zions account. Cami will get it transferred to the Lewiston account. The council was reminded that the waterjet stinger entry that appears on page 10 of the report refers to rental funds that the RC&D took in. The stinger is a piece of equipment used in planting willow trees on streambanks. Cami also reminded the council that if desired it would be acceptable to have the financial report reviewed only by the secretary/treasurer. The council voiced that they prefer having all review the report. The report was accepted by the vote of the council.

The council discussed whether an audit is required or desirable for the RC&D. Lynn motioned that Cami seek requests for proposal from various firms that can be reviewed by the council in the next meeting. Bill seconded the motion and the council agreed. Bill suggested that a compilation audit be requested.

Next Meeting

The next meeting for the council was scheduled for June 11, 2009. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.