

**Bear River Resource Conservation and Development
Annual Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 12, 2006**

Attending:

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

Welcome and Minutes

Conrad opened the meeting at noon, welcoming all in attendance. The council reviewed the minutes from the last meeting and accepted them as written.

Coordinators Report

Annual Report:

Scott presented the annual report for 2005. He stated that he believes that the year 2005 has been the best for finances and projects in the last five years. Bear River RC&D received over \$300,000 in grants and monies to do conservation work in Idaho and Utah. The council members were asked to read through this report.

Letter from Weed Association:

Attached to the report is a letter from the Weed Association to Sylvia Gillen (written in the spring of 2005) pointing out the service rendered by the RC&D to help them accomplish their mission. This, as well as the contacts made by the council members to their state senators, apparently helped the RC&D to maintain its current status.

Elimination of Federal Assistants:

Scott reported that State Conservationist, Sylvia Gillen, has eliminated the federal administrative assistants from the RC&Ds in Utah in accordance with the suggestion given from the chief of NRCS that the RC&D programs could reduce their staffs. Heather will no longer work for the Bear River RC&D, but will be absorbed into another NRCS staff. Cami will remain as the bookkeeper. Her paycheck will continue to come from Council funds, with no assistance from the federal government. Idaho will be keeping their assistants because each state gets to decide

Civil Rights:

Scott read the Civil Rights statement to the Council. He stressed that it is important that the Council treat with equality all individuals who seek the help of the RC&D.

Area Plan:

The RC&D's Area Plan is due to be updated during this year. It must include the conservation work and community development plans for the next five years. This is to be a culmination of ideas obtained from discussion with the public. Scott suggested that perhaps the best way to accomplish this would be to meet with each county's RC&D committee (a chart with each county's committee was presented) and inform them of the accomplishments of the past five years. Then Scott could propose the plans the next five years based on the funds that he feels will be available. Then input and approval could be obtained from the committees. Scott is willing to lead the discussion and is open to other suggestions for setting up these meetings.

The Council expressed concern that these public meetings not follow the format that it did five years ago, in which the committees were led to believe that money was somehow available for whatever projects they wanted to accomplish. Heather expressed, however, that there are many grants that can be applied for if the council would rather take that route.

The council agreed to the format suggested by Scott and he plans to set up a meeting with each county before September.

Idaho RC&D Association Meeting;

The Idaho RC&D Association will be holding its semi-annual meeting in Boise on April 4th and 5th. Scott encourages Council members from Idaho and Utah to attend. He feels that the Idaho RC&D program is very strong and supportive and that Council members can learn a lot from attending. The RC&D will send out the registration material when it becomes available.

Financial Report

Cami presented the Balance Sheet, the reconciliation reports and the bank statements for each account. A copy of the check register dated from the last council meeting was presented. Cami presented the current rates for Certificates of Deposit as well as the rate on the RC&D's Money Market account. Lynn suggested that the though the Money Market rate was lower, it was only .4% lower. He motioned that the CD be redeemed and put into the Money Market account. Cami said this would be easier than opening a new CD because the bank requires the signers to supply their ID and to come into the bank each time a CD is opened. The motion was seconded by Lloyd and the motion carried. The financial report was approved by unanimous vote.

Program Assistant's Report

Heather reminded the Council that there are two internet search engines available for them to try to find grants for projects. These are available temporarily on a trial basis

only. If the Council finds them useful and wants to have them available year round, a fee will be required. She urged the Council to check this out, reminding them that Scott can write the grants they find. She stated that it can be done from home and is very easy. Scott also has available a computer CD that has environmental grants. Suzanne motioned that Heather renew the trial periods for each of the search engines, that the Council members give feedback about which they like better, and that the final decision about which one to pay for be left to Scott and Cami. Lynn seconded the motion and the motion carried. Heather agreed to send by email the new user names and passwords.

Heather presented the 2006 Executive Committee Members list. It reflects the new positions of each member. Lloyd moved that the list and the positions be accepted as presented, Lynn seconded, and the motion carried.

Heather asked that each Council member check the RC&D County Committee organizational chart for accuracy and let her know of any changes. Lynn reported that his county looked accurate.

Heather presented the agenda for the National Association of RC&D Councils Leadership Forum Meeting to be held in Washington D.C. on February 6-8.

Conrad expressed appreciation for Heather's service to the RC&D and wished her well in her new position.

Water Storage Tank

Dallan informed the council that the town of Samaria is looking for funding for a 10,000 gallon water storage tank and ½ mile of pipeline for fire suppression. A lot of homes are being built in this community and the need is growing. Heather suggested that the search engines be used to look for dry hydrant grants. Scott agreed to look into this.

Mick's Questions

Cloud seeding:

Mick wanted to know the feelings of each county on cloud seeding. Suzanne said that the Box Elder County will continue to support this, with the finances coming from the canal company, the water conservancy district, and the Farm Bureau. Lynn said that Cache County continues to pay towards it. Dallan says that Oneida County is no longer paying for it.

After researching this, Suzanne feels that cloud seeding is worthwhile, because every measure of water counts. No it is not an exact science, but seems to be worth it; Lynn said that compared to building and maintaining a reservoir, cloud seeding is cheap. He stated that good water years are when cloud seeding seems to work the best, but that this replenishes ground water; Lloyd has observed good results from his area, and feels that seeding is worthwhile.

Dyer's Woad:

Mick informed the Council that a research project is to be launched to verify the effectiveness of insects as a bio-control of Dyer's Woad. He wants to know if the RC&D would like to make a donation. He said that his county has contributed \$25,000. Other weeds have been effectively controlled with insects and he feels that since this affects all the counties, the RC&D stands in a position to help.

Suzanne suggested that perhaps some of the money we are holding in our Money Market account could go for this cause. Scott's concern was that we have enough to pay the bookkeeper. Lynn suggested that the Weed Association people (Bill Gilson and Joel Merritt) meet with us at our next meeting so that the council can hear their suggestions.

Next Meeting

The Council will meet next on March 9, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. in the RC&D Board Room. Conrad thanked everyone for attending. The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.