

**Bear River Resource Conservation and Development  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Thursday, March 9, 2006 at 1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room of the USDA Service Center**

**Attending:**

Lloyd Rasmussen  
Lynn Lemon  
Suzanne Rees  
Mick Atkinson  
Conrad Michaelson  
Cami King  
Heather Sisson  
Scott Ferguson  
Joel Merritt

Jon Hardman  
Boyd Bradford  
Larry Mickelson  
Jeff Schick  
Bill Gilson  
Jim Hull  
Ernie Hendricks  
Ray Manning  
Dave Hallinan

**Excused:**

Dallan Nalder  
Kyle Tackett  
Jeff Williams

**Not in Attendance:**

Thomas Weston

**Welcome and Minutes**

Conrad opened the meeting, welcoming all and asking those in attendance to introduce themselves. The council reviewed the minutes from the last meeting, Lynn motioned that they be accepted as written, and Lloyd seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Bio-control for Dyer's Woad**

Joel Merritt and weed supervisors, Dave Hallinan (Bannock County) and Jim Hull (Franklin County), presented the current status of the Dyer's Woad weed problem in Idaho. They explained that chemical alone is not adequate because of the latent nature of the seeds. The plant has many identified natural enemies that keep it under control in its native environments, but these are not present in the western U.S. A Dyer's Woad Task Force has been established and is seeking funding for research available in Switzerland. The estimated cost is \$90,000 per year for 5 years.

Jim explained the likely steps that would have to be taken before the bio-control was actually in use. Though the process is long and the bio-agents will not likely eradicate the problem within our lifetimes, he feels strongly that it is the best solution to a growing problem. He explained that the state, counties, and conservation boards are donating money. The State of Idaho has a \$40,000 grant in process and Scott stated that he could look for other grants. Larry Mickelson added that there are innovative weed control grants available.

Lynn motioned that the council donate \$1000 for the next 5 years. Suzanne seconded, and the motion carried. The check will be sent to the Panhandle RC&D in Idaho.

**Red Eye Consulting**

Ray Manning and Ernie Hendricks informed the council of the service that Red Eye Consulting can render to land owners who need assistance with conservation work, fuels

mitigation, and wild land fire damage prevention. They advertise that they are especially well suited to assist with meeting and understanding government programs. Scott offered that if Ernie will identify specific communities or people who have projects where funding may be available that he would be willing to help seek that funding.

The council asked why the Utah Forest Service doesn't have as much money available for Utah landowners. It was suggested that the State Forester be invited to address this question at the next council meeting.

### **Technical Service Providers**

Jeff Schick thanked the council for providing him with employees Jenny Wisner and Tennalee Robinson, stating that their services are a tremendous help to the administration of the Conservation Security Program.

### **Public Meeting**

Scott stated that those who had made their presentations were welcome to stay or to leave at that point in the meeting. The council discussed that the RC&D meetings are open to the public and that our website states this.

### **Coordinator Report**

Scott proposed that those who sit on the RC&D county committees be sent a survey as a way to gather input for the 5-year plan that is due to be updated. Lynn asked what Scott felt the response rate would be. Scott stated that this has worked well in other instances. The council agreed to send out the surveys and each signed letters of explanation that will accompany the surveys.

Conrad will represent the council at the Idaho RC&D Association Meeting in Boise.

Scott informed the council that he has been asked by Jacob Kingston to advise him with a wind power generation plant grant. Scott said that since the RC&D would not be gaining anything from his efforts he would keep his involvement to a minimum. The council approved.

The town of South Willard asked Scott to help them write a grant for open space initiatives. Suzanne was familiar with their plans and it was agreed that Scott could give his assistance. He agreed to keep the council informed on this.

USU grounds and maintenance has asked that we adopt them as a project to develop xeric (water conservative) landscaping plant materials and hold their money if they get grants to do so. There is a possibility that they may eventually be able to sell their plants. This would be to their advantage because of our 5% administration fee. Lloyd motioned that we accept this proposal and Suzanne seconded the motion. Mick asked if there were any liabilities involved and Scott felt this was not a problem. The motion carried.

Scott proposed that Cami receive a raise since she has been working for the RC&D for one year. He suggested that she be paid the federal rate equivalent to GS 6 step 1 (\$15.14/hour). This is in accordance with the RC&D's employee manual. Suzanne motioned to approve the raise and Mick seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The 990 tax report has been filled out by Cami with advice from other RC&Ds who have been consistent filers in the past. She has been able to access these RC&D's 990 forms online (Guidestar.com) and feels comfortable that the 2005 form has been filled out correctly. Conrad had an accountant who is familiar with the form and non-profit organizations check the 990 and he concurs that it is correct. Cami explained that the 2004 report was filed incorrectly as a 990-T, which is a form meant only for "unrelated business income." The RC&D paid \$649 of tax without realizing the mistake. Cami has prepared an amended form to recover this money. Lynn motioned that the amended return be sent and Lloyd seconded. The motion carried. Conrad, as Chairman, will sign the forms.

### **Program Assistant Report**

Heather reported that Nels Werner, from Utah, is now the First Vice-President of the Western Association RC&D. He may be calling the council about the proposed federal budget and its affect on the RC&D.

Heather also asked that the RC&D county committee lists be updated. The council asked how it is decided who should be on these committees. Lynn referred to the by-laws to answer this and suggested that the by-laws for the RC&D should be updated to reflect the council wishes. It was agreed that the by-laws will be sent to the council members in the next two weeks.

### **Financial Report**

Cami presented the balance sheet, reconciliation reports, and bank statements for each account. A copy of the check register dated from the last council meeting was attached. The Certificate of Deposit has been closed with the proceeds being deposited into the money market account. Cami explained that funds from two sub accounts (Utah Heritage and Utah Travel Council) have been transferred to the Office Support account after finding that there are no further debts owed on these and that they have been dormant of activity for many years. Lloyd motioned that the financial report be accepted. Suzanne seconded and the motion carried.

### **Next Meeting**

The council will meet next on May 18, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. in the conference room of the USDA Service Center. Lynn offered that the meeting could be held in other counties, but all agreed to hold it in Logan. Suzanne motioned that the meeting adjourn. It was seconded and approved by unanimous vote. Conrad thanked all for being in attendance. The meeting ended at 3:00 p.m.