

**Bear River Resource Conservation and Development
Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, July 6, 2006 at 1:00 p.m.
Conference Room of the USDA Service Center**

In attendance:

Lynn Lemon
Dallan Nalder
Mick Atkinson
Conrad Michaelson
Kyle Tackett
Boyd Bradford
Larry Mickelson
Scott Ferguson
Cami King

Excused:

Suzanne Rees
Lloyd Rasmussen

Not in attendance:
Thomas Weston

Welcome and Minutes

Conrad opened the meeting. Lynn motioned that the minutes be approved as written, Dallan seconded, and the motion carried.

Lynn suggested that our council receive a yearly training about the public meeting laws set up by both Idaho and Utah. His main concern is that the public be notified about our meetings. He and Mick will find out if this is true for the RC&D, since it is a private non-profit. Lynn offered to give the training at the next meeting.

Coordinator Report

Scott reported that the grant for Hazardous Fuels Reduction for Oneida County has been secured. It has been recommended that this could be used in the western portion of the county in Juniper. Scott will look at this location with the Idaho Department of Lands representative. If the need is not great enough in Oneida County, then a release of the money to another county will be discussed in the future. Conrad said that Bear Lake West has a great need for hazardous fuels reduction. Conrad and Dallan signed the contract.

The NRCS Utah State Conservationist has grant money available for RC&Ds for various projects in amounts of \$15,000. Scott proposed that we apply for additional "Bag of Wood" money. The council requested that the application be for the full \$15,000 for all of the counties in our service area. A second grant application, suggested by Scott, is to supplement the financial secretary wages with an additional \$2,000. Conrad agreed to sign the two grants applications. Scott requested approval for the Plan of Work for fiscal year 2006. Conrad signed the plan. A new Plan of Work and a Five Year Area Plan will be available for a more extensive review at the end of September 2006.

A draft of the new By-Laws was distributed and the council agreed that they would review these in comparison with the old By-Laws and discuss this at the next meeting. It was suggested that the council be prepared to discuss the “executive” or “closed” session requirements per each state’s code.

Utah Association of RC&Ds

Conrad asked about the status of the Utah RC&D Association. Scott reported that he attended the last meeting held in Provo and that the organization is trying to get started once again. No council members were in attendance from the Bear River RC&D, but more council members were there from other councils than ever before. The council suggested that the Idaho and Utah Association presidents could be invited to our next meeting at the RC&D Camp, so that the council can learn more about how these state organizations can benefit the local RC&D.

Scott expressed that the Idaho Association seems to have a stronger organization because perhaps they have less turnover among the coordinators, as well as many volunteers who are supportive. Lynn suggested that the coordinators could join together in Utah with the president of the association to help get the organization together. Conrad said that another problem is that the president, Nels Werner, is only communicating with the council chairmen about the association’s meetings. Scott concluded the discussion by asking the council to discuss these concerns directly with Nels Werner.

Unique Opportunities for BR RC&D

Conrad suggested that because our council crosses state lines, we have the advantage of twice as much pull with Congress. He encouraged the council to think about ways that we can use this unique position to our advantage.

Scott and the District Conservationists said that the weed programs coordinated between our two states is one way we are succeeding. Larry suggested that in addition to Bag of Woad, volunteers can be assigned an area to adopt, thus providing a more permanent prevention of Dyer’s Woad.

Question

Larry spoke about the land plat book that Caribou County is now converting to digital format. They need additional money in order to make this available on a website. The conservation district is wondering if there are any grants available through the RC&D. It was suggested that this might fall under some organization concerned with emergency response. Scott agreed that he would look to see if there are any grants available on the National Association’s grant CD. Lynn reported that his county has hired a private company to digitize Cache County’s plat record.

Financial Report

Cami gave the financial report, showing all of the current account totals as well as each check written since the last council meeting. Dallan motioned that the report be accepted; Mick seconded the motion; and the motion carried.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the BR RC&D will be on Sept. 6, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. at the RC&D camp near Preston, ID.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.