

**Bear River Resource Conservation and Development  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Thursday, February 15, 2007 at 1:00 p.m.  
Conference Room of the USDA Service Center**

In attendance:

Dallin Nalder	Chair (Oneida County Commissioner)
Mick Atkinson	Vice Chair (Franklin County Commissioner)
Lloyd Rasmussen	Vice Chair (Caribou County Commissioner)
Jay Hardy	Vice Chair (Box Elder County)
Jeff Schick	District Conservationist (Box Elder County)
Jon Hardman	District Conservationist (Cache County)
Kyle Tackett	District Conservationist (Oneida County)
Boyd Bradford	District Conservationist (Franklin County)
Scott Ferguson	BR RC&D Program Coordinator
Cami King	BR RC&D Financial Assistant
Bill McMullin	North Cache Soil Conservation District

Excused:

Lynn Lemon	Vice Chair (Cache County Executive)
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Not in attendance:

Thomas Weston	Vice Chair (Rich County Commissioner)
Montane Kunz	Vice Chair (Bear Lake County Commissioner)

**Welcome and Minutes**

Dallan welcomed everyone and all were introduced. The minutes were reviewed. Lloyd motioned that the minutes be accepted as written, Mick seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Jay accepted the assignment to be third vice chair. Vaughn and Montane will serve as fourth vice chairs (one will attend every other time). Tom will serve as fifth vice chair. Jay received training material to read. Lloyd and Mick made the motions and the vote carried.

**Upcoming Meetings**

The Idaho RC&D Association will hold their semi-annual meeting on March 6 and 7 in Boise. Dallan and Mick will attend the meeting. Cami will make the reservations. The RC&D will reimburse the expenses.

The Uintah Headwaters RC&D is sponsoring a training to be held in Park City for anyone involved with non-profit organizations. The training will be free of charge to

RC&D council members. It lasts for three days and will teach the compliance regulations of which non-profits need to be aware.

### **Dallan's Proposal**

Malad City is applying for a grant of \$38,480 to assist with watering needs for their city park. Dallan was asked Scott if he could inquire of Malad City to see if additional grants might be helpful. Scott agreed to call Malad City.

### **Coordinator Report**

#### **1. Hazardous Fuels**

Last year \$39,000 was obtained for hazardous fuels removal from the Idaho Department of Lands. It was originally allocated for Oneida County, but the council requested that the funds be transferred to Franklin County. The IDL has concurred and an agreement now needs to be signed. There is a possibility that some funds will still be used in Oneida County on properties at Juniper. Mick wants to be sure that other areas besides Cub River can be treated. Scott assured him that any areas in Franklin County will be eligible, although the contract is labeled Cub River. More funds for hazardous fuels removal exists if there are legitimate needs.

Mick motioned that the project be transferred to Franklin County, Lloyd seconded, and the motion carried. Dallan signed the agreement. Those involved will be touring the area on February 20 to review possible projects.

#### **2. Bag of Woad Project**

Utah NRCS awarded the Bear River RC&D a \$9418 grant for the Bag of Woad project. The council agreed at the last meeting that each of the counties in the Bear River RC&D area should be notified of this opportunity. Scott reported that each county weed supervisor has been contacted. Six of the seven counties have shown interest. Rich County does not have a county weed supervisor, so they have not responded. The council agreed to equally divide up the funds. Jay made the motion, Lloyd seconded, and the motion carried.

Scott clarified that this is the first time our RC&D has administered a grant for Bag of Woad with funds coming from the Utah NRCS. Previous Bag of Woad funds have come from state legislatures and other funding sources. Our administration of the funds will be on a reimbursement basis, meaning that the Utah NRCS will reimburse us after the work has been completed and the funds distributed the Bag of Woad participants.

#### **3. Alternative Energy Proposal**

The Northern Utah Soil Conservation District has asked the staff of the RC&D if they will research grant funding possibilities for alternative energy/ water-powered turbines to benefit farmers in Box Elder County. Jeff Schick said that this would be high volume/low head hydropower generated from the drop in the Bear River Canal. Rocky Mountain Power has expressed interest because it would provide electricity during the

high demand months, and has no negative environmental impacts. He stated that there are a lot of alternative energy grants currently available.

Scott explained that a preliminary investigation done by an engineer to indicate the feasibility of such a program is the first step, before applying for any funding. He stated that it would be an expensive project, involving a lot of work for the staff, without good prospects for full funding for the amount that has been proposed.

Jay suggested that a feasibility study could be worthwhile for all of the counties of the RC&D area. How to pay for such a study is unclear. Possible suggestions included the INEL, USU graduate student in need of a design project, or an NRCS engineer. Scott suggested that he, Jeff Schick, and Thayne Mickleson will continue to look into a possible answer.

The Council agreed to have the BR RC&D investigate the feasibility and the funding possibilities for the Northern Utah SCD proposal. Lloyd made the motion, Mick seconded, and the motion carried.

#### **4. Annual Report**

Scott presented the draft of the 2006 Annual Report for the BR RC&D. He pointed out that the RC&D has acted as fiscal agent for over \$461,000 in various natural resource projects for the year. Photos will be added and the final copy available by month's end.

#### **Financial Report**

The financial report showing the balance of the accounts, reconciliation reports, and bank statements was presented by Cami. The profit and loss report for 2006 showed a gain of \$10,870. Included in the report was the check register since the last council meeting. The council accepted the report with Mick and Lloyd making the motions.

#### **National Association of RC&D Councils**

The council discussed the services provided by National Association of RC&D Councils. Scott stated that they lobby for the local RC&Ds in Washington and that they presently are doing a good job at that. They also send pertinent information to the RC&Ds from time to time. Cami can forward that information on to the council members. Jay motioned that we pay the dues of \$450; Mick seconded the motion and the motion carried.

A letter from the National Association of RC&D Councils states that President Bush's proposed budget for the upcoming year would trim the RC&Ds to one coordinator per state. Scott reminded the council that there are presently 7 coordinators in Utah and 8 in Idaho (one for each designated RC&D.) Concern was expressed that this would create a particular difficulty for our council since we cover two states. The Council agreed that a letter in opposition to the proposed budget be sent. Jay motioned, Lloyd seconded, and

all were in favor. Cami will compose the letter, the council will sign, and the letter be sent to both Idaho and Utah legislators.

### **Pay increase**

Scott reminded the council that the personnel manual of the RC&D suggests that the federal guidelines of pay be followed for the RC&D employee if recommended by the supervisor. This would increase Cami's pay from \$15.42 to \$15.93 as she begins her 3<sup>rd</sup> year with the RC&D. Mick motioned for the increase, Jay seconded and the motion carried.

### **Open Meeting Compliance**

Cami reported that the open meeting laws were being observed for both Idaho and Utah and that the laws for each are different. The local newspaper does not charge for printing the announcement and the agenda. Mick suggested that we look into the possibility of adding an executive session to each agenda as a backup. He stated that they could be fined for not complying.

### **BLM Land**

Mick reported that the BLM is looking to sell or exchange small parcels of land-locked public land in 9 counties in Southeast Idaho. He stated that these parcels are often more of a liability than an asset to the government and that noxious weeds are a particular problem on these parcels. The BLM is taking comments until April 4, 2007. Mick asked if the council would be willing to write a letter showing a position of support for the BLM trading or selling these small parcels of land. Mick motioned that the letter be drafted, Lloyd seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Mick will draft the letter and the staff will then help to get the signatures of the council.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting for this council will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 12, 2007 in the Conference Room of the USDA Service Center.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.