

**Idaho Resource Conservation & Development Association
Business Meeting
October 12, 2006
Twin Falls, Idaho**

Present:

Barbara Brody, West Central Highlands RC&D Council, Inc.
Paul Calverley, Southwest Idaho RC&D Council, Inc.
Charles E. Doty, Clearwater RC&D Council, Inc.
Scott Ferguson, Bear River RC&D Council, Inc.
Gary Grindstaff, Mid-Snake RC&D Council, Inc.
Clyde F. Hanson, Clearwater R&CD Council, Inc.
John Hart, High Country RC&D Council, Inc.
Dick Hodge, Clearwater RC&D Council, Inc.
Morris Huffman, West Central Highlands RC&D Council, Inc.
Polly Huggins, Wood River RC&D, NRCS
Dave Johnson, Panhandle Lakes, RC&D Council, Inc.
Russ Manwaring, West Central Highlands RC&D, NRCS
Conrad Michaelson, Bear River RC&D Council, Inc.
Bill Moore, Southwest Idaho RC&D, NRCS
Rusty Parker, Wood River RC&D, Council, Inc.
Dan Pierce, Clearwater R&CD, NRCS
Lyle Points, West Central Highlands RC&D Council, Inc.
Dave Radford, High Country RC&D Council, Inc.
Terry Ruby, Wood River RC&D Council, Inc.
Lorraine Simonson, Wood River RC&D, NRCS
Rich Sims, NRCS
Steve Smart, High Country RC&D, NRCS
Julie Thomas, Mid-Snake RC&D, NRCS
Bob Tribelhorn, NRCS
Joe Twitchell, Southwest Idaho RC&D Council, Inc.

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was called to order shortly after 8:00 a.m. by IRCDA Vice President, Rusty Parker. Ken Roberts, IRCDA President was not in attendance.

President's Report

Dan Pierce reported that Ken Roberts did attend the 30th Annual Meeting of the Clearwater RC&D Council.

Minutes

Clyde Hansen moved to accept the minutes for the April 5th, 2006 meeting. Dave Radford seconded and added that the Idaho RC&D on behalf of the council's sent \$900.00 to the Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign. Bob Rodman – Wood River RC&D, Conrad Michaelson – Bear River RC&D, John Trauber – High Country, Paul Calverley –

Southwest Idaho RC&D and Joe Twitchell – Southwest Idaho RC&D need to be added to the April minutes as present, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Radford presented the Treasurer's Report and a review and comparison of the expenses from April 5, 2006 to October 12, 2006. Dave Johnson moved to approve Treasurer's Report. Morris Huffman seconded, motion carried.

NRSC Agency Report

Rich Sims deferred to Bob Tribelhorn for the NRCS agency report.

- 1) Progress Reporting. Progress Reporting System (PRS) and Program Operations Information Tracking System (POINTS) were both used this year for RC&D reporting. There are discrepancies on the two reports. The Active Projects and Completed Projects are something that needs to be looked at in the POINTS system. Coordinators should run reports and see if the data is accurate and report back to Bob Tribelhorn and Angie Day (NRCS National RC&D Program Office, Washington, D.C.). Rich Sims contacted national office and they are aware of problems with the POINTS program and data. They are working to resolve some of the problems. Coordinators still need to check the data and ensure that projects were entered correctly.
- 2) Bob handed out a draft MOU between the RCD councils and the RCD/NRCS (written in Kansas). This idea could help provide better consistency among the councils and RCD/NRCS. Bob would like some feedback on this MOU. Councils should consider three areas that may need some time spent on the MOU. 1) Vehicle Use 2) Office Space and Equipment (fax machines, copiers, survey equipment) 3) Staff. Bob recommended that if this was something that we did in Idaho all councils would do it. The group had discussion on the topics in the draft MOU. Paul Calverley mentioned the idea is good and would help to eliminate any grey areas for better or worse with an MOU. MOU/Gratuitous Use Agreement/Cooperative Agreements--maybe all of these should be looked at. The group would like clarification how councils are affected by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). FOIA training for council members may be possible at the Spring Meeting. Bob asked that the councils talk about the MOU and bring ideas back to him.
- 3) Conservation Innovative Grants (CIG) available through EQUIP funds. Weeds and air quality were the two priorities. In Savannah, Chief Knight talked about the RC&Ds being more involved in conservation. Energy was a big topic. Information on the Conservation Innovation Grants Program in 2006 was reported by Steve Smart. Councils are encouraged to go to the National RC&D website and look under programs to get more information on these Conservation Innovation Grants. The grant guidelines must be tied directly to agriculture. Dave Radford made a motion that the RC&D coordinators evaluate the possibilities for the IRCDA to use the CIG as a vehicle to stimulate the adoption of a

innovative conservation practice, particularly looking at energy conservation as a state. Clyde Hanson seconded, motion carried.

Discussion Items

IRCDA Display. The IRCDA display still has a damaged panel and needs updating. The new public information officer for NRCS could give the IRCDA some ideas at the IRCDA spring 2007 meeting.

Julie Thomas offered to donate a Forest Service display to the IRDCA. Paul Calverley made a motion to accept Julie's offer of a display from the Forest Service. Dave Radford seconded, motion carried.

IRCDA display needs to be at the Idaho Weed Conference in Nampa. Dave Radford made a motion to send appropriate information about weed campaign from each council to Polly Huggins. Polly will compile weed information for the IRCDA and use the forest service display that Julie donated at the Idaho Weed Conference in January. Paul Calverley seconded, motion carried.

Since the display is currently with Paula Jones, she will set up at the IRCDA display at the IASCD meeting in November in Pocatello.

State Fire Plan Working Groups

Russ Manwaring talked about revision of the 10-year State Fire Plan ("Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan"). The original plan was signed and supported by the IRCDA in 2002. Chuck Doty made a motion for Morris Duffman to sign the revised fire plan in the absence of the president Ken Roberts. Dave Radford seconded, motion carried.

Barbara Brody, Community Development for the Extension Services talked about partnership with RC&Ds. A team of six people developed a brochure called "County at a Glance." You can find information at www.indicators.nwaf.org.

D&O Insurance

A draft guidance manual for the IRCDA will be available before the spring meeting from Bob Trieblehorn.

Other - Updating the Websites

Rusty Parker mentioned that he tried to find the fall meeting agenda on the IRCDA website and it was not available.

Council Stories

Councils made short presentations on projects and partnerships that they found of interest to share.

Clearwater RC&D offered to take on the Champion Tree project for the IRCDA.

Next Meeting Date

Next meeting will be in March 6th and 7th, 2007. Follow up with other meetings to make sure our date is clear in Boise.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:05 p.m.