

**Idaho RC&D Association Spring Meeting  
March 19-20, 2002**

**Tuesday, March 19, 2002**

Kent Rudeen, IRCDA President opened the meeting at 8:30 am and welcomed the group.

Those in attendance: (March 19 and/or 20, 2002)

Kent Rudeen	President IRCDA, Three Rivers RC&D Council
Beverly Bauer	Southwest Idaho RC&D Council
Bonnie Beckley	Wood River RC&D/Mid-Snake RC&D Program Assistant
Bob Bolte	Wood River RC&D Council
Boyd Bowles	High Country RC&D Council
Paul Calverley	Southwest Idaho RC&D Council
Malcom Dell	Clearwater RC&D Council
Scott Ferguson	Bear River RC&D Coordinator
Clyde Hanson	Clearwater RC&D Council
Polly Huggins	Wood River RC&D Coordinator
Gerald Jeppesen	High Country RC&D Council
Roy Jesser	Mid-Snake RC&D Council
Dave Johnson	Panhandle Lakes RC&D Council
Paula Jones	Three Rivers RC&D Coordinator
Ed Mansfield	West Central Highlands RC&D Council
Russ Manwaring	West Central Highlands RC&D Coordinator
Bill Moore	Southwest Idaho RC&D Coordinator
Arin Nesbitt	West Central Highlands RC&D/Southwest Idaho RC&D Program Assistant
Gary Pfielfe	Assistant State Conservationist (Operations)/RC&D Program Manager, NRCS
Dan Pierce	Clearwater RC&D Coordinator
Ken Roberts	West Central Highlands RC&D Council
Bob Rodman	Wood River RC&D Council
Travis Rothweiler	Mid-Snake RC&D Council
Steve Smart	High Country RC&D Coordinator
Julie Thomas	Mid-Snake RC&D Coordinator
Joe Twitchell	Southwest Idaho RC&D Council
David Zwerneman	Clearwater RC&D Council
Lloyd Rasmussen	Bear River RC&D Council
Matt Beebe	Southwest Idaho RC&D
Cathy Smith	West Central Highlands RC&D Council
Bob Tribelhorn	Assistant State Conservationist (Field Operations), NRCS
Ken Webster	Office of Mike Simpson
Nancy Jemmett	Guest speaker
Roy Jemmett	Guest speaker
Glen Secrist	Guest Speaker, Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Jody Handly	Project Leader, SCA Fire Education Corps
Francine Davis	Intern, SCA Fire Education Corps
Sue Ellis	Staff Assistant, NRCS (recorder)

Topics of discussion:

**Gary Pfielfe, Assistant State Conservationist (Field Operations)/RC&D Program Manager gave the NRCS Report** (handout). Highlights from the NRCS report:

- The 2002 Farm Bill calls for permanent authorization for the RC&D Program
- Area Plan Requirements - Gary explained the particulars on developing, approving and revising Area Plans
- Success Stories – Gary distributed a copy of examples of success stories (one for each Council)
- A national team will conduct a Civil Rights Compliance Review in Idaho the week of April 8-12, 2002
- Grant Library – there is a need for updated materials for some coordinators

**Action:** Sue Ellis will send letter to coordinators requesting their needs for updated grant library material.

Gary introduced Bob Tribelhorn. Bob is the new Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations. Bob entered on duty March 11, 2002. Bob responsibilities will include supervisory management for NRCS divisions I, II, and III. Bob comes to Idaho from Alaska where he was an RC&D Coordinator.

Gary presented Russ Manwaring with an award for his extra accomplishments with the wildfire management project in conjunction with the SCA. Gary also presented Bill Moore will an award for outstanding performance for FY2001.

### **Citizen Involvement**

Dan Pierce introduced Coy and Nancy Jemmett of Grangeville, Idaho. Nancy is very involved in citizen involvement, community action, volunteer activities and citizen viewpoints. Dan stated that Nancy is an excellent resource for the RC&Ds as they go through their area planning process. Coy is involved with community wildfire assistance.

### **Nancy Jemmett's Presentation "Citizen Involvement"**

*Nancy requested input from the group on the obstacles on recruiting volunteers.*

Comments: desire, training, competition, time, asking, finding, recruitment

*What would help to make improvements?* Comments: more time, funding, awards

Nancy explained the **"3R's": Recruit, Retain, Reward**

### **Recruit**

We need to look at our reputation for volunteerism in the community

Why do you need volunteers?

What specifically do you need them for?

When do you do your recruiting?

How do you do your recruiting? (i.e., newspaper, phone calls, letters, community meetings, etc)

### **Retain**

Have a plan

Who keeps track of volunteers?

Match volunteers to tasks

Keep in touch with volunteers

Ensure meaningful assignments

Provide training & support

Give volunteers enough time to absorb your "culture" (i.e. language)

Release of volunteers comes naturally in certain situations. (i.e., the task is complete and sometimes it just is working out). Release volunteers with respect and honesty and in private. This will provide closure for all involved.

### **Reward**

Recognition is a good thing – for both large and small efforts

Do this by personal phone calls, by letters, food, etc.

Reward as soon as possible - don't wait!

Recognition is appropriate in both private and public settings

### **Comments from the group**

Polly Huggins stated the Wood River RC&D Council maintains a database of volunteers and provides training to volunteers on occasion.

Nancy stated that she has a directory of Leadership Idaho Agriculture. This is a leadership development program and is a great training opportunity.

Paula Jones stated that it is important to talk to sponsors and clients to recruit and encourage volunteers. Coy Jemmett stated that every community and neighborhood has an existing organization that is interested in caring and helping and within these existing informal groups there are others who can help. It is important to know who is caring about what issues.

**Coy Jemmett Presentation “Community Wildfire Assistance, An Example”**

This Wildland/Interface Fire project is in the Clearwater RC&D Area. Interface can be described as a complex mix of forests, rangelands, farmlands, infrastructures, and people where nature and homeowner meet, and where wildfire is part of the environment. This project is providing assistance to five counties to protect against wildfire in the communities in North central Idaho. Communities and citizens need to understand their fire situation and make choices for improvement. The focus is on local interest (not from a national level). A very important part of this project is “citizen awareness and understanding”. The desired outcomes of the project include: increased awareness, a document (plan), which inventories the hazards, capabilities, and opportunities for making improvements. The best measure of success of this project is what citizens, fire services, and community officials do as a result of this information.

**IRCDA Mission and Vision Statements**

Gerald Jeppsen led this discussion.

Mission Statement (thoughts from the group in the development of the mission statement).

The IRCDA promotes and delivers the RC&D programs through local councils by helping increase RC&D visibility, collaboration with legislators, conservation partners and outside groups and serve as an information clearing house for Idaho RC&D Councils.

<p><b><u>IRCDA Mission Statement</u></b> Promote and deliver and assist local RC&amp;D efforts and programs</p>
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Vision Statement: What do we want to look like in five years and what do we want to be recognized as in five years?

Following are thoughts from the group in the development of the vision statement.

Examples:

- Get things done on the land and improve life in rural Idaho
- Make sure legislators have a good understanding of RC&D program
- Increase visibility at all levels of government
- Increase visibility to environmental groups
- Be recognized leaders in the state of Idaho
- Lobby for support from federal, state, local elected officials

<p><b><u>IRCDA Vision Statement</u></b> To be recognized as a leader in community development and natural resource conservation.</p>
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**Action:** Gerald stated the IRCDA officers would put together a 5-year work plan based on the mission and vision statements and the plan will include the goals and objectives the Association members developed in the November meeting.

## **Afternoon session**

### **Idaho Invasive Species Council**

Glen Secrist, Idaho Department of Agriculture gave a presentation on the **Idaho Invasive Species Council** (handout). Governor Dirk Kempthorne signed Executive Order No. 2001-11 that set the stage for creation of the Idaho Invasive Species Council. This Council will provide policy and budget recommendations to the Governor, as well as planning for combating harmful invasive species infestations throughout the State and for preventing the introduction of others that maybe potentially harmful. We need to cast the net broader to expand on more than just weeds. The Governor has given this effort his full support.

Participants of the Council include representative from the executive office of the Governor, representatives from state and federal entities, representatives from Idaho Senators and Congressmen, local government organizations and Idaho Tribes.

Glen gave the group an update on the ISDA Noxious Weed Program and the success of the Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs). Information about the Idaho Noxious Weed Program, CWMA's and CWMA reports can be found on the ISDA website at [www.agri.state.id.us](http://www.agri.state.id.us)

Glen stated the Council members should keep an eye on House Bill HR1462, which was introduced on 2001. This Bill along with two others (S198 and HR3260) could provide a stable mechanism to fund invasive weed control efforts by CWMA's in the states. Glen also encourages Council members to speak at hearings whenever possible in support of these Bills.

In the near future, a statewide task group is likely to be formed to deal with the Eurasian watermilfoil. This group may also develop an aquatic Nuisance Species Plan (there are federal dollars for this effort). This group will assess risks for other non-point pests that are either already here or at our doors.

Glen stated they anyone interested in being involved in this effort could contact him for more information. Education on prevention on the Eurasian watermilfoil could be a project for RC&D's. Especially working at the local level and along with the CWMA's.

### **RC&D Council Projects**

#### **Julie Thomas - Mid-Snake RC&D**

Minidoka Land and Water Project is being sponsored by the Minidoka Soil and Water Conservation District, in cooperation with A&B irrigation district. Injection wells are being capped as a result of the increasing levels of nitrate levels from 1980-1999. The Bureau of Reclamation will cap the wells. The drainage area is on A&B property. Producers will be able to use cost-share to install sprinkler systems. A special appropriation was funded for \$500,000 through NRCS for cost-share measures. NRCS provides assistance on the private lands.

#### **Kent Rudeen, Three Rivers RC&D Council**

Kent indicated that he really did not have a success story but a story that every Council will probably want to know. Paula was working with the Pocatello Zoo on a grant proposal to the Dumke Foundation. They had submitted it on time with all the information and documents requested in the grant application. A few days after submittal an email was sent from the Dumke Foundation saying that Three Rivers RC&D was not listed in the IRS directory of 501(c)(3) organizations and the proposal was thrown out. Paula quickly got on the IRS website and sure enough Three Rivers RC&D is not listed. She then called up IRS to find out if there was a mistake. Sure enough there was. IRS promptly sent us a letter of apology and a letter stating that we are indeed a 501 (c)(3) organization. Luckily the Dumke reinstated the grant proposal. So, it probably would not be bad advice to check the IRS website to see if your Council is listed. Paula will email all of the coordinators the website.

Paula also reported on a statewide project funded by an USDA -SARE grant for a series of five soil health workshops across Idaho. The workshops will begin this fall. Neil Peterson, NRCS Assistant State Soil Scientist is assisting with this project as is Bill Moore and Harley Noe.

#### **Joe Twitchell – Southwest Idaho RC&D Council**

The Southwest Idaho RC&D Council helped obtain funding through block grants and the Rural Development for use in the development of Senior Centers at Pine, Marsing, and Star. The funding was used for equipment for the kitchen for Senior Center in Pine. The Marsing Center will have a grand opening in mid-May.

Funding from a 319 grant was used for the construction of an 4-acre wetlands for the Homedale middle school. Activities included having the students assist with the plantings. Pat Takasugi, agricultural operator is the owner of the property.

#### **Malcom Dell - Clearwater RC&D Council**

The goal of this project was to manufacture herbal products from forest wood products and then market these products. Products also included medicinal herbs, growing organic herbs, wild grown herbs, etc. A retail store (Elderberry's) opened in September in Clarkston, Washington but closed in December. This was a cooperative effort between area wildcrafters and small-scale agricultural producers. Malcom described the downfalls of the project, but it was not be any means a failure. David Zwerneman stated that there is value added to the community as a result of this project. There was nothing in this area before this project. Now there are offshoots, the equipment will be used elsewhere and much knowledge was learned.

#### **Dave Johnson -Panhandle Lakes RC&D Council**

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho was interested in constructing a historical sign to inform the public about the Tribe. The Tribe approached Panhandle Lakes RC&D Council for assistance in this project. The RC&D worked with the Idaho Department of Transportation to install this interpretative sign near the Kootenai River Bridge in Bonners Ferry.

A newly formed Resource Advisory Committee is just getting started. Boundary County, City of Bonners Ferry, and the Kootenai Tribe are members of the Committee. Panhandle Lakes RC&D Council has been invited to attend meetings. The Committee offers a new commitment to address resource concerns in a cooperative way.

#### **Boyd Bowles - High Country RC&D Council**

High Country RC&D Council is working in the Salmon Challis area on fire education with a \$100,000 grant from the Forest Service in conjunction with the Student Conservation Association (SCA). This year they will continue in this education process in the Idaho Falls and Challis area with coordination with the BLM. Gerald Jeppesen reported that IDL and FS and BLM have funded projects without a mechanism to implement. They need someone to implement these projects. Perhaps there is a process of working with BLM with the projects in the RC&D area.

#### **Ed Mansfield - West Central Highlands RC&D Council**

Ed reported on a project with Gem County on the maintenance of a county road. This road was very narrow winding around a cliff, with no guardrails, with an irrigation ditch on north side of the road, and a problem with gophers. This road was being destroyed. The County came to Russ Manwaring for assistance. The Bureau of Reclamation provided \$14,000 in funding. In cooperation from BoR, the local irrigation district, and the county, the road is being widened. This work should be complete in a week to 10 days.

Ed also reported on a cooperative effort between the BoR, BLM, F&G, FS, ISDA, the Weed Control Board and the Council to address a noxious weed issue on an area of BoR property. This weed-infested area is surrounded by water and is condemned due to flooding. Each entity has agreed to supply equipment, money, and staff to help this issue under control.

#### **Russ Manwaring - West Central Highlands**

Russ reported on funding that is available through Bureau of Reclamation for irrigation related issues. Russ contacted several soil conservation districts to see if there were needs for such funds. The Weiser River SCD responded with a need. The Weiser River SCD with assistance from NRCS had just provided a design for a diversion project out of Mann's Creek, which is a 303D listed stream. This would include a fish ladder so that fish could migrate up the corridor. This project has resulted in bigger projects dealing with the Bull Trout and Red Banded Trout.

#### **Bob Rodman- Wood River RC&D Council**

Bob reported on the Rural Magic Valley Economic Development Association project. This project is concentrating on picking up small communities that have not previously had an Economic Development Association. A website will be developed.

#### **Lloyd Rasmussen- Bear River RC&D Council**

Lloyd reported on the cloud seeding project. This is a joint effort with Three Rivers RC&D and involves five counties in SE Idaho. This project has been ongoing for 6-8 years. Cloud seeding at particular time helps augment snowfall in these areas. Seeding usually begins in December, however this year it began in November. There are a total of 30 generators used. Funding for this project comes from the counties and totals \$18,000 per year. Each county contributes \$3,400 and this year Pacificorps (Scottish Power) contributed \$1,000. This cloud seeding project has proved to increase precipitation anywhere from 5-18% per year based upon studies in Colorado, California and the Dakotas.

Meeting adjourned for the day.

### **Wednesday, March 20, 2002**

Kent Rudeen welcomed the group and introductions were made.

#### Topics of discussion:

#### **The Student Conservation Association (SCA) – Fire Education Corps (2 handouts)**

Jody Handly, Program Director for SCA Fire Education Corps gave a presentation on SCA Fire Education Corps. Francine Davis, an intern with SCA, assisted her with the PowerPoint presentation. Information on the SCA Fire Education Corps can be found on the SCA website: [www.sca-inc.org](http://www.sca-inc.org)

In 2001, as part of the National Fire Plan, the SCA Fire Education Corps launched a pilot public-awareness project in five Idaho and two Nevada communities. Local teams working in cooperation with federal, state, local authorities, and RC&D Councils provided more than 500,000 residents with vital, wildfire safety information.

**SCA's Fire Education Corps** is helping property owners in Idaho and Nevada create defensible space around their homes and properties, and reduce their risk of being victimized by wildfires. This means pro-actively identifying and implementing defensive strategies before fire strikes.

In 2002, there will be 5 teams in Idaho in Boise, Coeur d'Alene, McCall, Pocatello and Salmon.

Jody explained one aspect they would like to accomplish in the future at all sites. This would be to have high school students follow in behind the SCA fire corps teams (i.e., participate in fuel reduction events). This could be a means of accomplishing more as the labor could be taken care of by the high school

students. This would also allow high school students to be involved in community activities, and allow the SCA Fire Education Corps to move on to other sites.

Jody reported on the cooperative agreements between SCA and all of the participating Councils. Jody would like to get these agreements signed today so that when the funding comes through (from IDL) there will be no further delays. Jody noted that there were a number of changes on the cooperative agreements today that were not in the ones sent to the Councils earlier. She discussed them all and asked that each council initial the changes on agreement, noting that they have read them.

Jody will send signed agreements to Scott Weaver, SCA, for signature and then Jody and Francine will distribute to appropriate councils.

### **IRCDA President's Report**

#### Correspondence

Poverty Forum

National Leadership Forum

#### IRCDA Logo

This will be on the agenda at the next IRCDA meeting. Bob Rodman will send ideas out to the councils.

#### IRCDA display

This was displayed at this meeting. The display includes six photos and captions. The issue of protocol for using and scheduling the display was discussed. It was also discussed that the IRCDA mission statement should be a caption as part of this display. Paula Jones will house the display at the Pocatello office. The cost of the display was \$795.00, including the case.

#### Discussion:

Who pays for the cost of mailing when sent to and from each council?

Should others be able to use it?

Should IRCDA cover mailing costs?

Whoever is borrowing it should pay for mailing costs and arrange for someone to pick it up and bring it back.

We have many partners (i.e., SCDs, counties) who may want to use the display

Use the website for scheduling and reservations

**Gerald Jeppesen made a motion that the IRCDA display be available to all RC&D Councils plus the cost of shipping, and anyone else can reserve the display for a cost of \$25.00 + shipping, based on availability. The motion was seconded. An amendment was made to the motion that the Association and the RC&D Councils have first priority for use of the display. Motion passed.**

A scheduling plan will be developed. This will be topic of discussion at the July meeting in McCall.

#### Outstanding Councilman Award

The intent of this award is to recognize an outstanding RC&D Council Chair. Last year Jack Shaffer received this award.

**Ken Roberts made a motion that in the future, as a memorial to Jack Shaffer, this award would be in Jack's memory and the plaque would read "The Jack Shaffer Memorial Outstanding Councilperson for the year of \_\_\_\_". Clyde Hanson seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

It is important to let Jack's family know that this is being done in Jack's memory. Another suggestion would be for the IRCDA to make a donation to one of Jack's projects.

**Action:** Nominations for this award will need to be submitted in time for the July meeting.

### **IRCDA Summer Meeting – McCall, Idaho**

Kent reported that the summer meeting would be held July 9-11 in McCall at the University of Idaho field camp. The meeting will run from around 5:00 PM on the 9<sup>th</sup> through noon on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Dan Pierce and Harry Lee for the arrangements on this facility.

Agenda items should be submitted for the July meeting.

Joe Twitchell suggested coordinating a demo with the Fire Education Corps at the July meeting.

Paul stated that Joe Canto, President of NARCD might be willing to come! Keith Kessler has been invited.

**Action:** Paul will prepare a letter of invitation to Joe Canto for Kent's signature.

**Action:** Kent will notify congressional staffers of the McCall meeting.

### **IRCDA Treasurer's Report (2 handouts)**

Gerald gave the treasurer's report. As of December 31, 2001, there was a balance of \$7,661.97. A financial review was conducted on March 19, 2002 by Ken Roberts, Kent Rudeen, Paul Calverley and, Gerald Jeppesen. No discrepancies or errors were found.

**Clyde Hanson made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Dave Zwerneman seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

### **Secretary's Report**

#### Review and Approval of November meeting minutes

Copies of the November 10-11, 2001 meeting minutes were distributed for review. **Gerald Jeppesen made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as written. Ken Roberts seconded the motion. Motion Passed.**

#### Trip to Washington D.C. – February 2002

Paul recently attended the NARC&DC meeting in Washington D.C. in the capacity of Vice-President for the Western RCDA. Paul described the make up of the national RCDA. There are seven regions, with two representatives from each region on the national board of directors. Keith Kessler, Western RCDA President and NACD&DC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President was also in attendance. This group has three-four meeting per year. The \$600,000 budget is mostly funded by NRCS. Pearlle Reed, NRCS Chief is very supportive of National RCDA. The National RCD Association is well respected as an organization.

For full funding of RC&Ds, there needs to be a budget of \$64 million. This would allow for \$166,00 per each RC&D, instead of \$109,000. There are 20 more applications for RC&Ds.

There has been an increase in RC&D funding of over 40% in the last four years. At this time, RC&D areas cover 80% of the U.S.

Paul visited with congressional delegations about with the RC&D program. Senator Crapo is responsible for the change in legislation, requesting permanent funding for RC&Ds. With the increase in RC&D funding, this year is the first year Idaho RC&Ds are fully funded by RC&D budget. In the past, CO-01 funds have assisted with the RC&D budget.

#### Training for RC&D Coordinators

There is training scheduled for coordinators in June 2002. There are many new coordinators that have not received training. RC&D progress reported is down, this can be explained by the change in reporting systems, lack of access to the Internet and the RC&D database not being completed. And, some of the decline in reported progress is due to the lack of RC&D Coordinator training.

Resolution Submission - form and policy

A copy of the proposed IRCDA Resolution Form was distributed to the group. This form could be used to submit IRCDA resolutions to Western RCDA and even to National RCDA (through Western).

Individual Councils can use this form to submit resolutions to IRCDA as well.

The question was asked if there is a process in place for timing of submission of resolutions (i.e., state, western, national) The intent is to start using the resolution form in July (at the McCall meeting) and take the resolutions to the Western RCDA.

A suggestion was made for IRCDA to develop a guidebook on policy procedures for using the resolution forms.

**Clyde made a motion to approve this resolution form as presented. Ken Roberts seconded the motion. Motion Passed.**

Bill Moore asked about the status of progress reporting status. Gary Pfiefler stated that the issue of RC&D progress is going back and forth as what exactly is the process for entering progress through PRMS. All RC&D Coordinators should have been given a password for PRMS entry. RC&D database reports must match with the PRMS system.

**Action:** Gary will inform Coordinators when it is time to report in PRMS.

**Nominating Committee and Vote**

Gerald Jeppesen reported that the positions of President, Vice President, and Secretary are up for election. The Vice President office needs to be filled, to replace Jack Shaffer.

The floor was opened for nominations for Vice-President

**Malcom Dell nominated *Dave Johnson*. Roy Jesser seconded the nomination.**

**Kent Rudeen nominated *Bob Rodman*. David Zwerneman seconded the nomination.**

**Paul made a motion that nominations cease. Dave Zwerneman seconded the motion. Nominations closed.**

Clyde Hanson brought up the point that a show of support is sufficient on nominations. The nominations do not require a second.

The Vice-President position is for one-year term.

There were eight (8) Councils present for voting purposes. Votes were cast

**Dave Johnson was elected Vice-President**

**Clyde made a motion that the ballots be destroyed. Dave Zwerneman seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

The President position is for two (2) -year term.

The floor was opened for nominations.

Ken Roberts nominated *Gerald Jeppesen*

Malcom Dell nominated *Kent Rudeen*

**Dave Johnson made a motion to cease nominations. Malcom Dell seconded the motion. Motion passed.** Votes were cast

**Kent Rudeen was elected President for the next two years**

**Clyde Hanson made a motion to destroy ballots. Kent Rudeen seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

The Secretary position is for a two (2)-year term.

The floor was opened for nominations.

**(Who?)** nominated Paul Calverley.

**Malcom Dell made motion to cease nominations. Roy Jesser seconded the motion. Motion passed. Clyde made a motion that Paul Calverley be elected Secretary, as there was only one nomination. Kent seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

**Paul Calverley was elected Secretary for the next two years.**

Other discussion.

**Lloyd Rasmussen made a motion for (Kent Rudeen) IRCDA to lobby with the governor to forego the 10% funds IDL is holding back from SCA. Bob Rodman seconded the motion. Motion was defeated 5 to 2 by show of hands.**

Kent Rudeen will wait until Jody Handly meets with Winston Wiggins from IDL on this issue of the 10% holdback of funds.

Steve Smart stated that RC&Ds/IRCDA should develop better ties with Idaho Legislators. A suggestion was made to coordinate an activity/tour with each RC&D and invite legislators and their staff. An event such as this would not be feasible to conduct at just one location. Clyde is concerned with the cost of such an event. Steve is thinking of something fairly simple. Ken Roberts reported that his area has such an event each year. All congressionals are invited; some show up, some do not. It was suggested to invite them all to our annual meetings.

Paul commented that the IRCDA should write a letter to Rich Sims, State Conservationist, expressing their appreciation for his support for the IRCDA and allowing Sue to assist with the IRCDA meetings.

**Action:** Kent will prepare the letter to Rich Sims.

A point was brought up that there needs to be discussion on who pays for officers to go to western or national meetings. It is possible that IRCDA will be able to pay for leadership to attend meetings that they haven't been in the past.

David Zwerneman complimented the group on their work and support on the mission and vision statements.

Meeting adjourned.