

**Idaho RC&D Association Spring Meeting  
March 27, 2001**

**Kent Rudeen, IRCDA President** opened the meeting at 1:15 pm and welcomed the group.

Introductions were made:

Kent Rudeen, President, Idaho RC&D Association, Three Rivers RC&D Council, American Falls  
Clyde Hanson, Clearwater RC&D, Grangeville  
Chuck Doty, Clearwater RC&D, Kamiah  
David Zwereman, Clearwater RC&D, Lewiston  
Buck Ward, Wood River RC&D, Gooding  
Joe Twitchell, Southwest Idaho RC&D, Mountain Home  
Roy Jesser, Mid-Snake RC&D, Twin Falls  
Arin Nesbitt, Southwest Idaho RC&D and West Central Highlands RC&D, Emmett  
Paul Calverley, Vice-President Southwest Idaho RC&D, Meridian  
Bill Moore, RC&D Coordinator, Southwest RC&D, Meridian  
Kim Golden, RC&D Coordinator, Panhandle Lakes RC&D, Coeur d'Alene  
Ken Roberts, West Central Highlands RC&D, Payette  
Steve Smart, RC&D Coordinator, High Country RC&D, Rexburg  
Rusty Parker, Wood River RC&D, Shoshone  
Polly Huggins, RC&D Coordinator, Wood River RC&D, Gooding  
Bob Bolte, Wood River RC&D, Gooding  
Dave Johnson, Panhandle Lakes RC&D, Coeur d'Alene  
Kathy Morter, Three Rivers RC&D, Pocatello  
Sue Ellis, Staff Assistant, NRCS, Boise, (recorder)

**Business Meeting**

Correspondence

Kent discussed the following correspondence.

- Funding for NARCD - funding letter - need \$60 million for NARCD, (202) 434-4780, fax to Paula
- Copy of Western Association Song

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes (3 handouts)

Minutes from the March 14-15, 2000 IRCDA meeting, the November 15, 2000 IRCDA meeting and the January 22, 2001 IRCDA meeting were distributed. It was noted that the March 2000 IRCDA meeting minutes were approved at the November 2000 meeting.

Paul Calverley made a motion to approve the November 15, 2000 IRCDA meeting minutes as written. Clyde Hanson seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

Paul Calverley read the January 22, 2001 IRCDA meeting minutes. Buck Ward made a motion to approve the January 22, 2001 IRCDA meeting minutes as written. Clyde Hanson seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

### Treasurer's Report (2 handouts)

Buck Ward received two Treasurer's Reports from Ray Delay. Buck distributed copies of the reports to the group. Buck reviewed each report: Report #1 – Checkbook balance as of January 1, 2000 and Report #2 - Checkbook balance as of January 1, 2001. Buck stated that Ray Delay submitted bills for postage for a total of \$24.98.

Joe Twitchell made a motion to reimburse Ray Delay in the amount of \$24.98 for postage expenses. Kent Rudeen seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

Buck asked for a recap of the income from the Western RC&D Conference held January 2001 in Boise. Arin Nesbitt stated that Beverly Bauer is in the final stages of completing an income summary. All the bills from the conference have been paid. Arin stated that the outcome looks good. The split of any revenue is 25% to the state RCD Association and 75% to Western RCD Association.

Clyde Hanson made a motion to approve both Treasurer's Reports. Chuck Doty seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

Buck Ward stated that the treasury records from March 2000 to March 2001 should be audited or reviewed. It was decided that Buck, Clyde, Dave, and Kent would review the financial records after today's business meeting.

### IRCDA Proposed Policies (handout)

Kent Rudeen read a list of four proposed policies:

- Approved budget
- Expense approval
- Travel
- Checking Account

Buck Ward stated (referring to #3-Travel) that the IRCDA should not include exact figures (i.e., mileage costs). Buck suggested changing proposed policy #3 to read ... “plus the current IRS allowable rates for mileage costs when using personal vehicles”.

### Review of Proposed 2001 Budget (handout)

Kent Rudeen read the proposed 2001 budget. Buck Ward asked how many of the executive committee members would be going to the Western RC&D Conference. Kent Rudeen may be the only one going. Kent stated that in the past he has gone on the expense of Three Rivers RC&D. If four officers attend the Western RC&D Conference, perhaps IRCDA could help out by providing \$50.00 to each member. Buck Ward read from the IRCDA Bylaws (Article IX-Financing); an annual budget will be developed and approved.

Kent Rudeen brought up the discussion on how the IRCDA should/could use the surplus funds in the IRCDA checking account. Suggestions:

Buck Ward - Use some of the funds to pay for the executive committee members' travel.

Kent Rudeen - Use more funds for awards

Kent Rudeen – Use funds for an IRCDA display

David Zwerneman - Give funds back to the Councils

Buck Ward - Put money back in the CD until we see what we want to use the money for

Bill Moore - Cover registration for the executive board members with IRCDA funds. Buck Ward mentioned that this is already covered in the Bylaws.

Other ideas included: Develop mini-grants to assist councils with projects and putting funds back into CD

There was discussion on the development of an IRCDA display. It was suggested that a professional develop the IRCDA logo. Bill Moore suggested preparing pictures and captions for a display, rather than purchasing an entire display board. Bill Moore does not think that IRCDA should invest in the cost of a display board, as most NRCS offices have display boards that could be used. Arin stated that shipping costs of an entire display board could be costly.

Buck Ward suggested putting \$500.00 in a miscellaneous expense account to use for display materials.

Buck Ward made a motion to approve the four proposed policies as written and discussed, with the following changes to the budget, \$500.00 for misc. expenses with the remainder of the funds to go into CD. Joe Twitchell seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

**Action:** A fifth proposed policy will be added to the list and it shall read:  
#5 - Chair shall select a financial review committee to conduct a financial review prior to each annual meeting.

#### Election of Officers

The two positions open for election are Vice-President and Treasurer. It was noted that Ray Delay is not interested in running for the Treasurer position.

Kent Rudeen opened the floor for nominations for Vice-President:

Roy Jesser nominated Jack Shaffer. Clyde Hanson seconded the nomination. **Nomination passed – Jack Shaffer, Vice President.**

Kent Rudeen opened the floor for nominations for Treasurer:

Paul Calverley nominated Gerald Jeppesen. Clyde Hanson seconded the nomination. **Nomination passed – Gerald Jeppesen, Treasurer.**

#### Future IRCDA Meetings

Kent Rudeen suggested that once the locations of future meetings are decided, the respective RC&D(s) should be responsible for coordinating the agenda, logistics, speakers, etc.

#### Fall 2001 Meeting

Paul Calverley stated that IASCD is fine with IRCDA conducting their meeting after the November meeting, which is scheduled for November 11-14, 2001. Buck Ward suggested holding the IRCDA meeting Saturday and Sunday, prior to the IASCD meeting. Polly expressed concern about these days as it involves the weekend and a Monday holiday. Joe Twitchell is opposed to a meeting after the IASCD meeting. Paul Calverley agrees with Joe, and also agrees with the idea of meeting prior to the IASCD meeting. Ken Roberts is in agreement with Joe, Paul, and Buck.

Buck Ward made a motion to hold the IRCDA Fall 2001 Meeting, Saturday and Sunday November 10-11, in Boise prior to IASCD Conference, which is scheduled for November 11-14. Clyde Hanson seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

**ACTION:** Kent Rudeen and Sue Ellis will check out the availability of meeting rooms and guest rooms at the Double Tree Riverside for November 10-11, 2001.

#### Summer IRCDA Meeting (mid-July 2001)

Buck Ward brought up the issue of a summer meeting. Polly Huggins said several federal partners have mentioned that they miss the summer meeting, which has previously been held in McCall. Paul Calverley stated he looks forward to the summer McCall meeting. Buck also agreed that the summer meeting (in McCall) is worthwhile.

**ACTION:** Kent Rudeen will check the availability of the University of Idaho facility or other facilities in McCall.

**ACTION:** Bill Moore will investigate the facility in Atlanta, Idaho as an alternate location for a summer meeting.

It was discussed that August might be a better time than July. It was also discussed that the third week in July would be a good time. Paul Calverley suggested first doing some research and then sending out a questionnaire soliciting interest, ideas and support for a summer meeting.

#### IRCDA Bylaws (handout)

Paul Calverley stated that the IRCDA Bylaws were amended in 1995. The Bylaws look fine and do help the group keep on track. The Bylaws should be kept for reference.

#### Awards

Kent Rudeen displayed two awards: Harry Lee and Ray Delay will each be presented with a wooden plaque in the shape of Idaho with the inscription "In appreciation for your many years of Service and Dedication, March 2001". Kent will make sure these awards are sent to Harry and Ray.

#### Proposed Awards

Kent Rudeen described several awards:

- Outstanding Innovative Project Award  
(This Project Award is forwarded on for Regional award consideration.)
- Outstanding Council Award
- Outstanding Sponsor Award

Kent mentioned the option of an Outstanding RC&D Coordinator Award. It is the consensus of the group not to have this type of award.

Buck Ward made a motion to support three awards (Outstanding Innovative Project Award, Outstanding Council Award, and Outstanding Sponsor Award). Clyde Hanson seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

**ACTION:** Kent Rudeen will send out a notice for award nominations prior to the fall meeting so awards can be presented at the fall meeting and then forwarded on for Regional award consideration.

#### Legislative Forum

Paul Calverley gave an overview of the Legislative Forum he attended in January 2001 in Washington D.C. Paul is part of a taskforce through NRCDA to provide input on the new Farm Bill 2002. A new Farm Bill is written every five years.

Paul reviewed the recommendations made to be included as part of the new Farm Bill (handout). Language is being proposed to: include permanent authorization for the RC&D, update our purpose statement and write the role of the RC&D councils into the law, define RC&D councils and affiliation of Councils, and encourage USDA agencies to provide technical assistance.

Paul also discussed FY 2002 appropriations. The goal is to fund RC&D at \$60 million in FY 2002. This request is an increase of \$18 million for RC&Ds. NRCDA is requesting the following report language be added to the FY 2002 Agriculture Appropriations Bill:

Resource Conservation and Development Councils through the RC&D program play an important role in rural development and natural resource conservation. USDA has indicated that on national average it takes \$161,000 to fully support a RC&D Council. There are currently 348 existing Councils and 27 pending applications. The Committee provides \$60 Million to fully support all existing Councils and the current applicant areas.

Paul Calverley has a listing of Councils (nationwide) and when the Councils were authorized. See Paul if anyone would like a copy.

Paul Calverley gave a report on the Leadership Forum he attended in Washington D.C. Paul was the only individual there from Idaho (150-200 people attended). Paul was there in the capacity of an officer for Western RCDA. Pearlie Reed, NRCS Chief was a speaker at the forum. Paul mentioned that Pearlie is a supporter of RC&D. Joe Cantu was elected as new NRCDA president. Joe succeeds Reggie Skain, and will serve a three-year term. Joe also serves as President of the Texas State Association of RC&D Councils and the President of the Southwest Region of RC&D Councils.

The purpose of this forum was to prepare folks to visit with congressionals and their staffs. Paul met with staff from the offices of Congressman Otter, Congressman Simpson, Senator Craig and Senator Crapo. Paul discussed the RC&D program, FY 2002 appropriations, and the new Farm Bill. Paul stated that it does help to send letters of support to our Congressional delegation.

An updated [Directory of Idaho RC&D Councils](#) was available for attendees.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

**Idaho RC&D Association Spring Meeting**  
**March 28, 2001**

***Issues Facing Rural Idaho***

Bob Ford, Idaho Department of Commerce, discussed the Governor's Rural Development Plan. An overview of the Governor's Task Force on Rural Development was available as a handout.

Dick Gardner, Idaho Rural Partnership, discussed the Governor's Rural Development Plan and opportunities for RC&D Involvement.

Dick announced the Spring Community Forums, which are scheduled throughout Idaho, April 9 through April 24. These seminars will focus on community and economic development opportunities created by the 2001 Legislature and growth management and economic development.

*NOTES:*

Roles/Opportunities for RC&D involvement in the Governor's Rural Development Plan

- ❖ RC&Ds are out in the communities, they can help on planning issues and development of action plans
- ❖ Identify top priority projects
- ❖ Identify more business expansion projects
- ❖ Assist with action planning for community projects
- ❖ Look for business retention and expansion opportunities
- ❖ Identify what is keeping businesses from growing
- ❖ Seek good business opportunities and support these through technical assistance or grants

RC&D Councils need to relay a clear message to county commissioners and legislators. Success stories are great sources of information to tell the RC&D program story.

The Leadership Idaho Agriculture program is a good model on how to get people exposed to Idaho's agriculture issues. This format could be used to familiarize people with rural and economic development and the RC&D program.

National Fire Plan Update (3 handouts)

Jim Shell, U.S. Forest Service, Ogden discussed the National Fire Plan. The funding that was made available is good for a three-year period.

Handouts:

- ❖ The National Fire Plan Overview
- ❖ State & Private Forestry National Fire Plan Programs for Idaho
- ❖ National Interagency Fire Center (National Fire Plan "Contracting and Assistance" Web Page)

Jim stated that there is a problem of getting support from the local entities for implementing projects. There are also problems getting NEPA approval on projects.

Dick Gardner stated that community-level planning (that capture and justifying actions) could help USFS with the NEPA approval process. This is where RC&D Councils could help.

Mike Dannenberg, Idaho Department of Lands, Boise described the funding and grants that are available this fiscal year for community assistance for burned areas. Funding is available for fire prevention education. There is volunteer assistance funding available for rural fire departments.

*NOTES:* Funding Opportunities (flip chart)

- ❖ Five RC&Ds received a total of \$325,000 (\$65,000 each) for fire-wise prevention planning
- ❖ Local fire protection planning as part of city or county strategic plans can help national forests identify fuel treatment plans
- ❖ Training package is now being developed for SCA students

A comment was made that rural fire departments have the wrong perception that each fire department will be receiving funds automatically.

It was suggested that the State Forester (IDL) write a letter relaying status of money available.

A source for FEMA funding information can be found at [www.usfa.fema.gov/grants](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/grants).

**ACTION:** RC&D Councils should submit ideas and dollar estimates to Mike Dannenberg on Wildland/Urban Interface Grants for next year 2002

Mike stated that Idaho Fire Assistance Program Applications are due by May 1, 2001.

Dale Anderson, Bureau of Land Management, Boise further discussed the National Fire Plan and the rural fire assistance program.

(2 handouts):

- ❖ The National Fire Plan (Department of Interior)-Rural Fire Assistance
- ❖ 2001 Rural Fire District Program Initiative

The question was asked if there is one organizing body to prioritize issues and funding? This would help alleviate confusion on funding available, etc.

### Congressional Comments

Mike Mathews, Senator Craig's Office and Don Dixon, Senator Crapo's office addressed the group.

### **Funders Forum**

**Dan Fraser, USDA Rural Development**, Boise presented information on financial programs/assistance available through USDA Rural Development. Copy of power point presentation is included as part of this report.

(2 handouts)

- ❖ Water and Waste Direct Loans and Grants
- ❖ Community Facilities Direct Loans and Grants

**Brian Miller, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation**, Boise described the different sources of funding from RV annual recreation taxes (estimated \$3 million per year) and what the fees are used for. Funding can be used for grants for parks (new and renovation), restrooms, campgrounds, roadside facilities, day-use facilities, dump stations, etc.

- ❖ The waterway improvement fund (comes from gasoline tax) goes towards water-related facilities, boat ramps, parking lots, docks, etc.

- ❖ The off-highway vehicle program (funds come from gas tax) assists motorized trail activities, support off-highway use, rest rooms, etc.
- ❖ The Recreational Trail Program (federal gas tax – estimated \$600,000 per year) uses funding for non-motorized and motorized, multi-use trails.

**Craig Parry, Idaho Community Foundation**, Boise distributed a packet of information on the Idaho Community Foundation. The Idaho Community Foundation awards grants in support of organizations and programs that enrich life's quality in Idaho. Grants include, but are not limited to, arts and culture, education, libraries, environment, health, social services, and public projects. Grants are available to fund activities, services, and projects of established organizations, as well as to provide assistance for new organizations to fill unmet and/or emerging community needs.

Craig ask for help from the RC&Ds Councils to get the word out to communities on the funding that is available through ICF.

**Matt Moore, Idaho Transportation Department**, Boise presented program and funding information available to local communities through the Idaho Transportation Department. A copy of Matt's overhead presentation is included as part of this report and a brochure on "Transportation Funding – Federal Aid Funds Administered by the ITD and available to local communities".