

**MINUTES**  
**Idaho Resource Conservation & Development Association**  
**Business Meeting**  
**September 26, 2007**  
**Idaho Falls, Idaho**

**Present:**

Mick Atkinson, Bear River RC&D  
Debbie Dane, Mid-Snake RC&D  
Charles E. Doty, Clearwater RC&D  
Scott Ferguson, USDA-NRCS, Bear River RC&D  
Kim Golden, USDA-NRCS, Panhandle Lakes RC&D  
Clyde Hanson, Clearwater RC&D  
Dick Hodge, Clearwater RC&D  
Polly Huggins, USDA-NRCS, Wood River RC&D  
Dave Johnson, Panhandle Lakes RC&D  
Paula Jones, USDA-NRCS, Three Rivers RC&D  
Russ Manwaring, USDA-NRCS, West Central Highlands RC&D  
Bill Moore, USDA-NRCS, Southwest Idaho RC&D  
Dallan Nalder, Bear River RC&D  
Dave Radford, High Country RC&D  
Kent Rudeen, Three Rivers RC&D  
Dan Pierce, USDA-NRCS, Clearwater RC&D  
Steve Smart, USDA-NRCS, High Country RC&D  
Tammy Egbert, USDA-NRCS, High Country RC&D  
Julie Thomas, USDA-FS, Mid-Snake RC&D  
Bob Tribelhorn, USDA-NRCS  
Joe Twitchell, Southwest Idaho RC&D  
Lorraine Simonson, Mid-Snake RC&D  
Gary Grindstaff, Mid-Snake RC&D  
Mike Bowman, Clearwater RC&D  
Michelle Harrington, High Country RC&D  
Brett Ingles, West Central Highlands RC&D  
Ken Roberts, Clearwater RC&D  
Rusty Parker, Wood River RC&D

President Ken Roberts welcomed everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**President's Report**

Ken Roberts stated he feels good about the work being done within the association and appreciates the Coordinators that assist the RC&D offices. The president's budget for the RC&D program is also looking positive.

**Secretary's Report**

**A motion was made by Chuck Doty to accept the minutes from the March 7, 2007 meeting. Gary Grindstaff seconded. Motion passed.**

Tammy Egbert, Jody Hogan, and Mike Bowman attended the Non-profit Management Training held at Park City, Utah in May. Tammy commented that she thought it was great training with several topics covered along with how to put together a cost allocation plan. Mike stated that he learned how much RC&D Coordinators do. He recommended that all Coordinators, council members, and program assistants should attend this training if offered again in the future. It was suggested this information could be covered in more detail at the spring meeting.

The IRCDA display has been repaired and is ready to use again.

Ken Roberts stated that he has received award nominations for all categories but the youth award, which is for youth volunteers ages 14-18. Ken also mentioned that in the future he needs more detailed award write-ups, and to follow the nomination rules from the Western RC&D Association. November 15<sup>th</sup> is the last day to submit awards to the Western RC&D Association.

Joe Twitchell mentioned that he visited with Governor Otter on June 29<sup>th</sup> in regards to the letter that was sent to him requesting continuing support of the RC&D program. Joe said that he is very interested and supportive of our program.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Dave Radford presented the Treasurer's report. There was a review and discussion of expenses and projected income for the fall meeting and the need to raise registration costs depending upon location of the meeting to cover expenses. Tammy Egbert stated that it is difficult to predict exactly because of not knowing how many will register. All agreed to raise the registration if needed. The current balance in the IRCDA account is \$2,178.53. **Clyde Hansen made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Dave Johnson seconded. Motion passed.**

### **Other Reports**

Bob Tribelhorn, RC&D Program Manager gave an update report on the RC&D program as follows:

- Federal Budget - Continuing resolution likely. There may be a 5% budget increase in Idaho for next year.
- NRCS will provide a \$15,000 contribution to Wood River RC&D for the program assistant position. The NRCS-RC&D budget could not support a permanent position at this time.
- Seven out of eight Memorandum of Understanding's have been signed between Idaho RC&D Councils and the NRCS.
- RC&D database reporting-a good year in Idaho with goals being met. October 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for reporting in FY 2007.
- RC&D Program Appraisals – Each RC&D office will have an appraisal. There will be a review team consisting of the Area Conservationist, Program Manager, State Administrative officer, and possibly a person out of state. Review items will be progress of projects, 5 year plans, annual plans, annual reports, checking for recent audits, by-laws, policy administrative procedures. This will be a learning experience with suggestions to improve. Wood River RC&D had one done in August and Clearwater RC&D is planned for December 11-13<sup>th</sup>.
- RC&D Detail Concept – Several Idaho RC&D Coordinators are or will be eligible to retire in the next year or so. There will be temporary work assignments given in 2-4 locations in Idaho to those interested in learning more about the RC&D program. This will consist of an application process at a GS 9 and above grade level and will be selected by Bob Tribelhorn and Area Conservationist. This would be a 2-4 week detail. RC&D Councils would be involved with these assignments.

- Bob handed out the 2007 Foundation Directory that has been purchased for each RC&D office. Three Rivers RC&D donated their directory to Bear River RC&D since they have a Foundation Center in Pocatello.

### **Workers Compensation Insurance**

There was a presentation given on Workers Compensation Insurance by Anne York with the Idaho Industrial Commission. Ken Blanchard and Jon Howell also assisted with the presentation. There was a question and answer period from those present.

### **Other Reports (cont.)**

Western RC&D Association Conference: Ken Roberts stated that this conference will be held on January 13-16, 2008 at Las Cruces, New Mexico. He reminded councils they are requesting them to bring three auction items, two for the regular auction and one for the silent auction. Idaho will be hosting the Western RC&D Conference in 2011.

Idaho Historical Trees Project: Mike Bowman mentioned there are four species that will be merchantable in 3-4 years which are: Incense Cedar, Silver Fir, American Beech, and American Chesnut.

Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP): Debbie Dane reviewed the IRP mission and objectives. They provide leadership training for \$25 per person. This training prepares an individual to be a community leader. Community reviews are also done. Paula Jones stated that she was on the visiting team in Soda Springs and suggested if anyone is asked to be on a team to do so. It is a great experience. Julie Thomas has also been on a community team and visiting team and said it is a great opportunity to meet different people. Debbie Dane encourages all communities to go through this leadership training. Steve Smart suggested that it would be good to have the community reviews posted on the IRP website. The website for IRP is: <http://irp.idaho.gov>.

Idaho State Fire Plan Work Group: Brett Ingles reported that Steve Kimball is the new National Fire Plan Coordinator. The State Fire Plan Working group meets three times a year and the next meeting is scheduled for October 11-13<sup>th</sup> in Sandpoint. The BLM Community Assistance Program may be reduced in 2008, due to funding being moved to more densely populated areas. Their website is [www.idahofireplan.org](http://www.idahofireplan.org).

### **Old Business/New Business**

Spring 2008 Meeting: It was decided to hold this meeting on March 4-5, 2008 in Boise. Ken Roberts asked Southwest Idaho and West Central Highlands RC&D to be in charge of meeting logistics. Possible agenda items for this meeting were discussed. Julie Thomas volunteered to follow up with Debbie Dane on having some leadership board training. It was also mentioned to discuss the Circle of Diamonds program through the National Association of RC&D Councils. If you have agenda topics for the spring meeting, please send them to the IRCDA officers.

IRCDA Marketing Plan: Mike Bowman will send out an email to all councils for input on the marketing plan, which could also assist with updating the IRCDA display.

Appoint Nominating Committee: There will be an election at the March 2008 meeting for President and Secretary positions. It was agreed to have the IRCDA Vice President be responsible for heading up this committee.

Polly Huggins has a new program assistant, Rocky James. She is using a bookkeeping program that she feels is better than Quicken and QuickBooks. It was suggested that she could send some information on this program to the treasurer of each council.

### **Awards**

Joe Twitchell will have Southwest Idaho RC&D submit a Youth award to the Western RC&D Association. They had a “Fire-up” project that consisted of 24 high school kids and hiring of an intern working with homeowners on defensible space.

Outstanding Performance by Coordinator: This award was given to two Coordinators: Steve Smart, High Country RC&D presented by Dave Radford and Dan Pierce, Clearwater RC&D presented by Ken Roberts.

Outstanding RC&D Council Member: This award was given to Mike Bowman, Clearwater RC&D presented by Dan Pierce.

Outstanding Program Assistant: This award was given to Kathy Dingman, Panhandle Lakes RC&D presented by Dave Johnson.

Outstanding Performance by a Council: Was presented to the West Central Highlands RC&D, accepted by Brett Ingles, Council member.

### **Council Sharing**

Clyde Hansen, Clearwater RC&D Council and Joe Twitchell, Southwest Idaho RC&D Council gave short presentations on defensible space projects.

Clyde Hansen mentioned that he has put his name in for nomination of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for the Western RC&D Association.

### **Adjournment**

Ken Roberts adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.