

**Western RC&D Assn  
Board of Directors Conference Call Report  
12/10/2013 6 p.m. MST**

**Officers Present:**

Sue Sutherland, President  
Joyce Mick, Treasurer  
Joe Leichtnam, Second Vice President  
Pam Gouse, Secretary

**Officer Absent:**

Susie Klein, First Vice President, Excused

**State Presidents/Reps Present:**

Pam Gouse, Montana  
Joe Leichtnam, South Dakota  
Pam Herdrich, Idaho  
Curtis Schrader, New Mexico  
Jim Smith, Colorado

Dan Hruza, Nebraska

**States Not Represented:**

Arizona, Utah, North Dakota, Wyoming

**Welcome and Roll Call** -- Sue Sutherland

**Treasurer's Report** – Joyce provided a Financial Report and stated that 25 of 60 active councils have paid 2013 dues.

**Committee Reports**

**Policy Committee – Pam Herdrich** – Bylaws and policies are not in synch. A handout of proposed voting / election policies was provided. Comments should be given to Pam H. by Tuesday 12/17.

**Financial Committee -- Joyce Mick** – Committee approved Financial Policy Manual that was provided.

**Planning Conference 2014 – Sue Sutherland** – Western will meet Saturday night and Sunday before NARCDC in Mobile; tracks will be Success Stories and Board Development; Election will be for President, Secretary and Second VP; NARCDC is trying to keep costs down; Sue Sutherland will approach Alabama Planning Committee about costs. (see also President's Report below)

**Heifers for South Dakota – Joe Leichtnam** – More than \$100,000 and at least 750 head (maybe 1000+) have been donated, with a cash value of over 2.5 million dollar; there are over 10k Facebook friends; North Central RC&D is the sponsor 501©3 and is taking not admin or fees; Ty Linger's board is making the decisions as to who gets heifers, and 20 is the largest number being given to any one ranch.

**Information and Marketing – Sue Sutherland for Laura Doth** –

**Calendars:** Calendar distribution is being done in New Mexico thanks to Laura, and High Country in Idaho is taking the orders.

**Nonprofit Brochure:** May not have gotten out to everyone, committee will work on that

**Made in the West:** Sue reported that there is interest in a website to promote items that are Made in the West by local entrepreneurs. Committee is looking at a couple of proposals.

**Western RC&D Assn Website RFP:** Two proposals have been received and are being reviewed.

**President's Report** – Sue Sutherland

**Legislative Alert** -- Watch for information from Andy Gordon and please participate.

**GeoLab** – A lot of emails and information have been sent out, and the webinars begin December 11th. If an RC&D is the economic arm in an area, GeoLab could make sense. Perhaps a state association could sign up rather than individual councils, since \$5000 is prohibitive for many councils.

**National Conference** additional information - June 1 - 4 in Mobile, Alabama. It is highly recommended that those attending book their rooms as a large block was not reserved. Western may not have a raffle during the official hours of the conference. New for 2014 is Project of the Year which will be highlighted and awarded. The Awards committee will look at developing criteria for the Western Region Award.

**Round Robin – States**

**Idaho** – Pam Herdrich – Six councils are continuing, and two are considering closing. The State Association is working cooperatively with all councils.

**New México** – Curtis Schrader – The state is down to seven active councils, but all were present for the fall State Association meeting. The State Association is seeking an Executive Director and two applications are pending

**Colorado** – Jim Smith – Their council will host the International Wildland Urban Interface Code conference in February. Colorado has four million acres of dead trees. San Juan RC&D is hoping to become the overseer for Fort Lewis 2000+ acres of land. Admin fees charged by the Council in the past were so low that it is economically difficult to keep going now.

**Nebraska** – Dan Hruza – The state is being challenged by current economics. Eleven of the twelve councils are continuing, but certain areas are not being covered, and the plans to provide services to those areas are not clear.

**Montana** – Pam Gouse -- The IWUI Code Conference that the Northern Rocky Mountain RC&D hosted was successful, but Northern Rocky Mountain RC&D is shutting down. Only two other councils are going strong, and Bitter Root is still the only Montana council paying both NARCDC and Western dues.

**South Dakota** – Joe Leichtnam – South Dakota has agreed to host Western Annual Conference in 2015; the committee is looking for input on what days to plan for (2 days, 3 days, more?? Sunday thru Wednesday? Wednesday thru Saturday?) Joe will ask Jewell Bjork to use Survey Monkey to get information from the Western councils.

**Next Meeting** – Tentatively January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Pam Gouse