

Western RC&D Association
Board of Directors Conference Call Report
01/14/2014 6 p.m. MST

Officers Present:

Sue Sutherland, President
Joyce Mick, Treasurer, and for Nebraska
Joe Leichtnam, Second Vice President
Pam Gouse, Secretary, and for Montana

Officer Absent:

Susie Klein, First Vice President, Excused

Guests:

Dan Curtis, Honor Flight
Paul Van Ryzin, Resource Website

Welcome and Roll Call -- Sue Sutherland

State Presidents/Reps Present:

David Newlin, Arizona
Bruce Kroetch, South Dakota
Pam Herdrich, Idaho
Susan Davis, North Dakota
Laura Doth, New Mexico
Erica Wightman, Utah

States Not Represented:

Colorado, Wyoming

Dan Curtis -- Honor Flight. Dan is a former coordinator who is now involved with Honor Flights for World War II Veterans. There are now more than 125 clubs nationwide. Honor Flights started at his RC&D, then became statewide, then nationwide. This Dan encouraged interested people to go online and research Honor Flight. It could be a good project for local RC&Ds, leading to bringing in new volunteers and potential partners. There are three (and possibly four) states in the Western RC&D region that need hubs: North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and possibly Nebraska.

Paul Van Ryzin – Resource Webpage on the Western Website. Paul is a former coordinator with Painted Sky and others. He worked on the uprcd.org website while in Upper Peninsula RC&D. He has also worked on the grants and administration side of projects. He reported that RC&Ds used to have a coordinator connection to each other and to agencies for problem solving. He is creating a website for people to look for expertise online as a technical market place. He will share the link once it's up [I believe it is FedSpecialist]; it is similar to guru.com. Experts on Paul's website are to be current coordinators, former coordinators, current federal employees or contractors and former federal employees or others who have expertise, who will be vetted by Paul, and they can stay anonymous on the site. People looking for someone with skills will post their request, and Paul will work in the background to match requests with experts. No personally identifiable information will be posted. Paul is looking for some RC&D people, hopefully former coordinators, to go through the process in a one-hour webinar to suggest minor changes to his site. He discussed the fees that will be charged for users of the site once it is up and running.

Treasurer's Report – Joyce Mick – Joyce provided a Financial Report and stated that 25 of 60 active councils have paid 2013 dues. Total assets, including \$6,221.82 in Scholarship Fund, are \$28,521.49

Committee Reports

Financial Committee – Joyce Mick and Sue Sutherland – Committee will be meeting to discuss Budget and Travel Policies, and that Policies should be developed that apply equally to all. Sue reported that there will be a meeting of NARCDC in Los Angeles, California in February. The Finance Committee proposes capping compensation to the two Western officers who will attend at \$1500 total to be divided between the two, making it \$750 maximum apiece. A motion was made to support this recommendation, but it died for lack of a second. Sue Sutherland stated that, therefore, Susie and Sue will go to California for the February meeting and their expenses will be covered.

Scholarship Committee – Joe Leichtnam – Joe reported that the information on the website is not correct. Sue Sutherland says that we do have a volunteer webmaster and we can get it posted.

Information and Marketing – Laura Doth –

Calendars: We have sold 384 calendars which is a good first effort. 1000 were ordered. Western made \$500 on them. Some RC&Ds partnered with youth groups to sell the calendars for them. *In a roll call vote with no motion on the floor, votes to continue doing a calendar for 2015 outweighed the nays.*

Sue Sutherland – Do we want to provide the calendar service to NARCDC, for sale June 1st in Alabama. *In a roll call vote with no motion on the floor, votes to provide calendars for NARCDC June 1, with NARCDC taking the risk of selling them, yays outweighed the nays.*

Website RFP: They have had two proposals for the committee to review; the committee will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee. The goal is for a more useful website that promotes what RC&Ds can do.

Made in the West: Developing the website is considered too big a project for right now.

Nominating Committee – Bruce Kroetch – Bruce is preparing documents relating to policies that need to be in place to explain how we do what we do so that there is no confusion for those who are running for office this year.

Policy Committee – Pam Herdrich -- Pam reported that comments from Gerald Schultz and her responses to him and adjustments that she had made had been sent out by Sue Sutherland. It was decided to discuss these in another meeting next week.

Awards – Sue Sutherland for Bobbie Meints -- Sue reported that Awards Committee will be meeting this week. There is a new category of Project of the Year which will be submitted to National.

Planning 2014 Western Conference -- Sue Sutherland reported that there has been a snag; the motel rooms are too expensive in Mobile, Alabama. Andy Gordon is working on that. Bitter Root RC&D will be accepting the registrations. Officers to be voted in this year include President, Secretary, and Second VP, and we want a strong ballot.

Western Conference 2015 – Sue Sutherland -- South Dakota has agreed to host the conference for 2015. Jewell will get a Survey Monkey out regarding dates and times and location.

Heifers for South Dakota – Joe Leichtnam – Joe requested that if there are excess calendars could we give one calendar to everyone who donates heifers or money to Heifers for South Dakota. Joe's RC&D is not taking any administrative costs or pass-through money on the donations. Ranchers Relief is taking administrative costs. Bruce Kroetch offered to foot the bill for the calendar shipping cost in order to get the calendars to Joe's RC&D.

Remaining items on the agenda were skipped.

Next Meeting – 6:00 PM MST, January 21st.

Then February 11th 6:00 PM MST

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Pam Gouse
Secretary