

**Western RC&D Assn
Board of Directors Conference Call Report
11/05/2013 6 p.m. MST**

Officers Present:

Sue Sutherland, President
Susie Klein, First Vice President
Joe Leichtnam, Second Vice President
Pam Gouse, Secretary

Dave Newlin, Arizona
Ellen Reddick and Joe Leichtnam, South Dakota
Kimber Ricks, Pam Herdrich, Idaho
Laura Doth, New Mexico
Susie Klein, North Dakota

Officer Absent:

Joyce Mick, Treasurer, excused

States Not Represented:

Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska

State Presidents/Representatives Present:

Pam Gouse, Montana
Erica Wightman, Utah

Guests Present:

Rick DeMark, GeoLab

Welcome and Roll Call -- Sue Sutherland

GeoLab Presentation – Rick DeMark – GeoLab arose out of the frustration at lack of funding for RC&Ds. It is a virtual business incubator and its scheduled launch is April 2014. The developers are looking for start-up capital by signing up charter member individual councils who pay a fee of \$5000. It is a social, online enterprise. Developers will be meeting with Andy Gordon. Watch for scheduled webinars to come.

NARCDC Report – Sue Sutherland and Susie Klein

2014 Conference – Room rate will be \$120 a night

Congressional delegation – Letters should be written by Councils referencing appropriations only, not the Farm Bill.

Government shutdown – Were any RC&Ds able to help throughout the shutdown?

Financial position – NARCDC is struggling just as Western and the local councils are; there is about 17 months of operating funding available for NARCDC.

NRCS – Connection is strong; Andy and Olga have done a good job of maintaining the relationship. NRCS is looking for stories about RC&Ds partnering with NRCS.

NARCDC 2014 Conference – Room rate may be \$120 a night

Success stories – Requirement for a council to be a Circle of Diamonds member in order to submit a success story has been dropped.

Advocacy Committee – Committee would like to get 5 letters of support from partners for each council; should be a single page on partner's letterhead outlining how important RC&D is to them.

Andy's move to California will create new partnership opportunities.

Information and Marketing Committee – Laura Doth

Calendars will be available to be shipped from New Mexico by the end of the week. Each Council is encouraged to buy ten calendars. Councils could partner with a youth group to market them locally. High Country RC&D is handling orders; go to highcountryrcd.weebly.com.

Made in the West hasn't proceeded very far yet but they are looking at several options for a website.

WRCD webmaster RFA has gone out and they are anticipating two proposals; hope to have someone on board by beginning of year.

Site Selection Committee – Ellen Reddick

2015 Western Conference will be hosted by South Dakota; details to be worked out.

Policies and Procedures Committee – Pam Herdrich – No report

Awards Committee – Sue S. reported that NARCDC has reformatted its awards and Western should follow. Councils are encouraged to apply; details to follow.

Finance Committee – No report

Scholarship Committee – No report

Fundraising Committee – No report

Nominations Committee – No report

New Project: Heifers for South Dakota – Sue S. and Ellen Reddick

North Central South Dakota RC&D is handling donations of money and heifers; Utah is helping; there is also a Rancher Relief Fund. Information will follow from Sue.

State Updates

Utah – Erica Wightman – Other councils did not respond to her request for information, but her own council is active doing conservation banking and Honor Flights of WWII veterans.

South Dakota – Ellen reported that there is a mountain pine beetle epidemic in the Hills. The SD State RC&D association is having trouble getting a meeting together.

North Dakota – Sue S. reported that the State RC&D Association's President has stepped down and no replacement has been named yet.

Montana – Pam reported that there are few active RC&Ds but Bitter Root is busy.

Idaho – Pam Herdrich reported that only about five councils are still active and the state association is acting like a cooperative; they are meeting twice a year either in person or by telephone.

Next Meeting – December 10.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Pam Gouse