

## Western RC&D Region Teleconference: March 2008

Nels Werner  
Clyde Hanson  
Ted Teijen  
Bob Perry  
Susie Klein

6:05 pm Central time

A general discussion regarding experiences during the Washington Forum and delegation visits was held. General impressions of the visits on the hill were very positive. Support for RC&D funding was stressed as well as the need for 56 million dollars in the next federal budget. All senate and congressional members were supportive and held out two messages; The President wrote this budget for show knowing it would be “Dead on Arrival” in the House and Senate. Also, be prepared for a continuing resolution of the current budget until after the election. (that suggests funding at 51.2 million dollar level until January of 2009, with the uncertainty of the next administration to follow)

Ted Teijen commented on the Carbon Credits workshop held at the Washington Forum. There is a little uncertainty about Carbon Credits and the future of lands involved with those credits. There is a possible need for a more detailed workshop within the Western Region regarding Carbon Credits. The topic may be a little premature in this area though.

Arizona’s offering of a Council Finance Sustainability workshop was mentioned, there are two dates available in June for the workshop attendees.

Treasurer Susie Klein offered a finance report:

General Operating -	\$ 4,690.55
Secretary’s Debit Card -	1,456.75
Savings -	7,326.07
Scholarship Fund -	4,896.66
CD Values -	25,000.00 and 10,000.00

A \$250.00 scholarship payment has been made as well as \$300.00 booth awards for the past Western Conference has been covered. Approximately 23 councils have paid their 2008 dues totaling \$4,600.00.

New Mexico is ready to issue a profit payment to Western for the conference in Las Cruces. No payment has been received to date.

Treasurer’s report has been accepted for filing.

Due to unforeseen circumstances Idaho will not be able to hold the 2010 Western Conference. Idaho cited a greater than 50% turnover in coordinators due to retirements.

Idaho NRCS does not plan to begin the hiring process until after October 1, 2008. A short discussion was held regarding the funds provided to the States through the current Federal Budget for operation of RC&D through NRCS. Idaho has one of the region's higher appropriations at greater than one million dollars. Idaho has indicated a desire to follow through with their original date of 2011.

Nels Werner will discuss the potential of Utah handling the 2010 Western Conference with his other Co-Presidents. Their decision was requested for sooner rather than later. Other location considerations are requested if Utah declines.

6:45 pm Central time, meeting adjourned.

Thanks to all in attendance.

Robert Perry