

Western RC&D Directors Meeting
March 13, 2011

In attendance:

Bruce Kroetch, Western RC&D President
Jim Rodgers, Wyoming RC&D State Assoc.
Clyde Hanson, Western RC&D 1st Vice Chair
Jeanne McEvoy, Castleland RC&D
Susie Klein, Western RC&D Treasurer

Curtis Schrader, Sureste RC&D
Ken Roberts, Idaho RC&D State Assoc.
Sue Sutherland, NWR RC&D Coordinator
Joe Leichtnam, Western RC&D 2nd Vice Chair
Rollin Gardner, Western RC&D Secretary

The meeting called to order by Bruce Kroetch, President at 3:07 p.m. Bruce discussed the future of RC&D on the national stage. There was much discussion on federal funding of the coordinators and how we can survive as councils.

Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee: Bruce, chairman of the committee reported there are two positions open, 1st V.P. and Treasurer. Susie Klein and Clyde Hanson have submitted letters for the position of 1st V.P. Bruce stated that Clyde may submit for Treasurer.

Site Selection Committee: Clyde, chairman of the committee stated that Utah is in line to host the 2012 meeting. Utah is asking for a by-laws waiver to hold the meeting the 25th-28th of March. Jeanne McEvoy of Castleland RC&D will present their request at the business meeting. Arizona is in line for 2013 but they do not have a very active state association. Bruce will contact members in Arizona to see if there is any possibility of holding a conference there. Western would consider organizing it if there is help from members in Arizona. Hotel pricing in Arizona would be cheaper in March than January. We need to work with other regions on meeting dates so that National Board Members can attend all meetings.

Awards Committee: Joe, chairman of the committee said all awards are ready to present. He asked for more council participation in the future. The nominations are thin.

Treasurer Report:

We were \$1,700.00 over budget because of increased transportation costs. Budget is set for next year. Susie reported that thirteen and a half councils have not paid Western dues. That is up from last years nine. Ken Roberts discussed ways to persuade non-paying councils to pay. Ken asked why all western board members go to Washington? Bruce replied that it helps in contacting all of the state's legislators. Ken asked if Western could help sponsor local council members to go to Washington? It was agreed that the board would look into that. A letter to encourage local councils to participate in western and leadership training to Washington, this letter will go out with the dues notice.

Information Committee: Joe, chairman of the committee asked all of us to check the web site to see if our info is correct. He noticed some is out of date. Joe would like to see more attendance at committee meetings.

Bruce talked about the Washington trip. They had someone from OMB come and talk to them. OMB doesn't know what we are doing. We are not getting our success stories out. OMB believes we have done a great job and we are no longer needed. They need to be educated that the needs are still out there. Bruce discussed what will happen to councils if the feds drop their support. Some councils will be able to survive while others will wilt away. It was asked why NRCS takes such a high management fee off the top of our budget. If congress would do a straight 5-10% budget cut we could survive and excel.

Time was turned over to Jeanne McEvoy of Castleland RC&D to talk about next year's meeting. They want it in March and don't want to do it if not in March. Jeanne asked about funding for planning. Bruce said that there is \$5,000 available to plan a conference and it is a loan. The council who puts on the conference and western split the profit. The books from the Idaho meeting will open for Utah to look at and gauge how to plan. Some comments were made that the March meeting is hard for some of the cattlemen to get to. Susie Klein stated that March is difficult to manage as the treasurer.

Discussion on Success Stories: Sue Sutherland talked about keeping the success stories out there. Bruce thought the Marketing Committee would be the best match for this. In the past the conference planners were the ones to plan the success stories presentation. Joe asked if Sue could be on the committee.

Joe asked if he could get a new computer. It was moved by Ken Roberts that we buy a new computer; it was seconded by Clyde Hanson. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:13 pm.