

**Western RC&D Association  
Annual Business Meeting  
Draft Minutes**

March 20, 2013, 8:00 a.m. MDT, Gering Civic Center, Gering, Nebraska

**Voting Members Present** and **Constituting a Quorum** of the 33 dues-paying Councils in the Western Region:

Susie Klein	Northern Plains RC&D, ND
Joe Leichtnam	North Central SD RC&D, SD
Bruce Kroetch	Badland RC&D, SD
Curtis Schrader	Sureste RC&D, NM; NM State Ass'n President
Virginia Sizer	Sandhills RC&D, NE
Roger Bower	Big horn Basin RC&D, WY
Lawrence Gibbs	Panhandle RC&D, NE
Becki Koon	Bitter Root RC&D, MT
Malcolm Dell	Clearwater RC&D, ID
Dennis Wacker	Northeast Nebraska RC&D, NE
MerryJo Fahl	Jornada RC&D, NM
Richard Leitschuck	Nebraska Loess hills RC&D, NE
Jerry Burchett	South Central Mountain, NM
Laura Doth (Alternate)	South Central Mountain, NM
Bob Bruce	El Llano Estacado RC&D, NM
Richard W. Johnson	Adelante RC&D, NM
R. Dale Melia	Loup Basin RC&D, NE
Brian Farnsworth	High Country RC&D, ID
Leslie Jayo	Southwest Idaho RC&D, ID

**Officers Present:**

Sue Sutherland, President	Bitter Root RC&D, MT
Susie Klein, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Northern Plains RC&D, ND
Joe Leichtnam, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	North Central SD RC&D, SD
Pam Gouse, Secretary	Bitter Root RC&D, MT; MT State Ass'n President
Clyde Hanson, Treasurer	Clearwater RC&D, ID

**Guests Present:**

Dave Radford	High Country RC&D, ID
Jerry Fields	Northeast Nebraska RC&D, NE
Susan Fields	Northeast Nebraska RC&D, NE
Jan Jorgensen	Northeast Nebraska RC&D, NE
Ron Moore	Panhandle RC&D, NE
Twila Phillips	Sandhills RC&D, NE
Mary Esther Grider	South Central RC&D, NM
Drew Blankenbaker	Clearwater RC&D, ID
Pam Herdrich	High Country RC&D, ID
Kit Sutherland	Guest
Dan Hruza	Loup Basin RC&D, NE; NE State Ass'n President
Chris Carlson	Prairieland RC&D, NE
Gerald Schultz	RC&D Activities, NM
Bill Moore	Southwest Idaho RC&D, NE
Joyce Mick	Panhandle RC&D, NE

**Host's Welcome – Ron Moore**

Ron thanked everyone for coming and recognized the efforts of everyone involved in putting on the conference.

**Auction Report – Clyde Hanson, Treasurer**

Clyde reported that the **Silent Auction** netted \$665 and the **Live Auction** netted \$2475.

### **State of the Union – Sue Sutherland, President**

Sue reported that there are 67 active Councils in the Western Region; 12 have dissolved and 6 are inactive but not officially dissolved. Sue thanked all the Committees for their work. She promoted the Western website, Facebook and the listserv. She asked for all Councils to please pay dues to Western for 2013.

**Clyde Hanson** was presented by Laura Doth with an award as the **first inductee into the Western RC&D “HALL OF FAME”**

The meeting was **Called to Order at 8:15 a.m.** by President Sue Sutherland.

**The Agenda** was presented and no changes were proposed.

**Roll was called** by Secretary Pam Gouse. Gouse determined that 18 of 33 eligible (2012 dues-paying) councils were present, constituting a **quorum**.

**Minutes** from March 2012 Annual Meeting, March 2012 Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting, and June 2012 Western Meeting at NARCDC Conference were supplied by Pam Gouse for information.

**Motion:** Made, seconded and carried to **approve minutes of March 14, 2012 Annual Meeting** as presented (Dell/Schrader)

### **Treasurer’s Report -- Clyde Hanson**

Clyde presented the **final accounting for the 2012 Western Conference** in San Isleta Pueblo, NM, stating that attendance had only been 49 and Western had assumed all losses, which amounted to over \$28,224. He **recognized Gerald Schultz** for his donations to the Scholarship fund totaling \$500.

**Motion:** Made, seconded and carried to **accept the Treasurer’s Report (??)**

### **Audit and Finance Report – Richard Johnson and Dan Hruza**

The audit of the Treasurer’s books was clean. Two reports were generated: for March – Dec 2012 and for January to date 2013. The Treasurer’s proposed **2013 Budget** was discussed with recommendations from the Committee. There was discussion of **Council dues for 2014 and Associate dues for 2013 and 2014**. Discussion centered around a possible discount for Councils paying before July 1 in 2014.

**Motion:** Made, seconded and carried to **accept Treasurer’s Report and approve report from the Audit and Finance Committee, including the Budget adjustments as follows:** “Expenses: Travel,” originally \$12,000, move \$3,000 to “Registration” changing “Travel” to \$9,000 and “Registration” to \$5,000. Take the \$530 from “Amount over” and put \$130 into “Postage” changing it from \$80 to \$210. Add \$400 to “Office Supplies,” changing it from \$100 to \$500. “Total Expenses” is now \$18,800, up from \$18,270; and the “Amount over/under” is now \$0.00 (Johnson/Bruce)

**Motion:** Made, seconded and carried to set **annual Associate dues at \$25**, beginning now, for each year 2013 and 2014; \$10 to be allocated to Scholarship fund and \$15 to General Fund. (Dell/Burchett)

**Motion:** Made, seconded and carried to **set annual Council dues at \$250** for each year of 2013 and 2014. (Burchett/Bower)

### **Bylaws Suspension – Sue Sutherland**

Because the current Bylaws require a January Annual Meeting and this meeting was set for March, and because certain committee changes need to be made in the Bylaws, and because of the current requirement for dues to be paid by January 1, setting aside the Bylaws for the duration of this meeting is necessary.

**Motion:** Made, seconded and carried to **suspend the Bylaws** for the duration of this Annual Meeting. (Bower/Kroetch)

### **NARCDC Report – Susie Klein**

Susie attended the recent **NARCDC meeting** (one of the two face-to-face NARCDC meetings held annually) in Mobile, AL, which will be the site for the **June 2014 NARCDC Annual Convention**. NARCDC Executive Director Andrew Gordon asked Susie to report that **NARCDC is working hard to keep RC&Ds in the legislative focus**; NARCDC President Olga Walter and Andy have been visiting many legislators to promote RC&D; he encouraged Councils to seek and retain **Circle of Diamonds** status; it is probable that **funding coming through NARCDC will be directed only to Councils who have paid NARCDC annual dues**. He emphasized that **Councils should report to NARCDC** not only what they are doing that is successful but also **what they have been unable to do since the loss of federal funding** so that NARCDC can let the Legislature know the effects of the budget cut that withdrew funding from RC&Ds in 2011.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Bylaws Committee – Pam Herdrich**

Pam presented the **Bylaws as proposed**. Sue Sutherland reported that the proposed changes have been posted on the Western listserv and the discussion has been ongoing for months; then the Executive Committee met on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> and finalized recommendations, including Vision and Mission Statements. All changes were discussed and refinements were made.

**Motion:** Made, seconded and carried to **accept the Bylaws** as amended during discussion. (Bower/Kroetch)

*[After the break, Jerry Burchett was excused and Laura Doth became the voting delegate for South Central Mountain RC&D]*

### **Committee Reports (Continued)**

#### **Information and Marketing – Laura Doth and Malcolm Dell**

A **tri-fold brochure** was handed out that promotes the value of a 501(c)3 and the benefits of working with an RC&D. There was discussion about Western protecting the information and making it available only to dues-paying members. The committee is developing a **calendar** for 2014 and would like to highlight each state; they are looking for scenic photos rather than project-related shots. Please send photos to [laura@scmrkd.org](mailto:laura@scmrkd.org). There was discussion about the possible sale of the calendar as a fundraising mechanism. Laura and Malcolm encouraged all Councils and individuals to sign up on the **listserv**.

#### **Awards – Joe Leichtnam for Bobbie Meints, Chair**

Bobbie will chair the committee, and Joe and Dave Radford are committee members. The following award winners who were announced at the Dinner will be forwarded on to NARCDC:

Executive Director -- Bobbie Meints, Five Rivers, NE

Council -- Northeast Nebraska RC&D, NE

Council Member -- Chris Carlson, Prairieland RC&D, NE

Program Assistant -- Joyce Mick, Panhandle RC&D, NE

Youth -- Plainview FFA, Northeast Nebraska RC&D, NE

In addition, Mary Stevens of North Dakota received the President's Award.

#### **Scholarship – Joe Leichtnam, Chair**

Committee members are Joe, Bobbie Meints and Dave Radford. Awards and Scholarship, formerly one committee, is being split into two committees. Following the Social Media training on Monday morning, Joe plans to promote the Scholarship Fund on the internet using FourSquare. Joe explained that the Scholarship Fund was set up so that the principal would never be touched and interest and donations would support an annual scholarship award of \$500, but interest earned has been dismal.

**Motion:** Made, seconded and carried to **name the Scholarship Fund the Joe Leichtnam Scholarship Fund.** (Doth/Kroetch)

**Fundraising – Susie Klein, Chair**

Susie would appreciate any members who want to serve on the committee, and she welcomes any and all suggestions for fundraising.

**Site Selection – Clyde Hanson, Chair**

Members were Clyde, Pam Herdrich and Pam Gouse. There was lengthy discussion about location for a Western Conference in 2014, and the Committee was encouraged to look to making arrangements now for the 2015 conference.

**Motion:** Made, seconded and carried to hold the **2014 western Conference** in conjunction with the NARCDC Conference in Mobile Alabama in June.  
(Bruce/Schrader)

**Nominating – Bruce Kroetch, Chair**

Officers are elected to two-year terms, and the offices up for election this year are **First Vice President** and **Treasurer**. There is one nominee for each position. Nominations were called for from the floor but none were forthcoming. Bruce also reported that, in 2014, Second Vice President will be open and that Joe Leichtnam will be termed-out. **Secretary** and **President** will be up for election and Pam Gouse and Sue Sutherland are currently in their first terms and would be eligible to run for re-election if they so choose.

**Motion:** Made, seconded and carried to close nominations and **cast a unanimous ballot for Susie Klein for First Vice President.** (Bruce/Leichtnam)

**Motion:** Made, seconded and carried to close nominations and **cast a unanimous ballot for Joyce Mick for Treasurer. Joyce is authorized to open any bank accounts that are necessary to conduct the business of the Western RC&D Association.** (Gibbs/Leichtnam)

The Secretary called for a return to consideration of the **2013 Budget** which was approved during the Audit and Finance Committee report at the beginning of the meeting, pointing out that no motion had been made to approve the expenditure of the budget.

**Motion:** Made, seconded and carried to **authorize the expenditure of the 2013 budget.** (Leichtnam/Klein)

**Other Business**

**Articles of Incorporation – Pam Herdrich, Chair**

Pam went through all recommended changes, which the Executive Committee had reviewed and approved on Sunday. Other changes were discussed and proposed. The recommended changes cannot be approved at this meeting since a minimum of 60 days' notice is required.

**Motion:** made, seconded and carried to **recess this Annual Business Meeting** to a date not later than August 1, 2013 and to take an electronic vote to amend and approve the Articles of Incorporation. (Bower/Doth)

**In accordance with the preceding motion, the meeting recessed at 11:30 a.m.**

Respectfully Submitted, Pam Gouse, Secretary