

**Western RC&D Association
Conference Call Report
April 9, 2012, 5:00 pm MDT**

Five states were represented on the call: Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and New Mexico.

In attendance:

Sue Sutherland, President	Bitter Root RC&D, MT
Pam Gouse, Secretary	President, Montana RC&D Assn (Bitter Root RC&D, MT)
Clyde Hanson, Treasurer	Clearwater RC&D, ID
Dave Radford	President, Idaho Association of RC&Ds (High Country RC&D)
Gary Bergman	President, Nebraska Association of RC&Ds
Gerald Schultz	Black Range RC&D, NM
Ellen Riddick	South Dakota

President's Welcome and Report – Sue Sutherland

- Sue thanked the New Mexico State Association and individual NM RC&Ds for hosting the Western Conference in March in Albuquerque
- Sue attended Idaho RC&D's State Conference
- Western Executive Officers would welcome an invitation to State RC&D Association meetings; if a state association wants a Western Officer to attend, please make the request timely so schedules can be worked out
- The National Conference is coming up in June in Madison, WI, and members are encouraged to attend
- Success stories are becoming more and more important in supporting the case for RC&Ds. Please have one-page stories submitted to Sue by May 14th.
- The website contact is Kathy Dingman.

Treasurer's Report – Clyde Hanson

- The Treasurer's Reports provided were discussed. Western Conference was a losing proposition for New Mexico, at a total loss of more than \$13,000.00, and Western had previously agreed to pick up the shortfall. A check to New Mexico Association for \$3,851.80, representing the final payment to NM Assn, was authorized by those on the call. Dues bills will be sent out shortly and will help replace monies in the Western RC&D accounts.

Site for Western 2013 – Gary Bergman

- Gary Bergman reported that Nebraska is willing to host Western in 2013. The goals are networking, face-to-face time, and education. Timing was discussed, and consensus was that no later than late February would best because so many people are calving in March. Western Officers and Bitter Root RC&D, which hosted Western in 2009, are willing to help with logistics and advice.

State Reports

Nebraska: Gary reported that all 93 Nebraska counties are covered in 12 councils. A few councils are losing heart. The 501(c)3 is a valuable asset, and RC&Ds already have a network in place to get work done. Many councils are trying to scale back and hang on. Nebraska does collect dues from each county, so there is some cash flow. A few councils are flourishing and have significant funds coming in. The State

Assn meeting is April 12th. There is a monthly conference call with all 12 council presidents and EDs or Coordinators regularly participating.

Idaho: Dave reported that 8 councils will have a good year. Two councils are struggling; two may be expanding. The State Association will have a fall meeting in Boise. Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation was mentioned as a possible partner project.

Montana: Pam reported that 7 of their 8 councils are continuing. Those with an economic development component or partnership are doing better than others, generally.

South Dakota: Ellen reported that they have 7 active councils and one area pending. The state meeting is the 11th of April. They are trying to get their website back up. The annual report is ready to go out and they are fairly active with projects.

New Mexico: Gerald reported that he has not been involved in meetings since fall of 2010, so he is attending the call unofficially.

In conclusion: Sue wants to encourage more participation on Conference Calls and at meetings. She likes structure and intends to keep people informed via Facebook and the listservs, and she welcomes participation on the conference calls as well. She is willing to attend state meetings as requested.

Next Conference Call: Monday May 14 at 5:00 pm MDT.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Pam Gouse, Western RC&D Association Secretary