

Minutes of the Colorado League of RC&D

Tele-conference held on February 17, 2009

7:00 p.m.

1-866-732-9373 Pass Code 669817

Attendance: President Bob Frye, Vice President Richard Harding, Treasurer Candace Payne, Mike Stiehl of Sangre de Cristo; Steve Myers Coordinator and E.D. Cindy George of Colorado Big Country; JB Martin our Program Manager; Roy Horvath of San Juan.

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 by President Bob Frye.

Minutes: Minutes of the January 26, 2009, meeting held in Spearfish South Dakota were emailed prior to the meeting. After a review of the minutes, Candace Payne made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mike Stiehl seconded the motion, which passed.

Financial Report:

Candace Payne reviewed the checks that had been issued since the December 2008 meeting. The checking account carries a balance of \$190.19, allowing for 2,461.59 in expenses paid out. Expenses included coffee for the Estes Park meeting, website development to Marcy McKeon, and reimbursed expenses for Bob Frye, Richard Harding (Western & Leadership Forum), Nellie Zion (Leadership Forum), and Mike Stiehl. The savings account carries a balance of \$19,912.75 with \$15.61 of interest earned thru December 2008. Bob directed \$72.00 from savings be moved to cover the coffee expense from the meeting at Estes Park. Reimbursement requests from Western RC&D Conference need to be submitted to Candace this week so the Colorado League may be reimbursed on the mini-grant.

Richard Harding made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as given. Mike Stiehl seconded the motion, which passed.

Old Business:

The **2009 Budget** was discussed as presented. President Frye explained he added \$500 per council to the budget figures to allow more councils to attend the National RC&D Council Conference in Albuquerque in June, 2009. Nellie Zion's expenses for Leadership Forum were covered 50% by Western RC&D and 50% by Colorado League.

Richard Harding made a motion to accept the budget for 2009 as presented. Candace Payne seconded the motion, which passed.

Roy Horvath provided an update on the **Strategic Plan**, which was developed in August 2007. Discussion was held on each council determining a focus and

project to pursue possibly in the area of Renewable & Alternative Energy. Bob shared with Roy the North Dakota RC&D's presentation that could be used for Colorado. Developing common goals and collaborative efforts would be a plus in the current budget crisis however no solution was found at this time to make such goals and efforts feasible. Most attendees on the call tonight were not informed on the Plan. **Therefore, each council was asked to choose a focus and submit that to Roy so a more defined Plan could be solidified.** Adding the Plan and focus to the website is being considered.

Richard Harding shared information from his trip to Washington DC on news in the Department of Energy. He learned that DOE was directed to reduce their 2008 Budget lines by 6% to re-direct those monies to alternative energy projects. That demonstrates the push toward energy alternatives in order to gain grant monies and keep RC&Ds alive in the struggling times.

Discussion was also held on the options available for video conferencing to be used for meetings, training, and education. Richard brought to our attention work being done with local Rural Electric Associations and USDA Rural Development office on the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) programs. Considering these types of partnerships in the future was encouraged.

Western RC&D is working on bringing back ListServ so we can keep informed on activities and areas. For more details see Candace or Richard or Western officer Joe Leichtnam.

Roy will keep us posted on the Plan. Richard will provide details to Roy who will then disseminate it to the League.

New Business:

The **annual meeting** of the Colorado League was discussed as a follow-up item from Spearfish. In order to allow more participation at Albuquerque the suggestion was made to have the meeting in Albuquerque in June to reduce travel expenses to one event and allow more people to receive training. Richard Harding made a motion the annual meeting be held in Albuquerque this June in conjunction with NARC&DC. Roy Horvath seconded and it passed.

The motion was made to take the \$1,300 budget line item and distribute it to the councils to improve attendance at Albuquerque. At our next meeting we will determine how the money will be disbursed.

Per Diem- Bob Frye and Candace Payne will provide to the councils a reimbursement request procedure that smoothes the process. We will have that by the next meeting to approve.

Richard Harding reported on the **Leadership Forum** that he and Nellie Zion attended recently. In order for us to gain 100% funding with a full staff including

coordinators we need \$90,000,000 and demonstrate our purpose. We have gained the attention of legislators on reducing child poverty and the creation of a revolving loan fund for affordable housing infrastructure.

Paul Van Ryzin sent an email to councils regarding participation in the plan. We need to commit to the effort by February 25, so Richard will email us again so we don't miss the opportunity. The Stimulus Package passed this week has measures to provide \$8,500 to first-time home buyers.

Bob Frye participated in the president's conference call and heard we need to focus on four key phrases that follow. Climate, carbon sequestration, renewable energy, and local job creation will be the phrases to gain us support and funding.

JB Martin shared from the coordinators' meeting that Quality Reviews will be conducted in May 2009. This will be a review of agreements and the plan for the RC&D. Bob injected that we need to focus on recertifying in the Circle of Diamonds criteria.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm

Next tele-conference meeting will be April 14 at 7 pm

Submitted by,
Candace Payne
Treasurer