

Colorado League of RC&D Councils
Bi-Monthly Conference Call
18 December 2007 7:30 PM

Members present

Colorado Big Country – Frank Kenny
East Central - Gary Ensign, Gail Pitzer
Northeast -
Sangre de Christo - Mike Stiehl
San Juan - Bob Frye, Roy Horvath
San Luis Valley -
Painted Sky - Linda Matthews

Others present – Doug Ramsey, San Juan RC&D Fed Coordinator.
Randy Randall – Asst. State Conservationist for Operations

Call to order – Gary Ensign called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM and introductions were made.

Review of minutes – A quorum was present, so the minutes for the CO League meeting in Colorado Springs on 11/4 and 11/15 could be reviewed and approved. Gary asked that we amend the minutes to mention that Larry and Carolyn Payne of Northeast RC&D Council were also present. Bob Frye moved that the minutes be approved, Roy Horvath seconded and the motion carried.

Financial report – The exhibit attached (to the E-mail distributing these minutes), prepared by Gail Pitzer, shows an October beginning balance in the Checking account of \$12,137. Since then there were various expenses totaling \$2,405 and \$8,000 transferred to the Savings account, resulting in an ending balance of \$1,732.

The October beginning balance in the Savings acct. was \$2,012 plus the \$8,000 transfer from Checking added up to an ending balance of \$10,012. Mike Stiehl motioned to approve the report, Roy seconded and the motion carried.

Randy Randall reminded the Board that in the CO League's "two year agreement" with the State Conservation Office, there was still \$15,970 due to the CO League.

Old business

1. By laws revision – The revised Bylaws document will be distributed to the CO League members 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

2. Strategic Plan – Gary asked Roy Horvath if he would spearhead the implementation of the plan. Roy accepted and also suggested that the League form partnerships with other organizations (that do not have a state-wide presence). Gary said that the marketing company that put on the seminar offered to help the League to get the Marketing Strategy started. Roy thought that we should have a "point person" from each RC&D Council to assist. Gary reminded us that this is a multi-year plan, not just for 2008. We had already discussed at a prior meeting that a project with state-wide appeal would help bring more cohesion between the Councils and the League. Renewable energy was an issue to consider. Mike Stiehl asked Gary "How interdependent are the Council plans with the League plans?". Gary responded that they were not too connected now, but, in the future, maybe could be more so.

3. 2008 Western RC&D Conference – Las Cruces, New Mexico (Jan 13 – 16 2008)

All Coordinators will go and Gary said that he would attend. Registration information is on the Conference website. Gary asked Randy about the RC&D display that was discussed at the CO Springs meeting on 15 November. Randy reported that the display was “in good shape”, including photos. The display is built around the energy issue. Gary mentioned that the CO League would have to make arrangements with the Western Conference to get space for the display and that he would ask Alisha Stroud to check on this.

4. Colorado Grants Guide – Gary asked Randy to give us an update. Randy explained that this software program allows the user to get info on types of funding available for certain issues. For example, elderly care in rural America. Council members should check with their Coordinators to understand the power of this tool. This is a good example of a benefit that the CO League provides to the Councils. Doug Ramsey said that this program lists all funders (foundations & etc.) that support Colorado issues.

5. Other – Gary asked Randy to also give us an update on Coordinator replacement. Randy said that Painted Sky’s new Coordinator, Paul Van Reisen, was now due to arrive on 2/18/08. East Central’s vacant position (formerly occupied by Jeff Koster) has been “put out for inquiry” and we hope to fill this soon. The Northeast Coord. Position (Rich Mullaney is retiring) will become available in June.

New Business

1. Web page update – Gary said that Jim Brewer (East Central) was directing this effort.

2. Newsletter – Alisha has been assisting Rich Mullaney with this. Bob Frye asked Doug Ramsey if he would take over this task when Rich retires in June. Doug said that he is willing.

3. Council visits – Gary said that during the CO Springs meeting, it was discussed that the President, Gary Ensign, would visit the four Councils on the Front Range, and the Vice President, Bob Frye, would visit the four Councils on the Western Slope. Gary mentioned that he had attended a Southeast Council meeting a few weeks ago (Randy was there too).

4. Annual meeting – Randy said that he was planning to ask Jim Mietz if San Luis Valley Council would consider hosting the meeting in Alamosa. This Council is currently managing a “Conservation Innovation Grant” from the CO State Conservation Office, and this activity should be of great interest to all Councils.

5. Conservation Innovation Grants – Randy advised Council members to check with their Coordinators on this. Allen Green, State Conservationist, has committed \$1 million toward this. San Luis Valley is managing one of these grants which is supporting a new approach to irrigation water management. East Central is looking into bio-fuels, crop rotation and water issues. Randy explained that the grants are capped at \$75,000 and matching funds are required. National grants for this are also available. Tim Macklin was working on developing a wind project. The State Office hopes to award the grants by early April.

6. League display board – See comments above.

7. League Revenue Sharing opportunity – Gary asked Randy to review with the League members present, how this program might operate. As he originally outlined at the CO Springs meeting in November, Randy explained that, due to vacancies in several Federal Coordinator positions in 2007 and 2008, the State Office experienced some budget savings that they would like to distribute back to the Councils. Roughly \$30,000 could go to the League who would then redistribute the funds to the eight Councils in Colorado. The mechanism for doling out the funds has not yet been worked out.

8. Other – Bob asked if there would be a fee charged to the League to set up our display at the Western Conference. This would be checked out.

Next scheduled teleconference - Gary said the date of the next teleconference was scheduled for 19 February 2008. Alica Stroud would be sending out announcements prior to the date.

Adjournment – Gary Ensign asked if there was any other business or comments and, with no response, adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.