

Colorado League of RC&D Councils
Bi-Monthly Conference Call
19 February 2008 7:30 PM

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Members present –

Colorado Big Country – Frank Kenny
East Central – Gary Ensign
Northeast - Nellie Zion
Sangre de Cristo
San Juan - Bob Frye, Roy Horvath
San Luis Valley – Harold Anderson
Painted Sky – Linda Matthews
Southeast - Jim Valliant

Others present – Rosabeth Garcia-Sais (representing Randy Randall of State Conservationist's Office; Doug Ramsey, San Juan RC&D Fed Coordinator; Alichia Stroud, Admin Asst East Central RC&D; Paul Van Rysin, Painted Sky Fed Coordinator; Rich Mullaney, Northeast Fed Coordinator.

Call to Order – Gary Ensign called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

Review of Minutes – Now that a quorum is present we are able to review and approve the minutes of the bi-monthly conference call held 18 December. Frank Kenny noted that the dates mentioned for the meeting in Colorado Springs should be 11/14 and 11/15/07. Roy Horvath moved that the minutes be approved and Bob Frye seconded. And the motion carried.

Financial Report – In the absence of Gail Pitzer, Alichia Stroud reported on the status of finances...Frank asked if Alichia could E-mail the exhibits she described so they could be included in the minutes and Gary Ensign asked that these exhibits be sent to all attendees. Frank asked about the status of the \$15,970 that Randy Randall said was still due the League (in the 12/18/07 minutes). Rosabeth Garcia-Sais said she would look into this at the State Office. Alichia said she believed that the League has until 12/31/08 to comply with a “two year agreement” in order to get the funds. Harold Anderson moved that the Financial Report be approved and Bob Frye seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Report on Strategic Plan implementation –Roy said he spoke to the marketing company that designed the Strategic plan and learned that the League still had four hours credit for more training. Roy reminded us that after these four hours, these consultants charge \$1,500 to \$2,000 per day, or \$75 to \$100 per hour for future seminars.

Having taken on the task of pulling together the Strategic Plan with the Councils, Roy said that we need to get a consensus among the Councils as to the focus of the Plan. Should it be Renewable Energy or some other issue? Then we need to agree on who takes on what tasks, etc. He offered that we need a “point person” from each of the eight Councils. Then, maybe in mid March, have a conference call with this committee. Maybe we could also develop a web page as part of the League website, to share documents and comments. The Plan should also get a slot on the Annual Meeting agenda.

New Painted Sky RC&D Council Federal Coordinator

Linda Matthews introduced Paul Van Risen, the newly arrived Fed Coordinator for Painted Sky.

Report on 2008 Western RC&D Conference

Gary reported that due to an emergency situation in the Town of Hugo, which he had to attend to, he was unable to attend the conference. Nellie Zion said that she did attend and was elected Secretary of the Western Associations of RC&D Councils (see Western Assn website on new officers). Linda Matthews also attended and said that she thought the speakers were interesting. Linda mentioned that the training session on "RC&D Financial Conduct & Sustainability was especially good. Frank asked if any of the Councils had hand-outs describing their successful projects (as was done at the conference in CO Springs last year). Nellie advised Frank to contact Frances Martinez of the New Mexico Association which has a list of projects from different states.

Report on Annual Spring Meeting

Harold mentioned that Jim Mietz sent out an E-mail asking for input from the Councils on how to conduct the meeting in Alamosa on matters like: "Do we want tours and / or training ?" Nellie offered that maybe we should get a speaker from the National Office. Also Nellie said that we need to get a tour of a good RC&D project to inspire us

Harold offered that maybe we could get a speaker from the EPA to talk about the Rio Grande watershed. Gary Ensign then assigned the task of setting up the meeting schedule , especially the dates to San Luis Valley RC&D Council.

Bob Frye said that maybe we need more than two half days for the Annual meeting in Alamosa. Bob said that considering the status of our funds, maybe the League could offer more per-diem to the attendees.

Report on Web Page Update

Alicha Stroud reported that Rich Mullaney sent her "Front Page" software, a website editing program. She is working on learning how to use it and will coordinate with Jim Brewer on updating the CO League website.

Other

Bob Frye said that he was planning to attend the San Luis Valley Council meeting next week and would visit Painted Sky and Colorado Big Country later in the year

New Business

League Revenue Sharing Opportunity

Gary related that Randy Randall said that the money for the Revenue Sharing Program (reported at the last meeting to be about \$30,000) was "still there". Rosabeth said that Randy was returning on 3/3/08. She also said that the State Office just received their 2008 allocation, so she needed to take a look at it. Harold said that if the money was available, it should be divided equally among all the eight Councils. Rosabeth suggested that this issue should be tabled until Randy's return.

Legislative Alert

Gary informed the attendees that the 2009 Federal Budget stated that no funding was to be provided to the RC&D Program. "This seems to be an annual challenge", Gary said, so we probably need to send out letters again to our Representatives in Washington. Nellie said we should send letters to the whole Colorado Delegation. Nellie also mentioned that Ken Salazar was an "ally", and that Wayne Allard was not fighting as hard.

Linda Matthews said that the CO Delegation has meeting scheduled (in Washington Mutual D.C.) for 3/5/08 to go lobby on Capital Hill.

Rich Mullaney reminded the attendees that the Councils needed to make sure that these letters could not be sent by U.S. Gov't agency Faxes or Computers.

Linda said that she would be going to Washington Mutual D.C. and would be willing to hand-carry letters. She said that the Councils could send these letters to hers husband's architectural firm's office Fax at (970) 944-3790.

Nellie Zion said she was willing to receive some letters on her E-mail: noizynell@yahoo.com. Nellie said that form letters are available on the National RC&D website. But also advises that we modify the form letters slightly so they get more attention. That is, change the language slightly so the letters appear different.

Gary offered "The more letters, the better. The squeaky wheel does get the grease"

Nellie asked if the CO League "could pay like \$300 for individuals attending the Leadership Conference in Wash D.C. to give the Western Conference a break".

Gary said that there may be some funds allocated for this to the League.

Harold Anderson made a motion to assist those attending the Leadership Conference with \$500 if the League budget allows it. Linda seconded this. And the motion carried.

Other New Business

Nellie reported that Rich Mullaney was going to attend a Carbon Sequestration workshop in Brighton.

Announcements

Gary announced that a new Federal Coordinator was in the process of being selected for the East Central RC&D Council.

Bob Frye asked if Alisha could send out the bylaw revisions next week. Gary said that we need to establish the dates of the Annual Meeting first so that we can comply with the requirement to send out the by-laws revision 60 days prior to that meeting Harold said that he would phone Jim Mietz. Rich Mullaney reported that the Northeast RC&D Council has finally qualified in the "Circle of Diamonds" category. Gary said that this means all Colorado RC&D Councils except Painted Sky are in.

Gary Ensign reported that CO League annual membership dues notices went out to all Councils and encouraged them to remit the fees soon.

Next Scheduled Teleconference: April 15, 2008

Adjournment

With no further business to attend to Gary Ensign adjourned the meeting at 8:32 PM.