

Colorado League of RC&D Councils
Meeting at CACD Conference in Colorado Springs
November 14 and 15, 2007

Page 1 of 4

15 November 2007

Members present – Gary Ensign, Gail Pitzer, Bob Frye, Frank Kenny, Jim Brewer, Harold Anderson, also Randy Randall from the State Conservationist’s Office.

Call to Order – Gary Ensign called the meeting to order at 8:10 AM. On 15 November 2007 and introductions were made. A quorum was present.

There was no U.S. flag present in the room, so the Pledge of Allegiance was not done.

Alan Green, Colorado State Conservationist paid a short visit and met League members assembled.

Harold Anderson suggested that recently reassigned East central RC&D Fed. Coordinator, Jeff Koster, get some kind of recognition award. Discussion on this to be held later in the meeting.

Review of Minutes – Now that a quorum is present we are able to review and approve the minutes of the Annual meeting held 26 June 2007. Gail motioned to approve and Bob Frye seconded. Motion carried. The minutes of the 9 October 2007 teleconference were reviewed. Jim Brewer motioned to approve and Frank Kenny seconded. motion carried.

Financial Report – Exhibits handed out by Gail Pitzer showed:

CO League checking account at 10/10/07 showed an ending balance of	\$12,137.08
CO League savings account at 7/31/07 (??) showed an ending balance of	2,012.33

Gail said checking balance does not reflect \$500 paid to Alisha Stroud for her 2nd and 3rd quarter bookkeeping for the League, so the checking balance should be shown as \$11,637.08. Jim Brewer suggested that we put most of the funds in a “money market” account to earn more interest and makes a motion to do this, Bob seconded and motion carried. Frank suggested that future Finance Reports include a Budget versus Actual exhibit, Gary agreed and says he will E-Mail this exhibit to all attendees after the meeting.

Old Business:

By-Laws Revision –This is still a work-in-progress since the annual meeting in June. 60 days in advance of the next Annual Meeting Gary will E-Mail the amended By-Laws documents for review and approval at the meeting. Gary mentions that the By-Laws document that we all had been revising, may not have been the latest version. Jim Brewer said that there was a major revision of the League By-Laws in 2004 and since then there were no changes made at the meetings (Jim knows because he attended all the meetings). In view of this “we should be in good shape with the documents that we worked with” said Jim.

Strategic Planning Discussion / Marketing Plan - The Coordinators pushed for League involvement at the 8/3/07 seminar that was held in Denver. Jane Wustrow has since inquired what is being done by the League.

Gary offered that we need more cohesion between the League and RC&D Councils,, maybe we need to find a project that will have state-wide appeal (perhaps involving Renewable Energy).

Randy Randall has talked to the Coordinators at their bi-monthly teleconference with the State Office and encouraged them to develop “long term sustainability”. The question has come up from the CO RC&D Councils: “What is the League providing to the Councils?” Randy suggested several answers to this question: (1) The League could assist Councils with grant searches by acquiring grant search software that allows multiple users; (2) The League is a voice to State and National forums on behalf of the Councils.

Randy further informed the assembled League members that our CO State RC&D Councils are losing Coordinators: Rick Isom, Jeff Koster, and Rich Mullaney (retiring in June '08). One good outcome from this bad news is that the State Office may come up with a surplus of funds from the RC&D budget (not having to pay these Coords for all 12 months and also savings in relocation costs of new Coords), The estimated surplus could be about \$30,000. This could be redistributed back to the Councils via the League and the League could levy its 10% admin fee to bolster their assets. The League could consider setting up a competition among the Councils.

On another subject, Bob Frye mentioned that in order to promote more participation from the Councils on the western slope the League should consider paying mileage and per-diem to Council Reps attending League meetings.

Frank Kenny said the League should get more involved with individual Council projects and assist with funding searches.

Jim Brewer said that the League should be a bigger organization and more involved, but our resources are so limited (\$12,000) and we don't have anything but volunteers and no paid staff. We need a state wide Coordinator to do it, maybe a Director.

Frank said that Colorado Big Country RC&D is intending to hire a Director who will seek grants to pay for his own salary, and Randy responded that Jim Mietz in San Luis Valley has been successful in doing this.

Frank mentioned that he attended the Colorado Assn of Non-Profit Orgs conference in Denver on 10/26 and heard one presenter push the idea that non-profits should be more aggressive in going after corporate donations to fund projects and programs.

Randy again asserted that the League has to find a way to be more “self sustaining”, and referring to the Marketing Plan's “Four Pillars”: (1) Develop financial security; (2) Active participation by Councils; (3) New statewide project; (4) Funding for admin assistants.

Jim motions to adopt the Marketing Plan and Gail seconds and the motion carried.

Jim said, regarding getting more Councils to participate, let's set up this \$30,000 coming to the League as a grant potential to all Councils to improve their operation.

Frank asked Randy if the State Office has any funds that the Councils can apply for. Randy replied that the “Conservation Innovation Grants” are an opportunity.

Bob Commented that maybe we are taking on more than we can handle. We need to establish a communication with the Councils and then go on to bigger things. Bob also notices that Frank's

note taking as Secretary is piling up sheets of paper and asks Frank to send him a draft of the notes to review to see if all bases are covered.

2008 Western RC&D Conference – Las Cruces NM January 13 -16 2008

Bob Frye and Jim Brewer are planning to attend. Bob also mentioned that the League needs to identify the reoccurring events that we do each year, like the Western RC&D Conference.

Award Nominations

Gary informed the members that the Western Conference of RC&D's has sent him forms for nominations for "Best Coordinator, Best Council, etc." The deadline is 12/1/07. Jim said that we could send E-Mails to all Councils asking for them to send us nominations by 12/1.

WEB Page Update

Frank mentioned that Colorado Big Country RC&D (CBC) was working with a website developer in Grand Junction, **TCS Marketing**. TCS is currently offering to do website work for non-profit organizations for 50% of their normal rate.

Jim suggested that it might be more cost efficient if the eight RC&D Councils have their web information posted as part of the CO League website. There was some discussion on this. Gary then made a suggestion that, in view of Jim Brewer's knowledge in the area of website development, Jim should work with Alisha Stroud to update the CO League of RC&D's website. Then Gary said that he was appointing Jim to this task.

CO League Newsletter

Randy showed the members a photo copy of the Summer 2007 CO League Newsletter. This letter has been produced by Rich Mullaney for some time, but Rich is retiring in 2008, so it is hoped that Doug Ramsey will take over this important job.

Council visits

Gary Proposed that he will visit four of the Councils' meetings on the east side of Colorado and asked Bob Frye if he could visit the four on the western slope. Bob said he was willing, but did not want to make the visits until the League has its act more together, probably no sooner that the spring of 2008.

Annual meeting date

CO League of RC&D's Annual meeting is traditionally held in April. It was suggested that we could consider having the meeting in Alamosa in San Luis Valley RC&D's area, and we would need to coordinate with Jim Mietz.

It was also suggested that we time future League teleconference calls to occur just after the bi-monthly teleconference between Council Coordinators and the State Office (Randy). With this in mind, we will schedule the next League teleconference is scheduled for Tuesday 18 December, and after that on 2/19/08 and 4/15/08.

Other business

Harold Anderson's suggestion of honoring Jeff Koster with some award was discussed and, after considerable back-and-forth comments, it was more or less agreed that the League would be better

off not offering an award to a departing Coordinator mostly because the League would then have established a precedent where an award given to one person would then have to be given to all.

Randy talked about having a CO League display board made for the Western Conference in January 2008. Randy also reminded us that he will be pushing for the \$30,000 (approximate) in "Council Grant Program" funds at the State Office.

Bob Frye summarized the key points from the meeting that we should all keep in mind: Council visits; maintenance of web page; Western Conf. awards for 2008; poster display from the CO League for all to use; E-Mail list for all Council members; identify those reoccurring things that the League does throughout the year.

Announcements

Gary reminded us of the need to finalize the League by-laws and that we needed to implement the Marketing Plan. Also members need to decide whether or not we should do awards.

Adjournment

Gary Ensign adjourned the meeting at 11:50 AM.