

What: South Central WA. RC & D Board Meeting
When: September 10, 10:00 a.m.
Where: USDA Service Center
1606 Perry St.
Yakima, WA. 98902
For More Info, Call: (509) 454-5736, x104

Chair: Louis Musso
Vice-Chair: Dick Story
Secretary/Treasurer: Mike Richardson
Administrative Assistant: Holli Wellner



MINUTES – 09/10/09

Board Members/Alternates Present: Louis Musso, Mike Richardson, Luz Bazan Gutierrez, Dick Story, Anna Lael, Mike Tobin (alternate), Don Gatchalian (alternate), Phil Rigdon, L.J. DaCorsi, Tim Tilley (alternate), Fennelle Miller

Staff Present: Dave Myra, Heather Simmons-Rigdon, Holli Wellner

Board Members/Staff Absent: Glenn Miller, Kevin Bouchey, Chris Klebaum, Frank Sweet, Betsy Bloomfield, Carol Ready, David Gerth, Frank Hendrix, Nicole Berg-Tobin

Others Present: Barb Smith Gilbert

Meeting called to order at: 10:05 a.m. by: Louis Musso

Item	Who	Info. Dist.	Outcome
1) Introductions	Louis Musso	N	See above. Dick Story announced Tim Tilley as his alternate.
2) Minutes	Mike Richardson	Y	Motion made by Dick Story to approve the July 9, 2009 minutes, seconded by Don Gatchalian. Approved.
3) Budget Report	Holli Wellner	Y	Motion made by Luz Bazan Gutierrez to approve the July 9, 2009 budget report, seconded by Dick Story. Approved.
4) Audit	Dave Myra	N	Dave mentioned that the 2008 audit is being done. The cost for the 2008 audit is \$1,500 more this year going from \$3,500 to \$5,000. Dave also

			<p>mentioned that our auditor Hal Larsen will no longer be doing these audits and can refer us to a couple of people and that the cost of the audit for 2009 could increase to \$10,000. Suggestions were made to allow for audit funds in all grants that will require the audit to cover the new costs for future audits. It was also suggest to create an RFP for auditors to be sent out to multiple organizations for bid.</p> <p>Motion made by Dick Story to pay the \$5,000 for the 2008 audit to Hal Larsen, seconded by Mike Richardson. Approved.</p>
5) Mileage Policy	Heather Simmons-Rigdon	N	<p>Heather informed the board that a mileage policy was approved at a 11/03/05 meeting to reimburse any board members mileage to attend board meetings at the (then) current IRS rate of .484/mile. At this time there is no budget designated to accommodate for this reimbursement. Heather asked the board to review this policy, and either amend or reverse it. Mike Tobin suggested conference calling for meetings to reduce this cost for some people; others stated they would rather have people be at the meetings. Heather mentioned possibly raising member dues to provide a budget for mileage. Dave suggested sending out a questionnaire asking all board members to state their roundtrip mileage to attend meetings to find out how much it could cost annually if we keep the policy.</p> <p>Motion made by Phil Rigdon to remove former policy rate and increase it to .55/mile rate and to table any additional revising of the policy, seconded by Luz Bazan Gutierrez. Approved. Phil also asked staff to poll council as suggested.</p>
6) Sponsorships	Louis Musso	N	<p>It was recently revealed that Kittitas County voted in 2007 to no longer participate in RC&D. They did not pay their dues in 2008 or 2009 but however they did participate until asked to pay 2009 dues. It was discussed that the reason for this is unknown and will be revisited at a later time. Kittitas County's resignation as a sponsor also removes Mark McClain as a board of director.</p> <p>City of Zillah: Tim Tilley alternate to Dick Story; NYCD: Mike Tobin alternate to Frank Hendrix; KCCD: Lynn Brown alternate to Anna Lael.</p>

			<p>Motion made by Mike Richardson to approve all three alternates, seconded by Phil Rigdon. Approved.</p> <p>Proposal set forth by City of Ellensburg to be a sponsor, with Fennelle Miller as representing board member.</p> <p>Motion made by Dick Story to approve City of Ellensburg as a sponsor and Fennelle Miller as a board member, seconded by Luz Bazan Gutierrez. Approved.</p>
7) YTAHP	Dave Myra / Anna Lael	N	<p>Dave gave a brief update on current projects. He also mentioned that all vouchering is current & the 2008 audit is taking place. Anna Lael gave a presentation on YTAHP KCCD projects for 2009. She did a PowerPoint of before, during, and after pictures of finished or current projects. She also showed where funding came from for these projects and the partners on the projects. Dave asked Mike Tobin if he could do a similar presentation on the YTAHP NYCD projects for next meeting.</p>
8) Woody Biomass Projects	Heather Simmons-Rigdon	N	<p>Heather passed around the Tieton/Oak Creek project contract that was discussed at the last meeting has since been approved and signed by executive board and submitted, as was agreed upon. Tapash Collaborative Coordinator project was approved at the last meeting but contract has not been signed yet. Betsy has found someone for this position but contract has not been created. Both these projects are being funded from the remaining \$125k from Yakima Valley Community Foundation money.</p> <p>Motion made by Phil Rigdon to allow executive committee review & sign Tapash Collaborative Coordinator contract between meetings if need be, seconded by Anna Lael. Approved.</p>
9) NRCS Project	Heather Simmons-Rigdon	Y	<p>There is an NRCS Harmony Workshop that the Yakama Nation is hosting this year beginning September 21st for NRCS and Conservation District employees. RC&D has been asked to sponsor and administer the funds for the workshop. There will be no profit in this for RC&D, it would be doing the Yakama Nation a favor if RC&D did this. It will up to \$13k. If RC&D does not choose to do this the workshop cannot take place. Shiraz asked if RC&D could front some of the money and then get reimbursed from NRCS.</p>

			Luz requested that invoices be submitted before any payment made and that a full project report be submitted on completion of project. Motion made by Luz Bazan Gutierrez based on complete budget breakdown of the workshop and vendors will get paid after RC&D receives payment from NRCS, seconded by Mike Richardson. Approved.
10) Cowiche Canyon Conservancy	Barb Smith Gilbert	Y	Barb, Development Director, introduced what Cowiche Canyon Conservancy was about and mentioned that they are interested in becoming sponsors. Mentioned that CCC has been in existence for about 25 years and is a smaller non-profit. They have about 2,000 acres for the conservancy. Louis asked them to submit an application.
11) Area / Annual Plans	Heather Simmons-Rigdon / Louis Musso	N	Area and Annual plans are due in January. Heather asked Shiraz if the Area Plan could be extended out to September and he was supportive of that. She asked the board for help on getting them finished. It was requested that an Area Plan committee be developed, Louis stated he would be calling for members to join. Heather requested that the current 10 priorities be reviewed and cut down to 2 or 3 to increase efficiency and success.
Other business/adjourn	Louis Musso	N	Next meeting November 5, 2009 Heather mentioned that the State NRCS Coordinator, Roylene Rides At The Door will be attending our Annual meeting which will be on January 7, 2010, location TBD. She also stated that she will not be able to attend the November board meeting (but will still help set it up) and will be out of the country for most of November.

Meeting adjourned at: 12:05 a.m. by: Louis Musso

Items for next board meeting (items tabled, assignments given, commitments made): Mileage Policy, Area Plan Committee, Tapash Coordinator Contract, Mike Tobin presentation.

Minutes approved by board on:

Attested by: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____