

What: South Central WA. RC & D Board Meeting  
**When:** **March 11, 2010 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, III  
Vice-Chair: Dick Story  
Secretary/Treasurer: Mike Richardson  
Administrative Assistant: Holli Wellner  
RC&D Coordinator: Heather Simmons-Rigdon



**MINUTES – 03/11/10**

**Board Members/Alternates Present:** Louis Musso, Mike Richardson, Chris Klebaum, Betsy Bloomfield, Nicole Berg-Tobin, Luz Bazan Gutierrez, Dick Story, Mike Tobin (alt), Tim Tilley (alt), Rebecca Wassell (alt)

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

**Board Members/Staff Absent:** Glenn Miller, Kevin Bouchey, Frank Sweet, David Gerth, Frank Hendrix, Anna Lael, Don Gatchalian, Phil Rigdon, L.J. DaCorsi, Fennelle Miller, Carol Ready

**Others Present:** Ryan Anderson

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

Item	Who	Info. Dist.	Outcome
1) Introductions	Louis Musso	N	See above.
2) Minutes	Mike Richardson	Y	Motion made by Dick Story to approve the minutes, seconded by Chris Klebaum. Approved
3) Budget Report	Holli Wellner	Y	Motion made by Dick Story to approve the budget report, seconded by Chris Klebaum. Approved.

4)YVCF budget	Heather Simmons-Rigdon (reporting on behalf of Reese Lolley)	N	Heather reported that it has been suggesting by The Nature Conservancy to send back the approximately \$45k to Yakima Valley Community Foundation for holding, as the project that the money was intended for was not implemented. This is contingent on a similar verdict by the Tapash at their April meeting. Motion made by Dick Story to send the money back to YVCF, contingent on a Tapash agreement, seconded by Mike Richardson. Approved.
5) TNC sponsorship & projects update	Heather Simmons-Rigdon (reporting on behalf of Reese Lolley)	N	The Nature Conservancy will continue to be a sponsor with Reese Lolley as their new representative. Derek Churchill will be at the May meeting to give an update on the Feasibility Study. Reese plans to give a presentation at the May meeting to give updates and an overview of the projects. There will also need to be a motion and vote to have Reese Lolley as The Nature Conservancy's representative at that time.
6) Klickitat/Skamania Annexation	Heather Simmons-Rigdon	Y	Second annexation application created. Has been signed by 3 conservation districts in Klickitat / Skamania. Needs to be re-approved and signed for submittal. Motion made by Chris Klebaum to sign the Annexation to bring in Klickitat/Skamania Counties to our RC&D service area, seconded by Luz Bazan Gutierrez. Approved.
7) New Projects	Heather Simmons-Rigdon	Y	Letter of Intent for two new projects were passed out. Heather explained in detail about each project (BPA Farm Energy Efficiency Program and Lower Valley Coordinator Weed Management Area Project). Motion made by Dick Story to accept letter of intent for BPA Agriculture Energy Efficiency Program, seconded by Betsy Bloomfield. Approved. Discussion was made about PP&L not being apart of the project and why. Motion made by Mike Richardson to accept letter of intent for Lower Yakima Valley Coordinated Weed Management Area, seconded by Dick Story. Approved.
8) Area/Annual Plans	Area Plan Committee	N	The Area/Annual Plan Committee consists of Louis Musso, Fennelle Miller, Anna Lael, Mike Richardson, and Dick Story. They are planning to meet an

			<p>hour before all regular RC&amp;D meetings until Area Plan submitted. If anyone is interested in this more they are welcome to attend or submit pictures/info for their county. The FY 2010 Annual Plan has been updated to include two new City of Ellensburg projects and needs to be readopted.</p> <p>Motion made by Betsy Bloomfield to approve revised FY2010 Annual Plan, seconded by Dick Story. Approved.</p> <p>Discussion was made to plan public meetings in the different counties. Was tabled to May meeting on where and when to have the public meetings (and who will take lead for their counties).</p>
9) YTAHP Report	Dave Myra	Y	<p>Dave reported that he is wrapping up the current contract which runs April 1 2009 - March 31 2010. He is also working on the new \$880k contract that will start April 1, 2010. He has received one contract already and is hoping to receive the second by the end of business today. He will need signatures from Executive Board Members once they are both in. Dave also mentioned this will be the first time the contracts will be in place before April 1.</p> <p>Motion made by Mike Richardson to have the Executive Board sign the contracts on arrival, seconded by Chris Klebaum. Approved. The board members would like to be notified when the signing will take place so anyone who chooses to may also come and review the contracts before they are signed.</p>
10) Policies	Heather Simmons-Rigdon	Y	<p>Mileage report is currently being covered by RC&amp;D at the standard mileage rate per mile. Mike Tobin mentioned that this has been discussed at a couple of meetings and a policy needs to be drafted for motion and vote at the May meeting. He has volunteered to help Heather with this.</p> <p>Motion made by Mike Tobin to follow with the current policy with voluntary submission of miles from board members for reimbursement at the current standard mileage rate until the new policy is brought to the board at the May meeting, seconded by Luz Bazan Gutierrez. Approved.</p> <p>There was a discussion of the need of internet meetings to accommodate those members far away, to increase attendance, and to reduce carbon footprint of meetings. Options were discussed. Heather was asked to</p>

		<p>compile those options and prices for next meeting.</p> <p>A Diversity Policy was drafted and submitted to board. Motion made by Luz Bazan Gutierrez to adopt the Diversity Policy, seconded by Chris Klebaum. Approved.</p>
11) Coordinator's Report	Heather Simmons-Rigdon	<p>The National RC&amp;D and State RC&amp;D's took a 25% budget hit for 2010. Heather mentioned that she has 2 ½ months of time that she can help on NRCS program applications. If anyone has projects she can help with, let her know. As part of this time, she has been working on outreach by participating in Environmental Education projects with local kids.</p> <p>Working with the Executive Committee, Heather prepared and submitted a grant to NFWF to fund an EarthCorps team to work with partners in the Yakima Basin. There will also be USFWS Partners For Wildlife funding to apply for in the future for this. She requested from partners to let her know if they have projects that could benefit from EarthCorps assistance.</p> <p>Heather discussed her involvement in Washington e3 and the formation of the newest Yakima e3 committee. She hopes RC&amp;D will become more involved as the partnering opportunities are high.</p> <p>The new Washington State RC&amp;D brochure was distributed. Heather discussed local interest in RC&amp;D assistance with creation of Yakima Basin Water Credit Market. Local Point Source group would like RC&amp;D to submit a Letter of inquiry to the Bullitt (due Monday).</p> <p>Motion made by Betsy Bloomfield to submit letter of inquiry, seconded by Luz Bazan Gutierrez. Approved.</p>
12) Chair's Report	Louis Musso	<p>Louis talked about how the Bush &amp; Obama Administrations want to get rid of the RC&amp;D's support which is about \$51 million nation wide per year. There is conflicting messages coming from OMB about why the RC&amp;D program should be closed, but things seem more serious this year. He wants each board member and partner to send a letter to the Congressman and Senators trying to keep the funding. He will send out more info on that soon.</p> <p>He recently had a conference call with Pac Rim RC&amp;D and it was very inefficient.</p>

			Louis announced that there is a meeting on March 23 <sup>rd</sup> to try and re-instate the WA State RC&D organization. All members are invited.
13) Other business / adjourn	Louis Musso	N	<p>Louis presented a request from the Cowiche Canyon Conservancy for a donation for their upcoming art show. Betsy talked about these efforts to celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They are asking for organizations to sponsor the show for prizes/awards. All names will be shown at the Art Show advertising as a sponsor.</p> <p>Motion made by Chris Klebaum to sponsor \$250 to the CCC Art Show, seconded by Luz Bazan Gutierrez. Approved.</p> <p>Betsy Bloomfield abstained.</p> <p>Next meeting on May 6, 2010.</p>

Items for next board meeting (items tabled, assignments given, commitments made): Mileage Policy, Area/Annual Plan Committee

Minutes approved by board on:

Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_