

**What:** RC & D Board Meeting  
**When:** September 16, 2010, 10:00 a.m.  
**Where:** USDA Service Center Conference Room  
 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



## MINUTES – 09/16/10

**Board Members/Alternates Present:** Louis Musso, Mike Richardson, Chris Klebaum, Betsy Bloomfield, Rebecca Wassell (via GoToMeeting), Nicole Berg-Tobin (via GoToMeeting), Frank Sweet, David Gerth, Don Gatchalian, Phil Rigdon, Reese Lolley, Tom Coleman

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

**Board Members/Staff Absent:** Anna Lael, L.J. DaCorsi, Carol Ready, Luz Bazan Gutierrez, Kevin Bouchey (alternate present), Frank Hendrix, Dick Story, Fennelle Miller, George Shelton

**Others Present:** Julie Conley (Shrub Steppe/Rangeland Partnership), Ryan Anderson (City of Yakima Waste Water Division), Julie Vavricka (ESD 105), Jim Hill (District Manager Eastern & Central Klickitat Conservation Districts-via GoToMeeting)

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 Don Gatchalian to approve the minutes, seconded by Frank Sweet. Motion passed.

3) Budget Report	Holli Wellner	Y	Motion made by Mike Richardson to approve the budget report, seconded by Frank Sweet. Motion passed.
3b) New Board Member	Louis Musso	N	Julie Vavricka (science coordinator) with Educational Services District (ESD) 105 brought a sponsorship application and requested ESD 105 to be a sponsor of RC&D and for her to be the representing board member. Motion made by Frank Sweet to accept ESD 105 as a sponsor and Julie Vavricka as a board member, seconded by David Gerth. Motion passed.
4) Area Plan	Area Plan Committee	Y	Heather informed the board that Area Plan is complete and that there were copies available on the tables for anyone that wanted one. Heather will add ESD 105 to the list of sponsors. It was mentioned that the Area Plan can be amended throughout the year as needed. Motion made by Phil Rigdon to approve the Area Plan as presented after adding ESD 105 as a sponsor, seconded by Chris Klebaum. Motion passed.
5) Annual Plan	Annual Plan Committee	Y	Heather informed the board that Annual Plan is complete and that there were copies available on the tables for anyone that wanted one. The Annual Plan can also be amended throughout the year as needed. Motion made by Mike Richardson to approve the Annual Plan as presented, seconded by Don Gatchalian, motion passed.
6) Tapash Update	Reese Lolley	Y	Reese gave an update on the Tapash Project at Oak Creek. Derek Churchill's contract to assess stand conditions, biomass, develop treatment prescriptions and identify priority treatments is about three quarters completed. A forester has been hired and is working closely with Derek and will be in developing environmental review this winter and seeing this project through implementation. Forester is a TNC employee; however, position is a 50:50 cost share with Forest Service. He will also help on the Tapash and projects in the future. The project is moving smoothly but slower than had hoped. Reese is asking that George Shelton's position be extended through December; they are still working on the funds to support it. They are asking to extend his position through the end of December 2010 as well as the above projects.

			<p>Motion made by Phil Rigdon to extend Derek Churchill's contract through 12/31/10, seconded by Frank Sweet. Motion passed.</p> <p>Motion made by Reese Lolley to extend George Shelton's contract through 12/31/10, seconded by Frank Sweet. Motion passed.</p>
7) Shrub Steppe / Rangeland Partnership Presentation	Julie Conley	N	<p>Julie gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Shrub Steppe/Rangeland Partnership. It is a group of Federal, State, and non-profits that have come together for the project. They are working on 1.8 million acres of shrub steppe that covers huge parts of Yakima &amp; Kittitas Counties, and a small part of Grant County. She gave a well received and detailed report of the projects goals, partners, threats, and suggestions.</p>
8) YTAHP update	Dave Myra	Y	<p>Dave gave an update on the annual audit. An email will go out to all members when a meeting has been set with the Auditor to review the final audit before it is signed and submitted allowing anyone who wishes to attend the opportunity do to so. Executive Committee will need to approve, sign, and submit the audit by 09/30/10. Dave mentioned trying to have Abby (the auditor) come to the next meeting to discuss the audit a little but mostly other ideas or suggestions she may have on how to possibly better RC&amp;D financially. Maybe sponsor a meeting for other non-profits to attend for information to help them with audits.</p>
9) Coordinator Update	Heather Simmons-Rigdon	N	<p>Heather announced there is a new NRCS State RC&amp;D Program Manager, Sherre Copeland. Sherre has been with the NRCS for several years and promises to bring greatly needed direction and change to the program on a state level. Heather also announced she has been working on a new YTAHP reporting database and using that to update the NRCS POINTS database. She is also beginning to talk to the Yakama Nation about their next NRCS AWEP proposal. Heather updated everyone on the BPA energy efficiency program. Big Bend RC&amp;D will take the lead for at least the first year. Heather created a budget that will allow Benton Conservation District to hire an energy technician. Hopefully that will be funded soon. The Coordinated Weed Management Area project is moving forward and there will be a large state meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup> in Yakima.</p>

9b) Project Update – YES project	Ryan Anderson	N	Ryan Anderson updated the board on his new position with the City of Yakima and the next steps of the Yakima Ecosystem Services project.
10) Policy Update	Heather Simmons-Rigdon	Y	Heather passed out Conflicts of Interest forms to those who have not signed one yet. All members need to sign one that have not done so yet. If you need one please contact Heather.
11) Chair Update	Louis Musso	N	<p>Louis decided not to attend the PacRim conference in Alaska. He determined that the Agenda had no substantial information to educate members and that it was not in the best interest of RC&amp;D’s money to attend. By the end of the year Louis will try to complete the circuit again to meet all the RC&amp;D councils and to work on getting the State RC&amp;D established &amp; functioning. He also discussed the public meetings in Ellensburg, Prosser, Yakima, Goldendale, &amp; White Salmon that were conducted to make the Area Plan available to the public and to increase awareness of RC&amp;D. They were mostly successful. He wants to try to improve the relationships with other County Commissioners like the one we have with Yakima. Louis felt that these other activities were a better use of the RC&amp;D funds that attending PacRim. He did express to the PacRim board the reasons for not sending any representative to attend the conference.</p> <p>Motion made by Chris Klebaum to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 pm, seconded by Phil Rigdon. Motion passed.</p> <p><b>NEXT MEETING NOVEMBER 4, 2010</b></p>

Items for next board meeting (items tabled, assignments given, commitments made): Policy update and discussion.

Minutes approved by board on:

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