

DMRC&D Teleconference – 7/16/13

PRESENT: Doug Thompson, President
Donna Thomas, Secretary
Debbie Hess
Susan Cullen
Marianne Schat
Jackie Lindgren, Mojave Desert RCD
Dana Raponi, Mojave Desert RCD
Alice Lauritzen, Admin.

1:05 Called to order by Doug Thompson

ITEMS:

1. Quarterly Meeting: August 8, Pacino's Spaghetti Factory, Tehachapi, CA

10:00 – 2:00, Lunch at noon

Most everyone received the "Save the Date" that was sent out two weeks ago.

Presenters so far are Dan Johnson, USDA; Kelly Bearden and Jay Thompson, CSUB Small Business Development; Hudson Minshew and Rich Campbell, NRCS/AVRCD; and ESCRBC. Michelle Vance (City of Tehachapi) made the arrangements and will invite a local elected to welcome everyone. We need to issue personal invitations to Supervisors. Doug suggested to Julie Langou (ESCRBC) that maybe we should invited Michael Ort or Clifford Beddingfield (Praxis) to speak. They are supposed to be done with D395 by July 31, though it doesn't look like they will make it.

2. Wildland Fires and Urban Interface workshop: Andrew Gordon (National RCD), contacted us some time ago to take on the project (\$24,000). At first it looked like a giant headache, with no definite budget or work plan details. But after several phone calls and emails Doug has had, it looks doable for us. This is a regional concept and could reach participants as far south as San Diego. The 2-day workshop will be held in Santa Barbara area, and will involve local agencies with good potential for both large and small agencies. The national organization provides the workshop outline and speakers. Our job would be to find a location, catering, registration, and outreach (they provide the press releases and contact lists), agenda updates, and facilitating the meeting. The national organization has a canned intro to read. An assessment would also need to be provided to justify holding the meeting in the area. As Doug spoke with fire chiefs about the program, they indicated it was good, but warned that we should stay neutral regarding involvement in Code enforcement and development.

The dates are Oct 21 and 22 (Monday and Tuesday), and are free to participants. Debbie indicated that she has contacts in the area that can assist with locating a venue. Jackie and Dana indicated a willingness to assist, also. Westlake is Doug's preferred area because of its proximity to the freeway.

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Debbie made the motion to move forward in a positive manner, with final approval pending the addressing of a few more questions. Susan seconded. The vote was unanimous. Alice and Debbie will draft our questions to present to Andrew Gordon.

3. Tech Soup sells software to 501c3 at reduced rates. Mojave Desert is requesting that DMRC&D purchase Dreamweaver Software for them that they can use to update their websites. It was determined that we would move forward with this request.

1:45 Adjourn

Desert Mountain RC&D Quarterly Meeting – 8/8/13

Pacino's Spaghetti Factory

110 W. Tehachapi Blvd.

Tehachapi, CA

661-822-9400

10:05 a.m. Called to order by President-appointed Vice President, Deborah Hess

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Michelle Vance, City of Tehachapi and introductions were made around the room.

A welcome was offered by Ed Grimes, Tehachapi City Council.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Julie Langou and intern, Navjot Singh, gave updates on the Eastern Sierra Connect Regional Broadband Consortium (ESCRBC) activities, with a strong focus on the website development project. ESCRBC partnered with 5 web designers and 6 businesses in need of web development. Benefits have already been realized by the businesses. Case studies are being conducted and will be available in the future. Power point presentation is available through escrbconsortium.org.
2. Hudson Minshew (NRCS) and Rich Campbell (AV RCD) presented information regarding the dust problems in the Antelope and Fremont Valleys with a strong watershed approach. Power point and photos are available.
3. Kelly Bearden and Jay Thompson of the CSUB Small Business Development Center (CSUB SBD) (covers Kern, Inyo and Mono counties). The discussion focused on food cottage and specialty food issues. There is a meeting in Bishop on August 21 regarding the culinary kitchen incubator project – food cottage producers can rent space (by hour or day) of a commercial kitchen in a community.
4. Bob Robinson, Watershed Coordinator for DMRC&D, reported on his activities since the last Quarterly Meeting. Bob has a new project through an SNC grant for noxious weed control in the Kern River Valley and Walker Basin. A full detail of his report is attached.

11:30 Lunch Break

12:20 Dan Johnson, USDA Rural Development, addressed the group. Dan provided a handout and discussed various grant and loan programs and opportunities.

- Business and Industry guarantee – guarantee loan to small business from a bank 80% guarantee - \$1 million up. 3% guarantee fee; small 5 annual fee.
- IRP – Intermediary Re-lending Program. 1%; 30 year payback. Up to \$150,000 loans to small businesses. Intermediaries need to be able to offer technical assistance. Intermediaries charge 3% interest to cover costs and overhead. Can serve a county or multiple counties. Example is Valley Small Business out of Fresno Dan Johnson said he can provide us a list of IRP providers.
- RMAP - Micro Loan Program. \$500,000 loans. 2% interest; 20 year. Micro borrowers employ 10 or fewer. Notice of funding availability will be out later this month. Small business development centers. Also a grant

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option available. Dan Johnson told us after the meeting that High Sierra RC&D had one of these grants and Dan Macon served as contractor for the project. Donna asked Susan Werner about it and Susan forwarded an e-mail to Dan Macon telling him we were interested in talking to him about this. High Sierra RC&D Council is no longer active.

- RBEG program. \$500,000 available for the state. Eligible groups are non-profits, public entities, or tribes. Use it to set up a small revolving loan fund. Applications due in April or May. Planning grants up to \$100,000 for 5 product categories. Working capital grant of \$300,000.
- RBEG Opportunity grant for regional planning - \$100,000. This one is highly competitive.
- Housing – community facilities. For pop. 20,000. Public entities or non-profits are eligible. Can also be used for health care, health clinics in rural communities, for public safety, or community centers, community kitchen. Kitchen equipment can be portable. Call Theresa Hogan in Bakersfield RD office for more information.
- Also funding for regional food hub, local food systems. Community facility loan programs.

Kimberly Maevers of GAVEA, indicated that Glenda Humiston (USDA RD State Director) will be at their Antelope Valley meeting at the Mariah Inn on September 19, 2013.

Before wrapping up the meeting, Deborah Hess announced that the DMRC&D is working with the NARC&D to present a 2-day Wild land Fire and Urban interface workshop for Southern California on October 22-23, 2013. At the time of the meeting, the location had not been determined; however, it is now scheduled with the Hilton Garden Inn in Calabasas.

The date for next Quarterly Meeting was set to be held in Kern Valley on November 8, 2013. Specific location to be determined.

1:00 pm Meeting adjourned.

Note: Included in the participant folder were the following handouts (also attached to minutes): Treasurer's Report, Grant Summary, and 2012 Annual Report.

Minutes submitted by Alice Lauritzen with reference to notes by Donna Thomas.

Attach: Attendee List
Slide presentation – NRCS/AVRCD
Treasurer's Report
Grant Summary
2012 Annual Report

DRAFT MINUTES-Desert Mountain RC&D Retreat – 10/30/13

The Grape Leaf
901 N. Heritage Dr.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Present: Doug Thompson Debbie Hess
 Donna Thomas Susan Cullen
 Beth Himelhoch Marianne Schat
 Rick Lovett Alice Lauritzen
 Bob Robinson (after 12:00)

Absent: Leroy Corlett Pete Lounsbury
 Chip Holloway

At 10:00 everyone gathered at The Grape Leaf Restaurant. General Board Member Handbooks were provided for all. Alice started us off with a short game that provided the following great insights into our Council members:

- Doug used to be a used car salesman.
- Debbie was just appointed to the Kern Inyo Mono Workforce Investment Board.
- Donna is from the “Show Me” State (MissourA)
- Susan is a Bulls Eye shot.
- Beth is an iced tea-aholic.
- Marianne has 11 kids.
- Rick owns a brewery but doesn’t drink.
- Alice once had the nickname “Captain Hook” due to a boating incident that left her with a “claw” cast on her hand.
- Bob knows to stay away until after the Ice Breaker games are done.

WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED/NEED TO ACCOMPLISH: At 10:20 Doug began the official business and offered brief history of the RC&D. This is the first strategy meeting since we lost NRCS support. He recapped the success of our meeting in February with Glenda Humiston, and the momentum that has continued in various committees and grant funding. A discussion on the ESCRBC and Digital 395 ensued. Marianne, as a provider dealing with Praxis, offered good insight as to what is going on and the disappointment providers are meeting with in regards to fees and services being offered by Praxis/D395. Beth said that her agency (a non-state or county) would be charge \$240 per month!

The discussion turned to the Board and the opening we currently have. We would like to add a member from Mono, but also possibly Kern. It was mentioned that when ESCRBC originally began, we had three board members on the ESCRBC Board, where now we only have one. Dan Brown (Wofford Heights) was mentioned by Rick as a possible RC&D member and Broadband champion to work with ESCRBC.

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Marianne is also aware of potential board members in Mono. She will submit some names for consideration.

The Grant Summary was then reviewed and project updates presented.

BYLAWS: The Bylaws were reviewed with the following amendments recommended by Debbie Hess:

- Article VIII – MEETINGS: Section 1: Annual Meeting of the Council changed to Twice Yearly: Spring and Fall and will be developed with public/partner participation.
- Article VIII – MEETINGS: Section 3: Executive Committee: Shall meet once a month in at least a conference call and as need arises.
- Article VIII – MEETINGS: Section 5: Notice: DELETE THIS SECTION as it is no longer necessary without NRCS involvement.

Motion made by Beth Himelhoch, seconded by Susan Cullen, and passed by unanimous vote. Alice and Donna will make the revisions and submit to the Secretary of State.

Further action will include the development of standing committees as outlined in Article X, Section 1: STANDING COMMITTEES.

POL & PROC. –

QUARTERLY MEETINGS: The motion to cancel the Nov 7 Quarterly Meeting and use the Retreat as a Quarterly Meeting was made by Debbie, seconded by Susan, and passed unanimously

ELECTIONS: Everyone present expressed a desire to remain on the Board. We currently have one vacancy, for which nominations are being accepted. Marianne (Mono) and Rick (Kern) both have recommendations. Alice will send an email asking for a statement and expression of interest or nomination for Executive Board. The elections will be held in early January 2014, so they can be included in the 2013 newsletter.

Buffet lunch at 12:00. Bob Robinson joined us.

PROJECTS: At approximately 12:30 the meeting was resumed. Leadership and monitoring of the projects was addressed. Alice will include in an email a request for interest and strengths of Council Members to work in certain projects and capacities. Doug observed that it appears follow through on projects has been a challenge in our area, and noted the Beef Feasibility and Lone Pine Wastewater projects as examples.

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SEARCH FOR GRANTS/GRANTWRITING: Debbie has been in touch with Deana Jerdee, the prior NRCS Coordinator, who now lives in Michigan. She is a stay-at-home mom who would be interested in searching for grants and writing applications for us. We don't yet know what the fees would be, but would be beneficial to us. Additionally, Andrew Gordon (NARC&D Councils) is working out our account with GrantStation.com so we can search online. Alice and Donna will get our SAM account active again so we can qualify for Federal Grants. Apparently, every quarter you must change your password. Beth offered her assistance if needed.

Donna mentioned that Holly Shiralipour had approached the RC&D about assisting in securing grant funding through SCE for a value-added food market (Korean or Philippine?). Debbie reminded us that SCE will only issue one check per year, and we should try to make it as effective and large as possible. She will check into the opportunity of possibly combining several projects into one grant application. We did complete the SCE Tall Pot project and have submitted Year End report, so we are free to apply for more funding.

BOB'S REPORT: Bob reported on a reapplication for a grant some time in Spring 2014. This is a 3 year grant for \$600,000 (\$90,000 for RC&D as Fiscal). He has already put a lot of work into the grant application and attempted to submit it in June of this year, but due to their online submission errors, he was unable to get it submitted on time (even though he submitted via email before the deadline).

SPONSORSHIP: In the past these have been set dues to become a partner of DMRC&D. We are now legally only able to ask for donations. Our contributions have dropped below \$1,000 this year. It was suggested to look for Foundation money.

Additional points: Marianne indicated she could probably assist with the website maintenance. Doug gave a very compelling sales pitch for a rep to attend the IRWMP meetings in Bishop. No takers so far. Good thing Leroy Corlett's around.

At 1:40 pm the Meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Alice Lauritzen
10/30/13