

**Western Association of RC&D Councils
Teleconference Board Meeting
February 9, 2005
7 p.m. MTN/8 p.m. CTL**

The call number is 1-866-732-9373 Access code: 669817

MINUTES

Call to Order – 7:00/8:00 p.m.

Joe, Keith, Bruce, Nels, Megan, Nellie

Approval of the Agenda - NO APPROVAL

Minutes of the last meeting – posted on website & attached - NO APPROVAL

Financial Report

Annual Meeting Report

Account Balances

Auction	6598.25	
Associate Memberships		180.00
Checking:	3629.64	
Debit Account:	1500.00	
CMA	25062.23	
Scholarship	4424.78	
CD	31960.25	

Discussion: add Associate Memberships to registration

The new Debit Account is a travel account for Officers without credit cards.

Committee Reports

Nominating – Bruce: President, Secretary & 2nd Vice-President are next year's officers up for election.

Awards – Joe: Western has not placed at National. Next year National will get judges from each region rather than all from WDC area.

Mary Secumb can go to WDC. Glen J's son will not be able to attend. We will continue to look for a family member to attend.

Joe met with all the winning entries to inform them of the requirements to compete at National.

Information & Marketing – Joe:

Website – Keith: Arizona isn't listed on the front page.

Keith asked Nels to assist Kathy with getting legislative contacts listed on the Western Website with instructions.

Bylaws - Bob

Audit & Finance – Rex: Need to have better oversight committee participation. Executive board to recommend new members. Ted Teitjen, NE and Richard Johnson, NM were recommended.

Natural Resources & Rural Development - Malcolm

Site Selection – Bruce: Utah would like to toss their hat in the ring for 2008. Nevada is also interested. Arizona has previously expressed interest.

Conference Planning – Consider having the meeting start officially on Sunday with a Saturday arrival.

Standing committees and task forces will meet Sunday afternoon.

Quality Assurance – Kent

Endowment Training – Nels: More now, then ever before. Does Western want to supply Endowment books to councils/states outside the region?

Old Business

New Business

Funding request from Megan to attend American Grassfed Association Annual Meeting

2006 Budget – Keith: Discussion regarding the difficulty of capturing the full benefit provided by RC&D. We are judged on Natural Resource Conservation and ignored on the Rural Economic Development. RC&D program doesn't fit strictly within the boundaries of NRCS.

Loose support for 41 councils – AZ 5 of 6; CO 5 of 8; NM 5 of 8; NE 2 of 11; ND 6 of 9; SD 4 of 7; UT 3 of 7; WY 3 of 5; ID 4 of 8; MT 3 of 8; NV 1 of 3

The State Associations may fold.

Western's ability to sustain may also be in question.

The proposed budget cut and sunset laws would be devastating to the entire program.

Also proposed funding cuts for watershed and flood prevention programs.

These dollars would not be used to offset deficit – these funds would be redirected to other NR budget.

The total amount of money decreased in the NRCS budget by this sunseting action is zero.

Recommendation: Lobby for a change of administration from NRCS – they have failed to properly and adequately administer this project. Brainstorming on 'new home' for the program.

Adjourn 9:00/10:00 p.m.

Next meeting: February 22, 7 p.m. MTN – 8 p.m. CTL