



DAKOTA PRAIRIES RC&D COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Jan. 12, 2016 10 a.m. (CST)

Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck, ND

RC&D Council attendance was recorded as follows :

<u>RC&D Representative:</u>	<u>Organization Represented:</u>	PRESENT	Unable to Attend
Cindy Makedonski	Burleigh County SCD	X	
Doug Schonert	Burleigh County Commission	X	
Terry Fleck	Burleigh County WRB		X
Rhonda Kelsch	Emmons County SCD		X
Wes Frederick	Grant County SCD		X
Bill Koch	Grant County Commission	X	
Jackie Hewitt	Kidder County SCD	X	
Penny Nester	Kidder County Commission	X	
Steve Lee	McLean County Commission		X
Richard Perkerewicz	South McLean SCD		X
Richard White Bear	West McLean SCD	X	
Dawn Martin	Mercer County SCD	X	
Gary Murray	Mercer County Commission		X
Duane Olsen	Morton County SCD	X	
Ron Leingang	Morton County Commission	X	
Mike Bauer	Oliver County SCD	X	
Blake Wilkens	Oliver County Commission		X
Darci Gahner	Sheridan County SCD		X
Cynthia Wahl	Sheridan County Commission		X
Sue Isbell	Sioux County Commission		X
Deborah Vollmuth	Cedar SCD		X
Fawn Wasin Zi	Standing Rock Land Management	X	
<u>RC&D Staff</u>			
Susan Davis, ED	Dakota Prairies RC&D	X	

Call to order

President Dawn Martin called the quarterly meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Attending were Mike Bauer, Jackie Hewitt, Bill Koch, Ron Leingang, Cindy Makedonski, Dawn Martin, Penny Nester, Duane Olsen, Doug Schonert, Fawn Wasin Zi and Richard White Bear.

Schonert is a Burleigh County Commission member who is replacing Helen Schatz on this board and Wasin Zi is replacing Joseph Smith to represent Standing Rock Land Management.

Also attending was Susan Davis, executive director of Dakota Prairies RC&D, and Helen Schatz.

Approval of minutes

Minutes of the Oct. 13, 2015, quarterly meeting minutes were reviewed.

Duane Olsen moved to approve the Oct. 13, 2015, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ron Leingang and approved.

Financial report

Davis reviewed the profit and loss statement for 2015. Total income was \$269,027 and total expenses were \$271,771, for a deficit of \$2,744 in 2015.

The income included \$15,563 in service and expense fees from Dakota West RC&D; \$9,400 in membership dues; \$96,676 in 319 grant funds; \$147,005 in Specialty Crop Block Grant funds; and \$310 from the North Dakota Association of RC&Ds.

Expenses included \$2,333 for telephone and supplies; \$841 for Ad Hoc Granting Committee meetings; \$2,939 for mileage and meals; \$505 for dues and subscriptions; \$2,938 for copier payments; \$50,450 for contracted services; \$202,422 for grant work; \$605 for registrations and travel; and \$8,130 for office rent.

As of Dec. 31, 2015, there was a balance of \$60,208 in the checking account at Dakota Community Bank and \$44,942 in the special project account at Kirkwood Bank & Trust. A total of \$16,000 was transferred from the Kirkwood Bank & Trust special projects account to the Dakota Community Bank checking account Nov. 13, 2015. This money was used to pay the upfront costs of the 319 grant-related orders of tabletop rainfall simulators, Solvita soil test kits and soil quality/soil movement demonstration kits.

The two CDs total \$12,991. Dakota Prairies also had \$13,188 in accounts receivable from 2016 dues invoices and services billed to Dakota West RC&D. On the balance sheet dated Dec. 31, 2015, total assets and total liabilities and equity are \$105,003.

Bill Koch moved to approve the financial report. The motion was seconded by Richard White Bear and approved.

Executive director report

Susan Davis reviewed a written report of her activities since the last quarterly meeting, which was Oct. 13, 2015. Highlights include: 1) Submitted monthly reimbursement requests in October and November and final request in December to the North Dakota Department of Health; 2) ordered and distributed tabletop rainfall simulators, Solvita soil test kits and soil quality/water movement demonstration kits;

3) arranged and attended Oct. 29 meeting of the Ad Hoc Granting Committee in Hebron; 4) visited with Mary Podoll, NRCS, about Water wisdom 319 grant; 4) researched, wrote and submitted first draft of 2012-2015 Partners for Water Quality 319 grant final report; 5) planned and prepared for Dakota Prairies annual meeting; 6) performed services for Dakota West, including its Jan. 11 annual meeting; 7) held discussions with Jay Fuhrer and Cindy Makedonski on Menoken Farm 319 project; 8) worked on Specialty Crop Block Grant project at Standing Rock Reservation, including writing quarterly and annual reports for SCBG 14-217 and final report for SCBG 14-105; 9) prepared report on state's RC&Ds and presented it at annual conference of N.D. Association of SCDs Nov. 23.

Partners for Water Quality 319 grant report

Davis reviewed the final approved projects and project reimbursements under this 2012 to 2015 grant. The entire grant of \$325,000 was spent, with the last reimbursement received from the North Dakotas Department of Health in December 2015. The majority of the grant, or \$160,047, was spent on local workshops, field events and other local programming. Other categories were outreach information with \$1,591 and demonstration projects with \$53,715. The grant was originally scheduled to end June 31, 2015, but was extended to Dec. 31, 2015. Most of the remaining funds were spent on educational items for member/partners. These included Solvita soil test kits, tabletop rainfall simulators, soil quality/water movement demonstration kits and rangeland walking sticks.

Davis recognized the work of the Ad Hoc Granting Committee in managing these grant funds and helping with ideas to spend the remaining grant balance. Mike Bauer is president of this committee and Bill Koch is a member. The other two members are Duane Urlacher and Don Urlacher from Dakota West RC&D.

Water Wisdom 319 grant report

Davis reviewed the budget under this new three-year grant of \$145,000. The grant officially began July 1, 2015, but with the extension on the other grant work has not yet started. Davis will begin work under this grant in January 2016. That work includes creating a steering committee to review a comprehensive ag-related water quality training module and planning and holding two soil health workshops and one statewide advanced grazing workshop. Davis reported she has been in contact with Mary Podoll, state conservationist, on this work and will be reaching out to members of the Dakota West and Dakota Prairies RC&D councils and others to serve on this committee or committees.

Fawn Wasin Zi said her office, Standing Rock Land Management, would be interested in partnering with Dakota Prairies RC&D on the soil health and advanced grazing workshops. Penny Nester reported that with commodity prices down and operational costs on the rise, it should be good timing to get producers to these workshops.

Davis also reported that the executive boards of Dakota West RC&D and Dakota Prairies RC&D canceled its planned meeting with Greg Sandness on match under the new 319 grant. The two councils had questioned why the budget deficits of each council could not be used at in-kind match. However, the Ad Hoc Granting Committee advised against the meeting with Sandness. Instead, both councils will document board member on-kind match and encourage member/partners to send in additional match under their local projects and events.

2016 budget

The board reviewed the 2016 proposed budget, which incorporates sharing all 319 grant-related income and expenses with Dakota West RC&D. Total income is projected at \$42,722 and total expenses are at \$59,023. Without bringing in extra income, there is a projected deficit of almost

\$16,000. However, Davis reported she will likely be able to do more work under the SCBG project at Standing Rock Reservation. In addition, the Dakota West RC&D board met Jan. 11 and approved negotiating a new contract with Dakota Prairies RC&D for professional services. The existing fee of \$1,200 (30 hours at \$40 an hour) will be kept in place until its April 2016 board meeting.

The main sources of income in 2016 are \$15,422 in 319 grant reimbursements; \$14,400 in SCBG administration fees; \$3,100 in Menoken Farm administration fees; and \$9,700 in membership dues.

Major expenses include \$6,500 to open the Water Wisdom 319 checking account; \$22,596 in 319 grant expenses; \$14,400 for executive director services; \$900 for council meetings; \$1,840 for mileage/travel; \$1,200 for Ad Hoc Granting Committee; \$750 for dues/subscriptions; \$4,936 for office rent; \$1,279 for the copier lease; \$1,127 for telephone/Internet; and \$600 for postage. Some operational expenses such as office rent and executive director fees are partially covered under the 319 grant.

The board held a brief discussion on seeking corporate donations to help fund the council operations. Penny Nester and others said it might be better to get corporate sponsors for the meals and other costs of the three workshops that Dakota Prairies and Dakota West will plan and hold.

Ron Leingang moved to adopt the 2016 budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Penny Nester and approved.

Election of new office

President Martin reported that she and Richard Perkerewicz are not eligible for another officer term at this time and Joseph Smith, current vice president, has resigned from the board. The only officer eligible for re-election is Cindy Makedonski, the current treasurer.

Martin, Davis, Perkerewicz and Makedonski served as a nominating committee to reach out to board members to ask them to consider an officer position. Davis also sent an e-mail to all members asking if they would service as an officer in 2016/2017. Martin reported those willing to fill officer positions, if elected, are Makedonski for president; Darci Gahner for vice president; and Penny Nester for secretary. No candidates for treasurer were identified.

President Martin opened up the officer elections by asking for nominations for treasurer. There was a short discussion on who has not served as an officer recently. Jackie Hewitt and Richard White Bear were among those mentioned for this position; however, both declined at this time.

Jackie Hewitt nominated Doug Schonert for the position of treasurer for 2016/2017. Penny Nester moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Doug Schonert for treasurer. The motion was seconded by Richard White Bear and approved.

Martin then asked for nominations for secretary.

Ron Leingang nominated Penny Nester for the position of secretary for 2016/2017. Duane Olsen moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Penny Nester for secretary. The motion was seconded by Jackie Hewitt and approved.

Martin asked for nominations for vice president.

Jackie Hewitt nominated Darci Gahner for the position of vice president for 2016/2017. Penny Nester moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Darci Gahner for vice president. The motion was seconded by Bill Koch and approved.

Martin asked for nominations for president.

Jackie Hewitt nominated Cindy Makedonski for the position of president for 2016/2017. Penny Nester moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Cindy Makedonski for president. The motion was seconded by Bill Koch and approved.

Check signing resolution

The board reviewed a one-page resolution drafted by Davis that authorizes the Dakota Prairies RC&D officers and any staff to be signers on any checking or savings accounts. All checks require two signatures. Davis explained that the new checking account for the Water Wisdom 319 grant will be set up at Dakota Community Bank. Penny Nester told the board that in her position with NDSU Extension she cannot be a signee on any banking accounts.

Penny Nester moved to approve this resolution. The motion was seconded by Ron Leingang and approved.

Member/director reports

■ *Mike Bauer, Oliver SCD:* Bauer, the president of the Ad Hoc Granting Committee for the 319 grant work, reminded everyone that members need to be diligent about collecting in-kind match under the new 319 grant. Dakota Prairies RC&D starts at a zero match balance under the new Water Wisdom 319 grant. He urged members to add any in-kind possible under new projects.

■ *Cindy Makedonski, Burleigh County SCD:* Makedonski reported there will be a Winter Grazing Tour Feb. 16, 2016, at the Ken Miller Ranch. The group will conclude the event with a tour at the offices of Agricultural Research Services.

■ *Dawn Martin, Mercer County SCD:* Martin told the board Mercer SCD is planning a grazing and soil health workshop for Feb. 17.

■ *Penny Nester, Kidder County Extension and Kidder County Commission rep:* Nester reported NDSU Extension received a \$5,000 grant to conduct a bale grazing study in Logan and Burleigh counties. The project began this fall and will record one-year results. Cross fencing or electric fencing will be used on tame grass pasture.

■ *Duane Olsen, Morton County SCD:* Olsen told the board this SCD's Jan. 19 workshop will feature cover crops for winter grazing. Some swath grazing has also been done.

■ *Richard White Bear, West McLean SCD:* White Bear reported the underwater oil pipeline near Watford City is moving forward.

Next meeting date and adjournment

The next quarterly meeting was scheduled for 10 a.m. (CST) Tuesday, April 12, 2016.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.