

Annual Meeting Minutes
Dakota West RC&D
Dickinson Research Extension Center
Dickinson, N.D.
Jan. 23, 2017

Call to order and attendance

President Jim Odermann called the annual meeting of Dakota West RC&D Area to order at 9:35 a.m. (MST).

Those attending were:

- Ron Decker, Stark and Billings Soil Conservation District (for Ron Obritsch)
- Frank Hatzenbuhler, director at large
- Pam Meier, Slope-Hettinger Soil Conservation District
- Loren Myran, director at large
- James Odermann, Southwest Water Authority
- Dr. Kris Ringwall, Dickinson Research Extension Center
- Sheila Stedman, Golden Valley Soil Conservation District
- Don Urlacher, Hettinger County Water Resource Board
- Duane Urlacher, Stark County Water Resource Board
- Shari Wick, Adams County SCD

Also attending was Susan Davis, executive director, and Bonnie Twogood, Stark and Billings SCD.

Davis reported that Camie Janikowski of Bowman-Slope SCD sent her an e-mail stating this SCD decided to not renew its membership in 2017. Davis read this e-mail.

Odermann declared a quorum as 10 of the now 14 (12 organizational and two at-large) board members were present. One-third of the members need to be present for a quorum.

Introductions and agenda

Self-introductions were made. Shari Wick is replacing Rod Buckmier to represent Adams County SCD and Ron Decker is filling in for Ron Obritsch of Stark and Billings SCD.

The group reviewed the agenda. A report by Duane Urlacher on the Western Association of RC&D Councils (Western) was added as item 7 and the agenda was approved by consensus.

Approval of minutes

The minutes from the Oct. 17, 2016, Dakota West RC&D quarterly meeting were reviewed. It was noted the minutes should state: "Recorded by Susan Davis for Don Urlacher, secretary."

Loren Myran moved to approve the Oct. 17, 2016, quarterly meeting minutes with this one change. The motion was seconded by Pam Meier and approved without dissent.

Treasurer's report

Treasurer Frank Hatzenbuhler reviewed the Dakota West check and deposit detail for 2016 and the profit and loss statement for 2016. Total income was \$1,553.43, which included \$1,050 in dues payments; \$500 from the National Association of RC&D Councils to help cover the costs for Duane Urlacher to attend the 2016

national conference; and \$3.43 in interest. Total expenses were \$18,888.76, which included \$1,076.33 for travel/training; \$140 for accountant fees; \$450 in dues; \$10 in license fees; \$1,015.59 in meeting expenses; \$38.25 for office supplies/postage; \$6,500 for a contribution to the 319 grant checking account; \$8,885.96 for contract labor; \$571.13 for telephone/Internet; and \$189 for depreciation expense.

The Dakota West checking account balance is \$28,054.81 and the certificate of deposit totals \$5,909.42.

It was noted that the loss shown of \$17,335 is not accurate as not all of the dues payments of \$350 per organizational member are showing up on the 2016 financial reports. In addition, the \$6,500 contribution to set up a 319 grant checking account with Dakota Prairies RC&D should be listed as an asset.

It was recommended that Hazenbuhler contact the accounting firm of Mahlum Goodhart to correct these items in QuickBooks.

Loren Myran moved to hire someone to get the QuickBooks accounts up to date. The motion was seconded by Duane Urlacher and approved without dissent.

Don Urlacher moved to approve the financials and file for audit. The motion was seconded by Ron Decker and approved without dissent.

Budget for 2017

The group reviewed the draft budget for 2017.

It was suggested the projected \$75 interest income be eliminated as interest has been much lower than that. In addition, Dr. Kris Ringwall said he is concerned the 319 grant projected income and expenses are part of the Dakota West budget as Dakota Prairies RC&D is the grantee. He recommended keeping the 319 accounting separate and remove the projected income and expenses from the 2017 budget. The rest of the directors agreed by consensus.

With these two changes, the total income is \$4,200 (membership dues) and the total expenses are \$8,130.

Don Urlacher moved to approve the corrected 2017 budget of \$4,200 in income and \$8,130 in expenses. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kris Ringwall and approved without dissent.

Project/activity reports from members

- *Pam Meier:* Slope-Hettinger SCD has 12 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts. Ashley Timm was hired in August as the new district technician. She will work with the tree program and assist with contracts.

- *Sheila Stedman:* Golden Valley SCD has 67 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) contracts and one EQIP contract. Five out of 22 EQIP applications were ranked. Tree numbers are up, with 50,000 feet of trees to plant this spring.

- *Dr. Kris Ringwall:* The Dickinson Research Extension Center will submit a 319 grant request to work on a soil health project that involves land near the new hospital. Ryan Buetow will work on the grant application and project.

- *Bonnie Twogood:* Stark and Billings SCD has eight funded EQIP contracts and 16 Grassland Reserve Program contracts. A new clerk was hired to replace Jolyn Wasem, who recently resigned. The accounting books for Western SCD and Central Stark SCDs have now been consolidated into one account. A new

federal identification and tax numbers were obtained and vehicle titles have been updated. Tree orders are being finalized and soil testing is being conducted. More than 140 hand plants will need to be done for the Ponderosa pines that died. The SCD will cover all the cost of replacing the trees. About 75 people attended the Jan. 4, 2017, Diversity, Direction & Dollars Agricultural Forum, which had 22 sponsors.

- *Loren Myran*: Myran reported his neighbor is feeding deer, which are struggling with the deep snow.

- *Duane Urlacher*: Urlacher reported he got some corn from Pheasants Forever to help feed pheasants. He said the antelope population may drop with the severe winter.

- *Shari Wick*: Adams County SCD received another four EQIP applications last week and more are expected. The SCD has eight Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) contracts. A minimum contract of \$1,100 was suggested. Tree orders total 98,000 feet. A lot of tree damage is expected, as tree rows are packed with snow and junipers are bent. The 11th annual Horticulture/Tree Workshop is scheduled for April 11.

- *Don Urlacher*: The Hettinger County Water Resource Board (WRB) will conduct a feasibility study on replacing a dam on the Cannonball River. An arch dam is being looked at. It needs to be about 100 feet wide. The dam's elevation is now at 13 feet, which is not expected to change. The North Dakota State Water Commission has 75 percent match funding, so the Hettinger County WRB will need to look for funding for 25 percent of the cost, which is expected to be about \$1.5 million. Construction will likely occur in 2018. The dam will be stocked with perch and walleye pike. The New England golf course is nearby.

- *Duane Urlacher*: The Stark County WRB is working on issues with the water channel that runs through Dickinson by Stockmen's Livestock Exchange. Easements have been abused by livestock grazers. The WRB would like to buy it out and control it. The city of Dickinson partners on keeping it clean and spurge out of it. Some grass has been reseeded.

Executive director report

Susan Davis reviewed her written report on activities performed since mid-July 2016. Highlights include:

- Completed Dakota West activities, including drafting the 2017 budget and printing annual meeting packets; forwarding event notices, funding opportunities and learning events to members; and corresponding with members, including Camie Janikowski, Bowman-Slope SCD, and Shari Wick, Adams SCD

- Western RC&D Association activities included reviewing Western related e-mails and notices and participating in conference calls

- Completed Water Wisdom 319 grant activities, including writing and submitting the fourth grant reimbursement request (October through December 2016); outreach to members; holding a Jan. 11 319 Granting Committee conference call; purchasing 47 soil health books from Jon Stika for director/members of Dakota West and Dakota Prairies; and holding discussions with Jay Fuhrer, Mary Podoll, Josh Dukart and others on the event work tasks

- Other activities included attending the North Dakota Association of SCD convention during November 2016 in Bismarck; and participating in a Jan. 11 teleconference with other RC&D employees

Davis distributed Stika's book, "*A Soil Owner's Manual: How to Restore and Maintain Soil Health*," to those in attendance.

Water Wisdom grant update

Davis reviewed the 319 checking account balance, which is \$12,904.29. Of the \$145,000 grant, \$27,238.53 has been reimbursed, leaving a balance of \$117,761.47. Local training and education project reimbursements total \$7,070, with an additional \$7,700 for two projects approved. This leaves a balance of \$45,230 of the \$60,000 budgeted for local projects. Davis said she will begin contacting the members of Dakota West and Dakota Prairies to encourage them to send in grant requests for local training and education.

Davis also reported that Burleigh County SCD, through a special grant from NRCS, is adding 32 new and innovative resource events as part of its Menoken Farm soil health demonstration site. The new events will feature educating SCD staff and supervisors and NRCS employees. The 32 events will take place during 2017 and 2018 and will include: 20 advanced soil health workshops; two leadership/local work groups workshops; two cropping systems workshops; two grazing systems events; two cover crops workshops; two soil-based gardening events; and two holistic management training events.

Davis recommended Dakota Prairies RC&D partner with Burleigh County SCD under the 319 Water Wisdom grant work plan to hold the planned advanced grazing workshop and two soil health workshops.

The directors discussed this recommendation, with the consensus that Dakota West RC&D should still hold one of the soil health workshops in its western North Dakota region as ranchers likely would not travel as far as the Bismarck area. There was agreement that it makes sense to partner with Burleigh County SCD on the other two workshops. Dr. Ringwall recommended inviting North Dakota Extension staff to all the Burleigh County/Menoken Farm workshops.

The group discussed either having the executive committee or a special soil health workshop planning committee address the western North Dakota soil health workshop.

Loren Myran moved to establish a soil health workshop planning committee for the Dakota West RC&D service area. The motion was seconded by Ron Decker and approved without dissent.

President Odermann appointed himself, Susan Davis, Duane Urlacher, Pam Meier and Dr. Kris Ringwall to this workshop planning committee.

Western RC&D Association

Duane Urlacher, second vice president of the Western RC&D Association, reported he and Davis participated in the Jan. 10 conference call. The Western annual conference that was scheduled for Feb. 19-21 in Boise, Idaho, was recently canceled as only a few people registered. Duane Urlacher had registered and booked a \$400 flight.

Western has about \$5,400 in its checking account and a CD of about \$8,000. Besides 2017 dues of \$150, Western may establish associate memberships at \$25 to bring in some additional income.

April quarterly meeting

The next quarterly meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 10, 2017. It will be held at 9:30 a.m. (MDT) at the Dickinson Research Extension Research Center.

Adjournment

President Odermann adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m. (MST)