

Annual Meeting Minutes
Dakota West RC&D
Dickinson Research Extension Center
Dickinson, N.D.
Jan. 8, 2018

Call to order and attendance

President Jim Odermann called the annual meeting of Dakota West RC&D Area to order at 9:40 a.m. (MST).

Those attending were:

- Frank Hatzenbuhler, director at large
- Jim Mossett, Three Affiliated Tribes
- Loren Myran, Director at large
- James Odermann, Southwest Water Authority
- Dr. Kris Ringwall, Dickinson Research Extension Center
- Sheila Stedman, Golden Valley SCD
- Kaylee Stein, Dunn County SCD
- Bonnie Twogood, Stark and Billings 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.

Odermann declared a quorum as 11 of the 12 (10 organizational and two at-large) board members were present. One-third of the members need to be present for a quorum.

Agenda

The group reviewed the agenda. The Missouri River Advisory Council was added as an agenda item and then the agenda was approved by consensus.

Approval of minutes

The minutes from the Oct. 23, 2017 quarterly meeting were reviewed. It was noted that on Carey Dreher's report Fort Berthold Reservation includes six counties (rather than eight).

Duane Urlacher moved to approve the Oct. 23, 2017, quarterly meeting minutes with this correction. The motion was seconded by Don Urlacher and approved without dissent.

Treasurer's report

Treasurer Frank Hatzenbuhler reviewed the profit and loss statement from 2017. Total income was \$3,218.50, which included \$3,150 in membership dues; and \$68.50 in interest. Expenses totaled \$5,893.57, which included \$4,563.22 for contract services and related expenses; \$665 for dues to other organizations; \$565.35 for telephone/Internet; \$95 for accounting/audit fees; and \$5 for filing fees.

It was noted that the Three Affiliated Tribes is the only organization that did not pay dues in 2017. Jim Mossett said to resend the invoice directly to him by e-mail and he will have the tribe's environment division of the natural resources department pay it.

The balance sheet for 2017 shows current assets of \$30,821.05. The checking account balance is \$24,813.31 and the CD at American Bank Center is \$5,913.84. The board briefly discussed whether to move the CD money to a fund with a higher interest rate. However, the money may not be as easy to access.

Kaylee Stein moved to leave the current certificate of deposit as is. The motion was seconded by Shari Wick and approved without dissent.

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

Dakota West 2018 budget

The board reviewed the proposed 2018 calendar year budget. Income is projected at \$6,825 and includes \$3,500 in dues; \$75 in interest; and \$3,250 from either the Dakota West checking account, additional dues from new members or half of the \$6,500 Water Wisdom checking account contribution.

Expenses are projected at \$6,239 and include \$4,015 in consulting services and related mileage; \$720 for catered meals; \$200 for accounting services; \$510 in dues to other organizations; \$200 for office supplies; \$564 for telephone/Internet; and \$30 for filing fees.

The group discussed the possibility of asking former members of the Williston Basin RC&D and Upper Dakota RC&D to become members of Dakota West. These two western RC&Ds are no longer active due to the federal budget cuts that occurred in 2011. Don Urlacher noted the dues could be lower for these possible members as they would not be eligible for local 319 grants for projects/events.

Dr. Kris Ringwall suggested that some or all of the North Dakota RC&Ds should merge. After a short discussion, there was consensus to begin discussions with other RC&Ds about the pros and cons of merging. A three-member merger committee will be formed to look at the possibility of merging Dakota West and Dakota Prairies or the four western RC&Ds (Dakota West, Dakota Prairies, Williston Basin and Upper Dakota) holding a meeting about merging.

Duane Urlacher moved to establish a six-member subcommittee (with three from Dakota West RC&D and three from Dakota Prairies RC&D) to work together to discuss the feasibility of consolidations of RC&D programs within western North Dakota. The motion was seconded by Shari Wick and approved without dissent.

Loren Myran moved to approve the 2018 budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Sheila Stedman and approved without dissent.

Project/activity reports from members

■ *James Odermann:* Odermann said Southwest Water Authority Chairman Larry Bares received the 2017 Water Wheel Award at the 54th Annual Joint North Dakota Water Convention and Irrigation Workshop. He was recognized for his passion for quality water. Duane Urlacher also attended the event. Odermann also reported Larry Stang died and will be replaced on the Southwest Water Authority board.

■ *Sheila Stedman:* Stedman reported she is now working part time for NRCS under an Ultima Services Corp. contract.

Executive director report

Susan Davis reviewed her written report on activities performed since the Oct. 23, 2017, quarterly meeting. Highlights include:

- Completed Dakota West activities, including writing and distributing the Oct. 23 minutes; setting up and preparing for the Jan. 8, 2018, annual meeting; completing a draft 2018 budget for Dakota West.
- Completed Water Wisdom 319 grant activities, including doing PowerPoint presentation on new Soil and Water Wisdom 319 grant proposal and presenting at Dec. 6 319 Task Force meeting; arranged for and participated in three 319 Granting Committee conference calls (Nov. 13, Nov. 29 and Dec. 8) to discuss project requests; and updated Water Wisdom charts.
- Outreach included attending a Nov. 8 Farming and Food workshop sponsored by the Great Plains Food Bank, NRCS, North Dakota Department of Agriculture and USDA Rural Development; and attending a local foods meeting with USDA Rural Development Dec. 12.

Western RC&D Association

Duane Urlacher, second vice president for the Western RC&D Association, reported he participated in the Western RC&D Association's Dec. 19 conference call. The 2017 dues for Western were reduced from \$150 to \$75. Dakota West had already paid \$150 so is prepaid for 2018 dues that are expected to remain at \$75.

Western has about \$1,483 in its checking account and \$4,800 in a certificate of deposit. It also has a \$6,173 scholarship account. The next Western conference call is March 13.

Duane Urlacher also reported the National Association of RC&Ds has scheduled a conference in Minneapolis for Sept. 23-26. It will be held at the Doubletree. NARC&D has about \$16,992 in its checking account. The acting director renewed a five-year lease for office space for \$5,000 a month, which has caused a lot of concern with the low amount in the checking account. NARC&D formerly had a sublesser that paid \$2,500 on this office space, but that tenant has departed.

319 grant funding

Davis reviewed the 319 Water Wisdom grant balances to date. Of the \$60,000 approved for local events, about \$40,400 has been spent or committed, leaving about \$19,600 for local projects.

Greg Sandness, the NPS coordinator at the North Dakota Department of Health, has questioned whether Stark & Billings SCD's DDD Agricultural Forum has enough water quality information to qualify for the \$3,500 grant it was awarded from the 319 Granting Committee. Davis will work with Bonnie Twogood to see how much will qualify for reimbursement.

Sandness approved a six-month extension for the Water Wisdom project. The new end date is now Dec. 31, 2018.

Davis reviewed the PowerPoint and reported the Dec. 6 presentation on the new Soil and Water Wisdom & Conservation Management Project went well. The total requested is \$184,682.

Per diem/mileage for at-large directors

Davis and Hatzenbuhler reviewed the Dakota West RC&D Dec. 20, 2010, minutes that show the Executive Board approved honorariums be paid to Executive Board meetings, at-large members and outside meeting attendance. The honorariums were to follow the SCC meeting rate set by state law (\$62.50). The motion was

made by Loren Myran and seconded by Frank Hatzenbuhler. Voting aye were Myran, Hatzenbuhler and Duane Urlacher. Voting nay was Dennis Reich.

It was noted that the full board meeting minutes were needed to find out how the full board voted on this issue. Davis and Hatzenbuhler will do further research on this issue. It was noted by several directors that the SCD meeting rate is still at \$62.50.

Missouri River Advisory Council

Jim Mossett reported that there is a meeting of the Missouri River Advisory Council Jan. 9, 2018. The Dakota West RC&D board may want to consider joining this group. He will bring back more information from this Jan. 9 meeting.

Election of officers

President James Odermann announced that those currently serving as officers (Odermann, president; Don Urlacher, secretary; and Frank Hatzenbuhler, treasurer) have served their term limits. The position of vice president is open as it was filled by Pam Meier of Slope-Hettinger SCD, which is no longer a member.

Odermann said he had talked to the following members who agreed to accept position nominations. Don Urlacher, president; Shari Wick, vice president; Frank Hatzenbuhler, secretary; and Loren Myran, treasurer.

Duane Urlacher moved to nominate Don Urlacher as president, Shari Wick as vice president, Frank Hatzenbuhler as secretary and Loren Myran as treasurer. The motion was seconded by Sheila Stedman.

Duane moved to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Don Urlacher as president, Shari Wick as vice president, Frank Hatzenbuhler as secretary and Loren Myran as treasurer. The motion was seconded by Sheila Stedman and approved without dissent.

Merger Committee

After gauging interest, new President Don Urlacher appointed James Odermann, Sheila Stedman and Duane Urlacher to the Dakota West Merger Committee. Davis will report this information at the Dakota Prairies RC&D annual meeting Jan. 9, 2018, and set up a meeting for the two councils to meet. Don Urlacher will be an alternate on this Dakota West committee.

Next quarterly meeting

The next quarterly meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 9, 2018. It will be held at 9:30 a.m. (MDT) at the Dickinson Research Extension Research Center.

Adjournment

President Don Urlacher adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m. (MST)

Recorded by Susan Davis for Don Urlacher, former secretary, and Frank Hatzenbuhler, new secretary