



DAKOTA PRAIRIES RC&D COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Jan. 9, 2018 10 a.m. (CDT)

Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck, N.D.

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	
Rod Beck	Burleigh County WRB		X
Rhonda Kelsch	Emmons County SCD		X
Connie Schily	Grant County SCD	X	
Bill Koch	Grant County Commission	X	
Cortney Kartes	Kidder County SCD	X	
Penny Nester	Kidder County Commission	X	
Doug Krebsbach	McLean County Commission		X
Richard Perkerewicz	South McLean SCD	X	
Richard White Bear	West McLean SCD	X	
Sarah Tunge	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	
Nicole Wardner	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 Cindy Makedonski called the annual meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Attending were Darci Gahner, Cortney Kartes, Bill Koch, Ron Leingang, Cindy Makedonski, Gary Murray, Penny Nester, Richard Perkerewicz, Doug Schonert, Connie Schily, Sarah Tunge, Fawn Wasin Zi and Richard White Bear. Also attending was Susan Davis, executive director, Dakota Prairies RC&D.

Agenda and minutes

The agenda was reviewed.

Richard Perkerewicz moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Bill Koch and approved.

Minutes of the Oct. 17, 2017, quarterly meeting were reviewed by Penny Nester, secretary.

Sarah Tunge moved to approve the Oct. 17, 2017, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ron Leingang and approved.

Financial report

Susan Davis presented the profit and loss statement for 2017. Total income was \$197,235 and total expenses were \$192,658, for a net income of \$5,267.

The largest income source was consulting fees from Burleigh County SCD and Dakota West RC&D. These totaled \$32,473. Membership dues totaled \$9,700. Other income was grant funds, with most of it going back out in reimbursements. Expenses included \$48,080 for executive director contract fees; \$8,280 for office rent; \$3,333 in Council quarterly meeting expenses; \$1,959 for telephone/Internet; and \$1,223 for 319 Granting Committee expenses.

Account balances are: \$11,570 in the 319 checking account at Dakota Community Bank (DCB); \$15,459 in the main checking account at DCB; \$45,027 in the special project account at Kirkwood Bank & Trust; and \$13,028 in the two certificates of deposit at Kirkwood Bank & Trust.

Davis also reviewed the deposit detail and the check detail for 2017. The only dues invoice not paid in 2017 was Grant County Commission, which decided to not renew its membership. This invoice is for \$300.

Doug Schonert moved to void or delete this \$300 invoice. The motion was seconded by Gary Murray and approved.

The board briefly discussed whether the \$45,027 in the special project account at Kirkwood Bank & Trust should be moved into a higher interest-bearing account. The board agreed by consensus to leave it in Kirkwood Bank & Trust in case some of this money is needed for operating costs if Dakota Prairies is not awarded a new 319 grant.

Doug Schonert moved to approve the financial report. The motion was seconded by Richard Perkerewicz and approved.

Executive director report

Susan Davis reviewed a written report of her activities since the last quarterly meeting. Highlights include: 1) Corresponded with IRS on a possible penalty for filing Form 990 late; 2) arranged and participated in 319 Granting Committee conferences calls; 3) prepared draft budget for Dakota West RC&D and arranged and attended Dakota West annual meeting Jan. 8; 4) prepared draft budget for Dakota Prairies and made arrangements for annual meeting; 5) attended planning meetings and performed work under "Healing the Land," the Burleigh County SCD grant for expanded training and education at Menoken Farm; 6) helped

prepare and submit Menoken Farm 319 reimbursement request in mid-November; and 7) conducted outreach on the Specialty Crop Block Grant.

Water Wisdom 319 grant report

Bill Koch and Susan Davis, members of the 319 Granting Committee, reported a balance of about \$19,600 to grant to members for local projects and events. The 319 Granting Committee recently awarded \$3,500 to Stark & Billings SCD for its annual Diversity, Direction & Dollars Agricultural Forum. However, after reviewing the agenda, Greg Sandness of the North Dakota Department of Health/Water Quality requested the grant be rescinded due to lack of emphasis on water quality.

A project approved but not listed is \$1,629 to Adams County SCD for root boxes. The six-month extension requested for the Water Wisdom 319 project was approved. The project will now end Dec. 31, 2018.

New 319 grant application

Davis reviewed the PowerPoint she created to present the new 319 grant proposal, "Soil and Water Wisdom & Conservation Management," to the 319 Task Force Dec. 6. Also attending the Dec. 6 Task Force meeting were Cindy Makedonski, Sarah Tunge and Richard White Bear. Davis reported she has not yet heard back from the Greg Sandness on the new grant application.

Menoken Farm 319 grant

Cindy Makedonski reported Burleigh County SCD recently received a letter that its 319 grant application for Menoken Farm, "Planting Green," was awarded \$165,000 of the \$234,000 requested. The work plan is for cover crops and education.

Adopt 2018 budget

Davis reviewed the proposed 2018 budget for Dakota Prairies. Total income projected is \$64,588 and total expenses are \$63,605.

Income includes Water Wisdom expense reimbursements, \$12,000; SCBG administration/consulting fees, \$12,350; Menoken Farm 319 administration fees, \$3,178; consulting hours for Healing the Land project, \$24,000, Dakota West consulting hours, \$3,600; and membership dues, \$9,400. Expenses include executive director services, \$48,000; office rent, \$8,280; Council meeting meals and mileage, \$3,300; telephone/Internet, \$1,200; 319 Granting Committee costs, \$880; and dues, \$600.

The board briefly discussed either moving the office to the NRCS state offices or finding a smaller office space for less money to save money on the current \$690 per month office rent.

Doug Schonert moved to approve the 2018 budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Penny Nester and approved.

Member/director reports

■ *Darci Gahner, Sheridan County SCD:* Gahner said Sheridan County SCD and McLean County Extension will hold an irrigation workshop in Turtle Lake the end of 2018. A ladies event is in May.

■ *Cortney Kartes, Kidder County SCD:* Kartes reported a Women in Ag Day is scheduled for Feb. 1. Tom Kalb is the main presenter.

■ *Ron Leingang, Morton County Commission:* Leingang reported several feedlot tours featuring runoff issues and soil management were held during the summer of 2017. Attendance was low during the summer, so these may be held during the fall of 2018.

■ *Cindy Makedonski, Burleigh County SCD:* Makedonski said she has been busy with year-end work and preparing for tree planting season. There are two "Healing the Land" events in February. The first is a

holistic management three-day school Feb. 21-23 at Menoken Farm. The second event is a Feb. 28 soil health workshop in Bismarck. A total of 30 tours and five major workshops were held during 2017.

■ *Gary Murray, Mercer County Commission:* Murray said the work on the Mercer County Courthouse is complete. It includes a 54-cell jail.

■ *Penny Nester, Kidder County Commission:* Nester said the Kidder County Extension Service recently held an Emergency Beef Livestock Response Management class in Steele. Other classes will be held in Rugby, Buffalo and Ellendale. More emergency management training is planned for the future, especially for livestock-related accidents. A beginning lambing workshop is scheduled for Jan. 17 in Tappen. It will include information on management and sheep nutrition. Brett Stroh and Travis Hoffman will lead the event.

■ *Connie Schily, Grant County SCD:* Schily said Grant County SCD was awarded a 319 grant for the Antelope Creek Watershed project. Antelope Creek runs into the Heart River. This SCD also administers a \$900,000 grant Oliver, Morton and Grant counties received from the Outdoor Heritage Fund for the O-M-G Grasslands Improvement Project. Grant County SCD partnered with the Extension Service to do a Grant County Ag Day. It featured a producer panel discussing drought management.

■ *Sarah Tunge, Mercer County SCD:* Tunge reported she is getting ready for tree season and has been busy with end-of-the-year work.

■ *Fawn Wasin Zi, Standing Rock Land Management:* Wasin Zi reported a new tribal conservation district is being formed with a new board. It will also take part in the Cedar SCD district. Wasin Zi recently helped Sitting Bull College do bison genetic testing.

■ *Richard White Bear, West McLean County SCD:* White Bear said supervisor Byron Holtan has resigned. Jay Hanson will fill his remaining one-year term. Board meetings will now be the second Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. The awards banquet is Jan. 17. White Bear's term as SCD chairman ends in March.

Election of new officers

President Makedonski said three current officers have agreed to serve if nominated for the following positions: Darci Gahner, president; Penny Nester, vice president; and Cindy Makedonski, treasurer.

Sarah Tunge nominated Darci Gahner as president. The motion was seconded by Connie Schily and approved.

Darci Gahner nominated Penny Nester as vice president. The motion was seconded by Doug Schonert and approved.

Connie Schily nominated Cindy Makedonski as treasurer. The motion was seconded by Ron Leingang and approved.

Darci Gahner nominated Cortney Kartes as secretary. The motion was seconded by Ron Leingang and approved.

Dakota West RC&D

Davis reported the topic of RC&Ds merging came up at the Jan. 8 Dakota West RC&D annual meeting. Dakota West appointed a three-person merger committee to discuss merging with Dakota Prairies or the four western RC&Ds (Dakota West, Dakota Prairies, Williston Basin and Upper Dakota). Dakota Prairies established a three-member merger committee made up of Darci Gahner, Penny Nester and Sarah Tunge. Davis will arrange for a meeting between the merger committees of the two councils.

Next meeting date and adjournment

Tuesday, April 3, 2018, is the next quarterly meeting date. The meeting will be held at 10 a.m. at the Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.