



DAKOTA PRAIRIES RC&D COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Oct. 13, 2015 10 a.m. (CDT)

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	
Helen Schatz	Burleigh County Commission	X	
Terry Fleck	Burleigh County WRB		X
Rhonda Vetsch	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	
Vacant	Mercer County Commission		
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
Joe Smith	Standing Rock Conser. District		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 council members Wes Frederick, Darci Garner, Jackie Hewitt, Bill Koch, Cindy Makedonski, Dawn Martin, Richard Perkerwicz, Helen Schatz and Richard White Bear. Also attending was Susan Davis, executive director of Dakota Prairies RC&D.

Approval of minutes

Minutes of the July 21, 2015, quarterly meeting minutes were reviewed.

Helen Schatz moved to approve the July 21, 2015, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Richard Perkerwicz and approved.

Financial report

Davis reviewed the balance sheet as of Sept. 30, 2015, which shows total checking and savings of \$89,536. This includes \$15,569 in the Dakota Community Bank checking account and \$60,928 in the Kirkwood Bank & Trust special project account. The two CDs total \$12,989.

Accounts receivable total \$2,809 and reflects what is owed from Dakota West RC&D

Davis explained that the Dakota Community Bank balance is lower as a result of a recording error on QuickBooks. The functions for recording deposits and accepting payments were both showing up on the financials so anything not a direct deposit (electronic payments from the North Dakota Department of Health and the North Dakota Department of Agriculture) was being duplicated.

Davis also pointed out that under liabilities and equity the payroll liability of \$456.49 is not owed, but it is difficult to eliminate anything connected to payroll.

Wes Frederick 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 April 21, 2015. Highlights include: 1) Submitted monthly reimbursement requests in August and September to the North Dakota Department of Health; 2) researched tabletop rainfall simulators and other educational items and created and distributed an order form to all Dakota Prairies and Dakota West members; 3) contacted members of 319 Granting Committee on several project requests; 4) followed up on several 319 projects; 5) arranged and participated in Oct. 1 conference call for the executive committees of both councils to discuss sharing all income and expenses under the new Water Wisdom 319 grant; 6) created a draft 319 budget for the two councils; and 7) spent considerable time on the two Specialty Crop Block Grants, which included tabulating survey results and writing final report and reimbursement request for grant 14-105, touring the Cannon Ball gardens with staff from USDA Rural Development in Washington, D.C. (Aug. 5 with Max Finberg and Oct. 2 with Elvis Cordova) and participating in an Oct. 8 meeting with Sue Isbell and staff of USDA Rural Development North Dakota to discuss a food processing facility at Cannon Ball.

319 Ad Hoc Granting Committee report

Bill Koch, a member of the Ad Hoc Granting Committee, and Davis reported the new available balance under the 2012-2015 319 grant is \$14,240. Grants approved total \$8,287. Bowman-Slope

withdrew its approved \$3,500 grant and a grant for Morton County SCD for \$2,040 was approved. The remaining grant amount will be used to fund the order for tabletop rainfall simulators (\$330), soil quality/water movement demonstration kits (\$295) and Solvita field soil testing packages (\$999).

Davis reported the orders for these three items have come in at \$22,727, much higher than anticipated and exceeding the 319 grant balance of \$14,240. There are also four final project requests, which total \$2,988.

Recommendations by Davis include funding in full the orders from four members that have not yet received any funding under this 2012 grant and capping the other orders at \$625. There was consensus with these recommendations and Davis will also review this with the Dakota West RC&D board. Then, the Ad Hoc Granting Committee will meet Oct. 29 to make the final decision.

Davis also reported she had researched ordering more of the noxious weed identification card notebooks for distribution to the members, but there will be no money left over for this.

Joint meeting with Dakota West RC&D

President Martin reported on the Oct. 1, 2015, teleconference of the executive committees of both councils and reviewed the minutes from this meeting. The meeting was to discuss sharing expenses and income under the new 319 grant, which began July 1, 2015. The outcome of this teleconference was an approved motion to have both councils share all income and expenses under the new Water Wisdom 319 grant and to have each council contribute a year's worth of money as determined by the executive director and executive committees.

Martin recommended a separate checking account be established to share income and expenses under the Water Wisdom 319 project, with each council contributing the same amount for an opening balance. Then, all money coming in and going out related to the Water Wisdom 319 project would go through this account. Using this method, each council can keep its own dues structure, but each still pays its fair share to begin the account. If this partnership ever dissolves, the remaining account balance could be evenly divided.

Wes Frederick moved to approve opening a separate banking account for the Water Wisdom 319 grant project, with each council contributing between \$5,000 and \$10,000 (with the recommendation of \$6,500) to begin the account. The motion was seconded by Richard Perkerwicz and approved.

This issue and the actions of this board will be part of the agenda of the Oct. 14, 2015, meeting of Dakota West RC&D.

Council membership dues for 2016

The board held a short discussion on the 2016 membership dues. There was consensus that is too late in the year to have this discussion as members have already done their budgets for 2016.

Helen Schatz moved to approve leaving the dues the same for 2016 and to review an increase for 2017 by June 2016. The motion was seconded by Darci Garner and approved.

Member/director reports

■ *Darci Garner, Sheridan County SCD:* Garner reported the Fall Fling event this SCD recently held drew 60 people. The event focused on water quality and small soil testing kits were given to participants. Tom Kalb, an Extension Service horticulture specialist, was the main presenter.

■ *Cindy Makedonski, Burleigh County SCD:* There have been numerous tours of the Menoken Farm, including 30 from NDSU who are visiting the 319-funded site today, Oct. 13. On Oct. 22, there will be an Ag Lender and Landowner Workshop at Menoken Farm that will focus on soil health. This SCD is holding an appreciation mixer Nov. 5. Also, Ken Miller is retiring the end of 2015 and Darrell Oswald will move into this position. The SCD is looking for a new technician, but has not received any applications. Makedonski will also advertise this position on www.bismanonline.com.

■ *Wes Frederick, Grant County SCD:* This SCD purchased a new International tractor due to the increase in tree plantings. Frederick credits the tree planting grant through the Outdoor Heritage Fund for the rise in tree plantings, which before had been tapering off. The tractor was purchased at Northern Plains Equipment, which Frederick said offers good incentives to SCDs. International is also donating more small tractors.

The board discussed that in some counties in western North Dakota producers need to supply the tractor, which is not as efficient and makes scheduling difficult.

■ *Helen Schatz, Burleigh County Commission:* Schatz reported this will be her last meeting as she is stepping down from this board due to health issues. She is a former treasurer of this council and has been a longtime board member. She encouraged this council to reach out to the county commission members to get their participation. She said the North Dakota Association of Counties is having its annual convention soon and recommended securing a booth or attending to share what Dakota Prairies RC&D has accomplished since 2000. Those in attendance thanked her for her service, saying she fought for this council and was a strong voice for it.

Annual meeting and adjournment

The next quarterly meeting will be the annual meeting with election of officers. It was set for 10 a.m. (CST) Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Davis, executive director, Dakota Prairies RC&D Council