



DAKOTA PRAIRIES RC&D COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Oct. 17, 2017 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
Wes Frederick	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, Cindy Makedonski, Gary Murray, Penny Nester, Duane Olsen, Sarah Tunge, Deb Vollmuth, 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.

Duane Olsen moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Deb Vollmuth and approved.

Minutes of the July 11, 2017, quarterly meeting were reviewed by Penny Nester, secretary.

Sarah Tunge moved to approve the July 11, 2017, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Bill Koch and approved.

Financial report

Susan Davis presented the profit and loss statement year to date. Total income is \$146,566 and total expenses are \$143,845 for a net income of \$2,721. The program income from dues totals \$9,700.

Account balances are: \$24,633 in the 319 checking account at Dakota Community Bank (DCB); \$1,244 in the main checking account at DCB; \$45,019 in the special project account at Kirkwood Bank & Trust; and \$13,024 in the two certificates of deposit at Kirkwood Bank & Trust. Davis explained that some of the money in the 319 account will be transferred to the main checking account to cover 319 expenses. The reimbursements from the North Dakota Department of Health are electronically deposited into the 319 checking account. Davis also reviewed the deposit detail and the check detail.

Deb Vollmuth 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. Highlights include: 1) Completed and submitted IRS Form 990; 2) prepared and submitted the quarterly Water Wisdom 319 grant reimbursement request; 3) wrote and submitted new 319 grant application; 4) researched, wrote and submitted second annual report for Water Wisdom 319 grant; 5) worked with Cindy Makedonski to prepare and submit a 319 Menoken Farm reimbursement request; 6) worked with Makedonski and Jay Fuhrer to write and submit a new Menoken Farm 319 grant application; 7) helped write the second annual report for the current Menoken Farm 319 grant; 8) attended planning meetings and performed work under "Healing the Land," the Burleigh County SCD grant for expanded training and education at Menoken Farm; 9) arranged and attended July 17 quarterly meeting of Dakota West RC&D; 10) completed and submitted two reimbursement requests under the Specialty Crop Block Grant project at Standing Rock Reservation; and 11) helped prepare for and attended a garden tour and harvest dinner Aug. 24 in Cannon Ball.

Dakota Prairies RC&D's new 319 grant application

Davis reviewed the new 319 grant proposal, "Soil and Water Wisdom & Conservation Management," which was submitted Oct. 2, 2017. It requests \$184,682 in funding to serve an expanded area of 28 counties. In addition to the 10 counties served by Dakota Prairies RC&D and the eight counties served by Dakota West RC&D, the work will include 10 western North Dakota counties not currently served by active RC&D councils. The 10 counties are Divide, McKenzie, Williams, Burke, Renville, Bottineau, Mountrail, Ward, McHenry and Pierce. The four main work objectives:

1. *Deliver solutions for poor-quality livestock water:* Plan and hold 14 county-wide and 2 reservation-wide livestock watering workshops.
2. *Deliver regional soil quality action plan workshops:* Plan and hold four RC&D regional and two reservation-wide soil quality workshops.
3. *Plan/deliver organizational training to SCDs and WRDs:* Plan program and distribute list of planning/organizational seminars and deliver specialized organizational training as requested.
4. *Sponsor local water quality events/projects:* \$60,000 to provide help for local water quality education.

Davis thanked members who participated in a conference call to discuss ideas for the grant application and formed into a committee to help with the application. Members included Cindy Makedonski, Sarah Tunge, Darci Gahner and Deb Vollmuth.

Greg Sandness at the North Dakota Department of Health/Water Quality has scheduled grant application presentations for Dec. 6, 2017, in Bismarck. Davis will share this information and urged members to attend to support the application.

Water Wisdom 319 grant report

Bill Koch, a member of the 319 Granting Committee, and Susan Davis reported there is a balance of \$21,237 to grant to members for local projects and events. The funding under the new combined objective 2 and 3 is on track to be spent. This now reads: “Leadership/local work groups training; two regional soil health workshops; and one statewide advanced grazing workshop.”

Dakota Prairies RC&D contributed \$10,000 of its 319 grant funds to Burleigh County SCD to help sponsor grasslands leader Allan Savory’s July 2017 events. In addition, the following has been allocated to fulfill the rest of work under the combined objectives 2 and 3: \$10,000 to help sponsor a soil health workshop with Burleigh County SCD/Menoken Farm; \$12,867 to help sponsor leadership and a local work groups primer; and \$10,333 for the Dickinson Research Extension Center to hold a soil health workshop in western North Dakota. The soil health workshop will be held Feb. 28, 2018, at Bismarck State College and the leadership/local work groups primer training will be held during the Nov. 20-22, 2017, annual convention of the North Dakota Association of SCDs. The western North Dakota soil health workshop was held Sept. 20, 2017 at the Dickson Research Extension Center Ranch near Manning. About 110 attended the event.

Davis also briefly reviewed the annual report for Dakota Prairies RC&D’s current 319 grant. The report covers July 1, 2015, through Aug. 31, 2017.

Menoken Farm

Cindy Makedonski reported that the July events under the Healing the Land grant Burleigh County SCD received from NRCS were successful. The Midwest Bugfest featured Dr. Jonathan Lundgren and multiple events were held July 12 and 13. The Northern Plains Grasslands Symposium, which featured Allan Savory, was held July 19 and 20. There were four separate events, which drew a combined total of about 735 people. The annual Menoken Farm Cover Crop Tour was held Sept. 14 and featured Justin Zahradka.

Dues for 2018

The board briefly discussed membership dues for 2018. Current dues are based on county populations, with the lowest dues at \$300 and the highest at \$1,200. Because members have already done their 2018 budgets, dues will likely need to be left the same for 2018 and discussed at the July 2018 quarterly meeting for 2019.

Penny Nester moved to keep the membership dues the same for 2018. The motion was seconded by Richard White Bear and approved.

Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG)

Davis reported the new SCBG that began Oct. 1, 2016, is going well. The \$199,351 grant is to grow specialty crops (vegetables and fruits) to improve healthy food access on the Standing Rock Reservation.

Member/director reports

- *Darci Gahner, Sheridan County SCD:* Gahner said Women's Ag Day was held Sept. 26. It was co-sponsored by Sheridan County SCD and Sheridan County Extension. The SCD is busy with soil testing.
- *Cortney Kartes, Kidder County SCD:* Kartes reported this SCD sponsored a Sept. 11 Eco-Ed event with sixth-grade students. Beth Budolski, an NRCS soil scientist, brought a soil tunnel for the event. Kartes has been hired to perform some part-time work for NRCS, serving Kidder and Burleigh counties. She will work 4 to 12 hours a week for Kidder County SCD and 28 hours a week under the Ultima/NRCS contract.
- *Gary Murray, Mercer County Commission:* Murray said the commission just finished the budget for 2018. Because of state cutbacks, a 2.6 percent tax increase was needed. The budget includes a township road fund.
- *Penny Nester, Kidder County Commission:* Nester reported an emergency response system meeting will be held Dec. 13 in Steele. It will include information on what to do at the site of an accident where cattle are involved.
- *Duane Olsen, Morton County SCD:* Morton County SCD continues its work with Burleigh County SCD on Menoken Farm events.
- *Sarah Tunge, Mercer County SCD:* Tunge reported 123 students attended the 8th Grade Conservation Tour in September. Mercer SCD is partnering with the National Park District to conduct a project at Knife River Indian Villages next year. The SCD is wrapping up tree counts and working on mitigation contracts.
- *Fawn Wasin Zi, Standing Rock Land Operation:* Wasin Zi reported the new chairman of the Standing Rock Council, Mike Faith, supports natural resources and wants to hold more producer meetings. She may submit a project request for 319 grant money to hold a water quality-related educational event.
- *Richard White Bear, West McLean County SCD:* White Bear reported the SCD recently held an Eco-Ed event for sixth-graders. The SCD is selling its old grass drill on bids. The soil conservation winner was recently chosen.
- *Deb Vollmuth, Cedar SCD:* Vollmuth said Cedar SCD is hosting the 2018 Area IV meeting, which may be held in July. The no-till garden was a big success, with an over-abundance of pumpkins. There are 88 more NUTBAL samples to come in and Vollmuth is also doing Haney soil testing. The first planning meeting for the 2018 Earth Day Festival will be held next week.

Annual meeting date and adjournment

The directors set Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2018, as the annual meeting date. The meeting will be held at 10 a.m. at the Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck.

Davis reported officer elections will take place at the annual meeting. Current officers have served the maximum two years. They are Cindy Makedonski, president; Darci Gahner, vice president; Penny Nester, secretary; and Doug Schonert, treasurer. Davis said Gahner has agreed to run for president, Nester has agreed to run for vice president, and Makedonski has agreed to run for treasurer. Davis will contact Schonert about a new officer position. Nester cannot serve as treasurer. Nominations will be taken at the annual meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.