



## DAKOTA PRAIRIES RC&D COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Oct. 18, 2016      10 a.m. (CDT)

Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck, ND

**RC&D Council attendance was recorded as follows :**

<u>RC&amp;D Representative:</u>	<u>Organization Represented:</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>Unable to Attend</u>
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	
Dawn Martin	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
Cynthia Wahl	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&amp;D Staff</u>			
Susan Davis, ED	Dakota Prairies RC&D	X	

## **Call to order**

President Cindy Makedonski called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Attending were Cortney Kartes, Bill Koch, Ron Leingang, Cindy Makedonski, Gary Murray, Duane Olsen, Richard Perkerewicz, Deb Vollmuth, Fawn Wasin Zi and Richard White Bear. Also attending was Susan Davis, executive director of Dakota Prairies RC&D.

## **Agenda and minutes**

The agenda was reviewed.

*Duane Olsen moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ron Leingang and approved.*

Susan Davis reported two sets of minutes need to be approved, as there was not a quorum at the July 19, 2016, meeting.

Minutes of the April 12, 2016, quarterly meeting were reviewed.

*Ron Leingang moved to approve the April 12, 2016, quarterly meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Bill Koch and approved.*

Minutes of the July 19, 2016, quarterly meeting were reviewed.

*Deb Vollmuth moved to approve the July 19, 2016, quarterly meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Richard Perkerewicz and approved.*

## **Financial report**

Davis reported the financial report presented at the July 19, 2016, meeting, and the current financial report both need to be approved.

The financial report presented July 19 showed \$95,527 in total income and \$55,391 in total expenses for a total of \$7,017 in net income. Account balances were \$12,959 in the Dakota Community Bank checking account; \$19,310 in the 319 checking account; and \$44,959 in the special project account. The three-month CD was \$6,337 and the six-month CD was \$6,662. The check and deposit details were also reviewed.

*Richard Perkerewicz moved to approve the financial report presented Oct. 18, 2016. The motion was seconded by Deb Vollmuth and approved.*

The board reviewed the financial statements dated Jan. 1, 2016, to Oct. 18, 2016. Total income was \$158,039 and total expenses was \$158,612. Account balances were \$6,937 in the Dakota Community bank checking account; \$23,744 in the 319 checking account; and \$44,974 in the special projects account. The two CDs total \$13,006. The board also reviewed the check and deposit details.

*Richard Perkerewicz 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 meeting, which was July 19, 2016. Highlights include: 1) Prepared and submitted the third Water Wisdom 319 grant reimbursement request; 2) wrote and submitted the Water Wisdom 319 grant annual report; 3) planned and prepared for Dakota Prairies and Dakota West quarterly meetings; 4) helped write annual report for the Menoken Farm 319 project; 5)

completed and submitted two quarterly reimbursements requests under the Specialty Crop Block Grant; 6) attended a USDA Rural Development workshop on rural issue; 7) prepared and submitted a \$500 stipend request from the National Association of RC&D Councils and received \$800; and 8) helped rewrite Burleigh County SCD grant proposal to NRCS for expanded training programming at Menoken Farm

### **Water Wisdom 319 grant report**

Davis reported \$17,911 has been dispersed to date and \$4,456 is pending from the \$145,000 Water Wisdom 319 grant. The pending amount is for expenses only as there were no member completed projects to submit. Of the \$60,000 available for member water quality training and education, only \$7,070 has been used. Davis has received one new project proposal from Western SCD for its annual Diversity, Direction & Dollars and Agricultural Forum. An informal request was also received from Bowman/Slope SCD, which is interested in purchasing copies of Jon Stika's book, *"A Soil Owner's Manual: How to Restore and Maintain Soil Health."* Stika is a retired North Dakota NRCS soil health specialist.

Davis passed around Stika's book for directors to review and many said they would be interested in a copy as well. She said members of the Dakota West RC&D board are also interested in getting copies of the book. The book sell for \$12.95 on Amazon. Davis will check on a discount for multiple copies.

Davis reported the balance in the Water Wisdom 319 grant checking account at Dakota Community Bank & Trust in Bismarck is now \$23,744. The balance on July 17, 2016, was \$19,309. This account was started with \$6,500 contributions from both Dakota West and Dakota Prairies.

Davis said she has not yet billed Dakota West for its share of 319 grant related expenses. She can either invoice Dakota West RC&D for its half of the expenses (which Dakota Prairies has already incurred) or Dakota Prairies can bill the 319 account for the entire amount. Davis will work with the executive committees of both councils on this issue.

### **Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG)**

Davis reported the previous SCBG for the Standing Rock community gardens, was spent down in September. The new grant for \$199,351 began Oct. 1, 2016, and ends Sept. 30, 2018. The project is titled "Growing specialty crops to improve healthy food access on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation." It expands the previous work by adding school gardens in McLaughlin, Bullhead and Little Eagle, S.D. The work plan also includes building 20 cattle panel greenhouses for disadvantaged and/or beginning farmers to produce specialty crops. Davis works with Sue Isbell, the director of the Sioux County Extension, on this project. Davis said she could also work with the Three Affiliated Tribes or other entities to help secure SCBG grant funding. There is no match required.

### **Dakota Prairies 2017 dues**

The board discussed the dues for 2017. Current dues are based on county population and range from \$300 to \$1,200. Davis reported the Dakota West board voted to leave its dues at \$350 for a second year. This board raised dues from \$200 to \$350 in 2016.

Some board members said they would like to see Dakota Prairies keep the dues the same for 2017 and not make our dues decisions based on what Dakota West does.

*Richard Perkerewicz moved to keep the dues the same for 2017. The motion was seconded by Deb Vollmuth and approved.*

## **Member/director reports**

■ *Cortney Kartes, Kidder County SCD*: Kartes began her new position as the clerk of this SCD the first week in August 2016. She reported Eco-Ed Day was held recently with 25 students from Steele and Tappen participating.

■ *Cindy Makedonski, Burleigh County SCD*: Makedonski reported there have been 33 tours at Menoken Farm since the beginning of 2016. A public forestry and wildlife tour was held Sept. 15. About 25 people attended to learn about trees and how to take care of them. A cover crop tour was held Sept. 29 with 84 in attendance. The SCD will hold an appreciation mixer and banquet Nov. 3.

■ *Duane Olsen, Morton County SCD*: Olsen reported this SCD recently held a soil health mentor workshop with 24 in attendance. Jay Fuhrer presented a demonstration with a rainfall simulator. Another workshop is scheduled for January 2017.

■ *Deb Vollmuth, Cedar SCD*: Vollmuth said she is currently the SCD's only employee. A technician may soon be hired, which will help with the workload. She is participating in a land & water usage workshop at Siting Bull College Oct. 20. She has been busy collecting NUTBAL manure samples through CSP. Planning has begun on the 2017 Earth Day Festival. She will participate in the Area 4 SCD Cooperative Research Farm board of directors meeting Nov. 15. Cedar is purchasing a grass drill with help from the North Dakota Game & Fish Department, which offers a grant to cover 75 percent of the cost. Game & Fish is paying \$30,000 and Cedar SCD will pay \$10,000.

■ *Fawn Wasin Zi, Standing Rock Land Department*: Wasin Zi reported she has been busy with lease advertisements for grazing permits. There are 400 range units. The advertisements went out in August and she has been reviewing them. Nov. 1 is the start date. A noxious weed workshop may be held this spring. Leafy spurge, Canada thistle and wormweed are some weeds that will be addressed.

■ *Richard White Bear, West McLean County SCD*: White Bear reported this SCD held its seventh and eighth grade conservation tour at Lake Audubon near Totten Trail during September. Attending were students from three schools—Garrison, Max and White Shield.

## **Annual meeting date and adjournment**

The directors set Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2017, as the annual 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 11:55 a.m.