

**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**  
Dakota West RC&D  
Dickinson Research Extension Center  
Dickinson, N.D.  
Oct. 23, 2017

**Call to order and attendance**

Secretary Don Urlacher called the annual meeting of Dakota West RC&D Area to order at 9:30 a.m. (MDT). President James Odermann was unable to attend.

Those attending were:

- Frank Hatzenbuhler, director at large
- Jim Mossett, Three Affiliated Tribes
- Loren Myran, director at large
- Dr. Kris Ringwall, Dickinson Research Extension Center
- Bonnie Twogood, Stark and Billings Soil Conservation District
- Don Urlacher, Stark County Water Resource Board
- Shari Wick, Adams County Soil Conservation District

Also attending was Susan Davis, executive director, and Carey Dreher, NRCS resource conservationist, New Town. Dreher, who works in an advisory capacity with the Three Affiliated Tribes, will begin attending the Dakota West meetings. Davis will add him to the Listserv.

There was a quorum as seven 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 and approved it by consensus after adding the election of officers at the January 2018 annual meeting.

**Approval of minutes**

The minutes from the July 17, 2017, Dakota West RC&D annual meeting were reviewed. Frank Hatzenbuhler noted that under his report it should say he planted pollinator seeds on his farm.

*Bonnie Twogood moved to approve the July 17, 2017, quarterly meeting minutes with this correction. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kris Ringwall and approved without dissent.*

**Treasurer's report**

Treasurer Frank Hatzenbuhler reported the total current assets are \$33,129.82 and include \$27,128.82 in the general checking account at American Bank Center and \$5,913.84 in the certificate of deposit. The CD was renewed Aug 12, 2017. The new annual percentage yield is 0.10 percent. The check detail shows four checks monthly checks written to Consolidated Telcom for a total of \$188.46.

The balance sheet shows current liabilities of \$2,430.54 (a Visa credit card payable of \$2,429.84 and contract labor of 70 cents). Hatzenbuhler is working to delete these.

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

### **Project/activity reports from members**

■ *Carey Dreher*: Dreher reported that as the NRCS tribal liaison, he works with all the field officers on the Fort Berthold Reservation, which includes eight counties. He helps with tree plantings around homesteads and fencing. He has helped with work at the former Dean Meyer farm, which the tribe purchased to raise buffalo. The farm needed water-related assistance. Several miles of pipeline and tanks were installed and the farm tapped into the Rural Water System. Dreher used to attend the Dakota West RC&D meetings and will now start attending again.

■ *Frank Hatzenbuhler*: Hatzenbuhler reported the pollinator seed he planted on five acres at his farm drew many bees and monarch butterflies. Although he planted the seeds in June, the growth didn't happen until the August rainfall. He got the pollinator seed from Pheasants Forever and added turnip, soybean and radish seeds.

■ *Jim Mossett*: Mossett, the pesticide program manager for Three Affiliated Tribes, said most complaints from farmers on the pesticide applications are on drifting. Traps were put out in July for the emerald ash ring borer. Mossett also did a recent project on testing wells for pollution, including farm chemicals.

■ *Loren Myran*: Myran reported that some years ago (when Jared Andrist was the Dakota West coordinator) at-large directors were authorized to be paid per diem and mileage for attending RC&D board meetings. This has never been done and no form to submit for such expenses has been provided by Dakota West. He would like this to be looked into with the hope the minutes will provide the information necessary to correct this. Myran also suggested Dakota West RC&D start a dialogue with the North Dakota State Water Commission and the North Dakota Department of Health/Water Quality about testing for Roundup herbicide and pesticides in water sources.

■ *Dr. Kris Ringwall*: The Dickinson Research Extension Center hosted Sen. Heidi Heitkamp for a soil health tour. Before the event, Jon Stika was hired to complete a report of the Southwest North Dakota Soil Health Demonstration Project, which ran from 2008 to 2016. Ringwall distributed copies of the four-page report. It shows that after eight years of managing for soil health, average water infiltration across all fields increased from 1.3 inches/hour in 2008 to 10.2 inches/hour in 2016. Other soil health improvement benefits included crop yield increases, a higher average annual dollar return and increased beef cattle gains with grazing annual crops.

■ *Bonnie Twogood*: Stark and Billings SCD submitted a grant request for its annual Diversity, Direction and Dollars Agricultural Forum, which is Jan. 4, 2018. Staff is looking at the 2017 tree plantings for survival rates. Although the late rainfall helped some of the trees, the evergreens suffered the worst damage.

■ *Don Urlacher*: Hettinger County Water Resource District is working on rebuilding the Kary Dam on the Cannon Ball River near New England. The current dam was set up for irrigation and flood control. The new structure is now at the design and funding stage. The North Dakota State Water Commission will cost share 65 to 70 percent. Other funding is expected from U.S. Fish & Wildlife and the North Dakota Department of Health.

■ *Shari Wick*: Adams County SCD is dealing with producers who are disappointed with the poor survival rate of the new tree plantings. Deciduous trees did the best and the fabric held up. Most area farmers are done with the soybean harvest and are now harvesting sunflowers and corn.

### **Executive director report**

Susan Davis reviewed her written report on activities performed since the July 17, 2017, quarterly meeting. Highlights include:

- Completed Dakota West activities, including writing and distributing the July 17 meeting minutes; preparing reports and packets for the Oct. 23 meeting; and holding discussions with President James Odermann and director Duane Urlacher.
- Completed Water Wisdom 319 grant activities, including outreach to members on local training and education projects; preparing and submitting the quarterly Water Wisdom 319 grant reimbursement request; writing and submitting the new 319 grant application; and researching, writing and submitting the second annual report for Water Wisdom 319 grant.

### **Western RC&D Association**

In the absence of Duane Urlacher, second vice president for the Western RC&D Association, Susan Davis reported Western held a conference call Sept. 19, but was unable to participate.

### **319 grant funding**

- *Local projects to date under Water Wisdom:* 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.

- *Completed soil health workshop in Dickinson:* Davis distributed copies of the flyer and a follow-up news release for the Sept. 20, 2017, soil, crop and livestock workshop that was held at the Manning Ranch. About 110 attended the event, which fulfilled the Water Wisdom work plan to hold one major soil health workshop in western North Dakota. Dr. Ringwall reported many college students attended the event.

- *Second annual Water Wisdom report:* Davis briefly reviewed the annual report for July 1, 2015, through Aug. 31, 2017. It shows a total of \$54,369 in 319 funds being used during this period.

- *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.

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.

### **2018 dues**

A short discussion was held on the Dakota West RC&D membership dues for 2018.

*Loren Myran moved to keep dues at the current rate of \$350 for 2018. The motion was seconded by Shari Wick and approved without dissent.*

### **Other discussion**

It was announced that the State Board of Agricultural Research and Education (SBARE) is having listening sessions Dec. 14. There are many issues with soybean herbicides. Tree belts could be killed with the heavy applications. Groups such as universities can take a balanced look at this issue. Dr. Ringwall reported the Dickinson Research Extension Center no longer has an agronomist so it cannot apply for SBARE funding.

It was also briefly discussed that the state of North Dakota considers the Southwest Pipeline done, but there is still a great need for it. More water storage needs to be built.

### **Set annual meeting date**

The annual meeting date scheduled for Monday, Jan. 8, 2017. It will be held at 9:30 a.m. (MST) at the Dickinson Research Extension Research Center.

A short discussion was held on reinstating a group meal following the quarterly meetings of Dakota West RC&D.

*Dr. Kris Ringwall moved to reinstate the board meals. The motion was seconded by Frank Hatzenbuhler and approved without dissent.*

### **2018 officers**

A short discussion was held on the need to elect new officers during the January 2018 annual meeting. Office terms are two years and officers can serve two consecutive terms. Officers who have served their term limits are James Odermann as president; Don Urlacher as secretary; and Frank Hatzenbuhler as treasurer. The vice president position was filled by Pam Meier, but is currently vacant as Slope/Hettinger SCD dropped its Dakota West membership during 2017.

### **Adjournment**

Secretary Don Urlacher adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m. (MDT)

*Recorded by Susan Davis for Don Urlacher, secretary*