



DAKOTA PRAIRIES RC&D COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

April 12, 2016 10 a.m. (CST)

Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck, ND

RC&D Council attendance was recorded as follows :

<u>RC&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	
Terry Fleck	Burleigh County WRB		X
Rhonda Kelsch	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	
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	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&D Staff</u>			
Susan Davis, ED	Dakota Prairies RC&D	X	

Call to order

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

Attending were Darci Gahner, Rhonda Kelsch, Bill Koch, Doug Krebsbach, Ron Leingang, Cindy Makedonski, Dawn Martin, Gary Murray, Penny Nester, Doug Schonert, Deb Vollmuth, Fawn Wasin Zi and Richard White Bear. Also attending was Susan Davis, executive director of Dakota Prairies RC&D.

Gary Murray, chairman of the Mercer County Commission, replaces Gerald Baumann on this board. Murray was in the insurance business for many years and lives in Beulah. Doug Krebsbach, who lives in Washburn, is replacing Steve Lee as the representative of McLean County Commission. Krebsbach worked for the McLean County Highway Department for many years.

Agenda and approval of minutes

The agenda was reviewed and President Makedonski asked for any changes or additions.

Rhonda Kelsch moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Dawn Martin and approved.

Minutes of the Jan. 12, 2016, annual meeting were reviewed by Penny Nester, secretary.

Dawn Martin moved to approve the Jan. 12, 2016, annual meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ron Leingang and approved.

Financial report

Davis reviewed the profit and loss statement for January through March 2016. 2015. Total income was \$36,688 and total expenses were \$42,045.

The income included \$9,700 in membership contributions; \$21,857 in Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) funds; \$2,598 in service fees from Dakota West; and \$2,524 in reimbursed expenses. Expenses included \$18,502 for the SCBG; \$783 for telephone; \$735 for copier payments; \$2,070 for office rent; \$16,000 for contracted services; \$6,500 for the new 319 checking account; and \$652 for Council meeting expenses.

As of March 31, 2016, there was a balance of \$23,369 in the checking account at Dakota Community Bank and \$44,945 in the special project account at Kirkwood Bank & Trust. The new 319 grant checking account at Dakota Community Bank had a total of \$12,899.62. Deposits into this account were \$6,500 from both Dakota Prairies and Dakota West and one withdrawal was \$100.72 for checks. The two CDs total \$12,996.

Rhonda Kelsch recommended Davis also present the check register detail beginning at the next meeting. There was consensus by the directors to review checks coming in and going out.

Rhonda Kelsch 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 annual meeting, which was Jan. 12, 2016. Highlights include: 1) Set up new water Wisdom 319 checking account at Dakota Community Bank; 2) gathered 319 project photos and added a photo page to the 2012-2015 319 grant report and submitted final report; 3) visited with Mary Podoll, NRCS, about Water Wisdom work plan; 4) planned and prepared for Dakota Prairies and Dakota West quarterly meetings; 5) worked with Cindy Makedonski on writing and designing a brochure for Menoken Farm; 6) worked on Specialty Crop Block Grant project at Standing Rock Reservation 7) updated Dakota Prairies and Dakota West Web sites; 8) attended the March North Dakota

Water Quality Conference; 9) participated in Western RC&D Association conference calls and wrote and submitted letters to the N.D. congressional delegates on the importance of RC&Ds and to restore funding.

Partners for Water Quality 319 final grant report

Davis reviewed the final report for this grant, which had been extended to Dec. 31, 2015. The total grant was \$325,000 and the total match was \$216,667, for a total budget of \$541,667. A total of 98 local informational and educational projects/events were held or conducted that reached 18,500 North Dakota residents in the 18 counties served by Dakota West RC&D and Dakota Prairies RC&D.

Water Wisdom 319 grant report

Davis reviewed the local projects approved to date under this new three-year grant of \$145,000. A total of \$6,050 has been approved for four soil conservation districts. They are Cedar, Sheridan County, South McLean County and Western. Davis met with Mary Podoll and Jill Howard on the organizational work on a comprehensive water quality training module and reached out to other partners on this and the workshops.

Proposed new contract with Dakota West RC&D

The directors reviewed the draft new contract between Dakota Prairies RC&D and Dakota West RC&D for professional services. The proposed period is for April 1, 2016, to June 30, 2018. Dakota West would pay Dakota Prairies \$40 an hour for actual hours (with a maximum of 15 hours) per month, plus expenses.

Because the two councils are now sharing all income and expenses under the new Water Wisdom 319 grant, less hours are needed. The main work outside of the 319 grant involves the quarterly meetings and updating the Web site. The end date of June 30, 2016, coincides with the Water Wisdom 319 grant end date.

The following discussion included whether Dakota West RC&D had increased its dues and that the contract should include language that it will be reviewed and renewed annually. Davis reported the Dakota West dues for 2016 were raised from \$200 to \$350 per organizational member. The Dakota Prairies dues are based on county population with the dues ranging from \$300 to \$1,200 per member. Rhonda Kelsch said she is still concerned about the Dakota West member dues being lower than those of the Dakota Prairies members.

Deb Vollmuth moved to change the contract to read that it will be reviewed and renewed annually. The motion was seconded by Doug Schonert and approved.

Rhonda Kelsch moved to authorize President Cindy Makedonski to sign the new contract after wording is added for it to be reviewed and renewed annually. The motion was seconded by Dawn Martin and approved.

Possible RCPP grant application

The board briefly discussed having Dakota Prairies RC&D Council apply for a grant through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Pre-proposals are due May 10, 2016. Davis reported she met with Mary Podoll, who recommended an application that involves resource needs through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). According to Podoll, historically CSP RCPP is not being used to its full potential and there is a high interest in CSP in North Dakota.

The directors discussed that CSP involves a lot of paperwork and the soil conservation districts are already short-staffed. In addition, the RCPP does not cover administrative costs and match is required. Kelsch noted that a grant for RCPP funding would work only if an entity that already had conservation dollars available (such as North Dakota Game and Fish) would be the financial contributor.

Deb Vollmuth moved to not submit a grant application to the NRCS RCPP. The motion was seconded by Ron Leingang and approved.

Flasher ambulance \$2,500 grant

Davis reported that member Wes Frederick of Grant County SCD, called her to ask if Dakota Prairies RC&D Council could be the fiscal agent for a \$2,500 grant the Flasher Ambulance received from Monsanto. A 501(c)3 status is necessary to accept the grant money. Dakota Prairies would just serve as the “pass-through entity” for the grant, which would be dispersed to the Flasher Ambulance Service.

The directors discussed that this is a service Dakota Prairies has provided to other entities in the past and is a small but good way to help local communities.

Rhonda Kelsch moved to approve accepting this \$2,500 grant on behalf of the Flasher Ambulance Service. The motion was seconded by Dawn Martin and approved.

Member/director reports

■ *Darci Gahner, Sheridan County SCD:* Gahner reported a Ladies Spring Fling will be held from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. May 4. This SCD is completing its spring soil testing. At the end of March, a Coffee and Commodity Meeting was held with NRCS and Extension staff. Topics included livestock and crops.

■ *Rhonda Kelsch, Emmons County SCD:* Kelsch said Emmons SCD is into its normal field season.

■ *Cindy Makedonski, Burleigh County SCD:* Makedonski reported staff is busy with the tree planting season. There have already been tours at Menoken Farm and many more are scheduled. Jay Fuhrer is in South Africa teaching soil health. Makedonski has a new Web site ready to launch for Burleigh County SCD.

■ *Dawn Martin, Mercer County SCD:* Martin told the board Mercer SCD is planning a ladies ag night and watershed meetings. Staff is busy with tree planting season.

■ *Doug Krebsbach, McLean County Commission:* Krebsbach reported the McLean County Highway Department and Game & Fish donated 538 acres to help with the Painted Woods Creek drainage area. This is expected to alleviate flooding on farm property. The city of Washburn, which has a relatively new water system, is having water quality problems. The water is still drinkable, but the plant does not meet specifications. It was suggested the Lewis & Clark Regional Development Council may be able to help.

■ *Deb Vollmuth, Cedar SCD:* Vollmuth said Cedar has a new technician, who is gearing up for tree planting season. The SCD is preparing to plant its large garden. All produce is donated and goes mostly to the Porcupine Tribal District residents. The garden will be showcased at the Dakota Garden Expo April 15 and 16 in Bismarck. The USDA Friends & Neighbors Day will be July 28 in Mandan. The Sioux County Farm and Ranch Day is April 29 at the Selfridge High School. The 2016 Earth Day Festival is April 21 in Bismarck. The students' portion is at McCabe Methodist Church and the evening public event begins at 4 p.m. at the Bismarck State College Career Academy. More than 900 students are expected at the event.

■ *Fawn Wasin Zi, Standing Rock Land Operations:* Wasin Zi reported she is helping with tree planting. Protests of the Dakota Access pipeline are occurring on the reservation. The proposed pipeline would be under the river near the Cannon Ball Ranch.

■ *Richard White Bear, West McLean SCD:* White Bear reported that trees have been ordered for the reservation district.

Next meeting date and adjournment

The directors discussed holding the next quarterly meeting at Menoken Farm east of Bismarck so those who have not toured this 319 grant-funded project could get an opportunity to do so. Cindy Makedonski will set up this meeting and tour, which was scheduled for 10 a.m. (CDT) Tuesday, July 19, 2016.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.