



DAKOTA PRAIRIES RC&D COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
April 25, 2017 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>	<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&D Staff</u>			
Susan Davis, ED	Dakota Prairies RC&D	X	

Call to order

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

Attending were Darci Gahner, Cortney Kartes, Bill Koch, Doug Krebsbach; Cindy Makedonski, Dawn Martin; Gary Murray, Penny Nester, Duane Olsen; Richard Perkerewicz; Doug Schonert; Deb Vollmuth and Richard White Bear. Also attending was Susan Davis, executive director of Dakota Prairies RC&D.

Agenda and minutes

The agenda was reviewed.

Richard Perkerewicz moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Bill Koch and approved.

Minutes of the Jan. 17, 2017, annual meeting were reviewed by Penny Nester, secretary.

Gary Murray moved to approve the Jan. 17, 2017, annual meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Richard White Bear and approved.

Financial report

Susan Davis presented the profit and loss statement from Jan. 1 through April 24, 2017. Income totaled \$51,056 and expense totaled 41,269 for a net ordinary income of \$9,786.

Income included \$9,100 in 2017 membership dues. Dues have been paid by all but two members, Grant County Commission and Standing Rock Land Management. Davis reported Lynn Mutschelknaus, Grant County auditor, contacted her in mid-April and asked for more information on Dakota Prairies RC&D Council and the benefits of being a member. The Grant County Commission will discuss its membership in Dakota Prairies at its next meeting.

The reimbursed expenses to date of \$11,245 include \$1,510 from Dakota West RC&D for contract services and mileage and \$9,735 from Burleigh County SCD for contract services and expenses under its expanded training and educational programming at Menoken Farm.

The board also reviewed all checks written and deposits made from Jan. 1 to April 24, 2017. Account balances include \$16,999 in the 319 checking account at Dakota Community Bank (DCB); \$9,394 in the main checking account at DCB; \$44,997 in the special project account at Kirkwood Bank & Trust; and \$13,012 in the two certificates of deposit at Kirkwood Bank & Trust.

Doug Krebsbach moved to approve the financial report. The motion was seconded by Darci Gahner and approved.

Executive director report

Susan Davis reviewed a written report of her activities since the Jan. 17 annual meeting. Highlights include: 1) Met with Greg Sandness of the North Dakota Department of Health/Water Quality Division on March 14 to discuss changes to the 319 Water Wisdom grant; 2) reviewed and sent member 319 project requests to 319 Granting Committee and followed up with telephone calls; 3) made meeting packets for 319 Granting Committee meeting March 22 in Hebron; 3) prepared for and attended Jan. 23 annual meeting of Dakota West RC&D; 4) met with Sue Isbell in Fort Yates April 12 to discuss Specialty Crop Block Grant and work being conducted under new grant and completed and submitted first reimbursement request April 13; 5) participated in Western Resource Conservation & Development Association monthly conference calls and completed online letters to North Dakota congressional delegates to restore RC&D funding; 6) participated

in education and outreach events, including the Feb. 3 and 4 North Dakota Farmers Market & Growers Association and Local Food Conference in Mandan.

Water Wisdom 319 grant report

Bill Koch, a member of the 319 Granting Committee, reported the committee met March 22 in Hebron to review three grant proposals from members. The committee awarded the following grants:

1. *Cedar SCD*: \$5,000 of the \$6,000 requested was awarded for the 2017 Earth Day Festival held annually in Bismarck
2. *Dickinson Research Extension Center*: \$6,000 of the \$8,611 requested was awarded for a soil and community health project that involves land near CHI St. Alexius Health in Dickinson
3. *Golden Valley SCD*: All of the \$2,261 requested was awarded for water quality training models to use in area schools

Koch also reported that the 319 Granting Committee held a conference call April 21 to review a new request from Golden Valley SCD. A total of \$3,175 of the \$5,250 requested was awarded for a June 22 workshop and two pasture tours.

Of the \$60,000 Dakota Prairies RC&D received to grant to local water quality education projects, \$39,246 has been reimbursed or committed. This leaves a remaining balance of \$20,754 for local educational events.

Davis reported that she, Makedonski and Rhonda Kelsch met with Greg Sandness March 14 at the offices of Burleigh County SCD to discuss the work plan under the Dakota Prairies 319 grant. Because there is now an online version of a comprehensive water quality training module, the grant funding Dakota Prairies received for this can be used instead for SCD leadership/local work group training and education programming.

Dakota Prairies RC&D will partner with Burleigh County SCD (under a special grant from NRCS to increase the programming at Menoken Farm) to provide this training and education to SCD staff, supervisors and NRCS staff. This training and education may take place during the annual convention of the North Dakota Association of SCDs and/or at the SCD area meetings. The multiple area meetings may be combined into one or two larger meetings.

Sandness also approved Dakota Prairies RC&D partnering with Burleigh County SCD and others to organize and hold an advanced grazing workshop and one or two advanced soil health workshops. Dakota West RC&D wants to hold one of the soil health workshops in western North Dakota. Sandness recommended that objectives two and three under the 319 Water Wisdom project be combined into one objective with a budget of \$43,200.

Menoken Farm

Makedonski, district clerk for Burleigh County SCD, reported that a total of 32 new educational events will be held through the end of December 2018 under the “Healing the Land” grant received from NRCS.

Upcoming events include the following:

- *July 12 and 13*: Multiple garden-related events are scheduled, with featured speaker Dr. Jonathan Lundgren. His main public forum is the evening of July 12 on the campus of Bismarck State College. On July 13 there are several small group meetings, followed by the annual Menoken Farm Garden Tour.
- *July 19 and 20*: Grasslands expert Allan Savory will be featured during multiple events over two days. Savory’s main public talk is the evening of July 19 at the North Dakota Heritage Center Auditorium. Because of the NRCS grant, there is no registration fee. Other events include two working ranch tours and a gathering of state and federal agencies to talk about agricultural policy.

Makedonski also reported a holistic resource management training and educational event will be held this fall and a new Menoken Farm Web site is being created. The new site is www.menokenfarm.com. Makedonski handed out copies of the new Menoken Farm brochure and a new brochure that features the five soil health principles.

The two previous workshops were a cropping systems event Jan. 16 that featured Johann Zietsman and a March 1 grazing systems workshop with Paul Jasa.

Member/director reports

■ *Dawn Martin, Mercer County SCD*: Martin reported she is resigning to ranch full time with her husband. Sarah Tunge, who has been hired to take her place, will begin May 8. She has granting writing experience. Martin, who has worked for Mercer County SCD for 14 years, said she will help with tree planting before she leaves. The watershed coordinators moved to Minnesota so the district technician has been helping with this project. The group thanked Martin for her years of work at the SCD and her service to Dakota Prairies RC&D Council.

■ *Darci Gahner, Sheridan County SCD*: Gahner said a Women's Spring Fling event will be held May 10. About 80 to 100 are expected to attend. Many applications have been received for the 319-funded cover crop project. They will narrow it down to four participants. Gahner has been doing soil testing.

■ *Cortney Kartes, Kidder County SCD*: Kartes reported about 80 people attended the recent Women in Agriculture event. One of the speakers was Penny Nester, who presented water resource information. Activities for tree planting are gearing up.

■ *Bill Koch, Grant County Commission*: Koch reported the winter's heavy snow pushed fence posts into the ground and took down wire.

■ *Doug Krebsbach, McLean County Commission*: Krebsbach reported that the Painted Woods Wildlife Management Area south of Washburn has expanded to more than 500 acres with the purchase of land owned by Robert Landgren. The North Dakota Game & Fish Department will manage the newly purchased land and use it for flood relief drainage. It will create about a 300-mile drainage area.

■ *Gary Murray, Mercer County Commission*: Murray said the commission is dealing with the continued expense of the new jail. The Mercer County Sheriff Department assisted during the Dakota Access Pipeline protests near Cannon Ball. Total expenses of about \$400,000 were incurred, which included taking an air boat to the area. The county expects to be reimbursed for these costs.

■ *Penny Nester, Kidder County Commission*: Nester said she works 70 percent as the Kidder County Extension agent and 30 percent as the interim supervisor for other county Extension agents. A part-time position will be filled. Nester has been continuing her bale grazing research funded by a grant to study bale residue. Another big project involves large pollinators through a gardener grant through the North Dakota State University Extension Service Master Gardener Program. A sustainable native plant pollinator garden will be established at the large crane site. Farm Safety Day is coming up in Steele and will be attended by elementary students.

■ *Duane Olsen, Morton County SCD*: Olsen said this SCD is finishing its soil health shop talks, with two scheduled for today in New Salem and Flasher. The first one was held April 18 in Hebron. The main topic is cover crops.

■ *Richard Perkerewicz, South McLean County SCD*: Perkerewicz said this SCD is busy getting ready for tree planting.

■ *Doug Schonert, Burleigh County Commission*: Schonert reported the new Burleigh-Morton Detention Center is complete and there will be two public open houses May 15 and 16. The facility is expected to have 485 beds and 300 to 320 inmates when it opens in early June. The facility can be expanded to 1,000 beds.

■ *Debbie Vollmuth, Cedar SCD*: Vollmuth reported about 900 students attended the 2017 Earth Day Festival held at McCabe Methodist Church in Bismarck. The evening activities were moved to the Bismarck Career Academy on the campus of Bismarck State College, where about 800 to 900 people participated. More than 1,200 trees and 500 bedding plants were given away to participants. Vollmuth assisted NRCS at a

recent garden expo, where she talked to people about no-till gardening. Farm & Ranch Day will be held April 28 at the Selfridge High School. Sponsored by North Dakota Farmers Union and Sioux County, 400 children are expected to attend. Cedar SCD recently purchased a no-till grass planter and when it is not in use, it is being used in the reclamation of the water protester camp sites near Cannon Ball and surrounding area. Cedar's no-till garden is being planted. The tree cooler compressor went out and is being fixed. The SCD is preparing for tree planting.

■ *Richard White Bear, West McLean County SCD*: White Bear said Sheryl Krueger has been hired as the new district clerk. This SCD is trying to purchase a new grass drill.

Next meeting date and adjournment

The directors set Tuesday, July 11, 2017, as the next quarterly meeting date. The meeting will be held at 10 a.m. at Menoken Farm east of Bismarck.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at noon.

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