



DAKOTA PRAIRIES RC&D COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 11, 2017 10 a.m. (CDT)
Menoken Farm near Menoken, 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	
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 Rod Beck, Darci Gahner, Cortney Kartes, Bill Koch, Cindy Makedonski, Duane Olsen, Richard Perkerewicz, Doug Schonert, Sarah Tunge, Deb Vollmuth and Richard White Bear. Also attending was Susan Davis, executive director, Dakota Prairies RC&D; Jay Fuhrer, soil health specialist, NRCS; and Darrell Oswald, district technician, Burleigh County SCD.

Agenda and minutes

The agenda was reviewed.

Deb Vollmuth moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Richard Perkerewicz and approved.

Minutes of the April 25, 2017, quarterly meeting were reviewed by Susan Davis for Penny Nester, secretary.

Doug Schonert moved to approve the April 25, 2017, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Richard White Bear and approved.

Financial report

Susan Davis presented the profit and loss statement year to date. Total income is \$88,698 and total expenses are \$96,950. The majority of the income is from grant reimbursements, which total \$67,179. Account balances are: \$6,134 in the 319 checking account at Dakota Community Bank (DCB); \$11,289 in the main checking account at DCB; \$45,008 in the special project account at Kirkwood Bank & Trust; and \$13,015 in the two certificates of deposit at Kirkwood Bank & Trust.

The dues payment of \$300 was received from Standing Rock Land Management. Grant County Commission notified Dakota Prairies it will not pay its dues for 2017.

Richard Perkerewicz moved to approve the financial report. The motion was seconded by Duane Olsen and approved.

Executive director report

Susan Davis reviewed a written report of her activities since the April 25, 2017, meeting. Highlights include: 1) Prepared and submitted the quarterly Water Wisdom 319 grant reimbursement request; 2) worked with Cindy Makedonski to prepare and submit a 319 Menoken Farm reimbursement request; 3) attended planning meetings and performed work under "Healing the Land," the Burleigh County SCD grant for expanded training and education at Menoken Farm; 4) conducted outreach and meeting planning for Dakota West RC&D; and 5) attended several events, including a May 10 small farmer technical assistance training workshop in Bismarck and a NRCS partner meeting in Bismarck; 7) corresponded with Mary Podoll and the Dakota Prairies RC&D board about moving the Dakota Prairies office to the NRCS offices in Bismarck.

Davis reported the target date for moving the office was Aug. 1, but this will now be delayed. Podoll has been assigned to fill a temporary position in Washington, D.C. Jill Howard, the acting state conservationist, wants to delay the office move until she can investigate if and when it will work.

Water Wisdom 319 grant report

Bill Koch, a member of the 319 Granting Committee, and Susan Davis reported \$35,280 has been dispersed to date under the \$145,000 Water Wisdom 319 grant. Of the \$60,000 available for member water quality

training and education, \$10,980 has been reimbursed to members and \$27,836 has been approved for member training and education projects.

Davis issued a \$10,000 Dakota Prairies 319 account check to Burleigh County SCD for sponsorship of the July 19 and 20 Allan Savory events. This will fulfill Dakota Prairies RC&D work plan of one advanced grazing workshop. This \$10,000 will be reimbursed from the North Dakota Department of Health.

Davis reviewed two project requests from NDSU/Dickinson Research Extension Center (DREC). The \$10,333 project led by Douglas Landblom, "Student and Community Soil Health & Beef Cattle Workshop," will fulfill the soil health workshop in western North Dakota. It will be funded under the general work.

The other project request, "Soil and Community Health," was for \$8,611 and reviewed and awarded a \$6,000 grant by the 319 Granting Committee, which awarded a \$6,000 grant for this work led by Ryan Buetow. Dr. Kris Ringwall, director of DREC, has requested this project also be done under the 319 grant's general work for the full amount of \$8,611. After some discussion, this board agreed by consensus to leave this as a local project grant at the \$6,000 the 319 Granting Committee approved.

The board also discussed using 319 grant funding to test for high nitrate levels in livestock feed. Cattle can be poisoned if they eat drought-stressed crops and forage. The general consensus is that this does not fit the 319 grant program and should be handled by county Extension offices and agents.

Doug Schonert moved to approve the Water Wisdom 319 grant report. The motion was seconded by Richard Perkerewicz and approved.

Menoken Farm

Makedonski, Oswald and Fuhrer reported on work and events under the Healing the Land grant BCSCD received from NRCS. The 32 new events include 20 soil health workshops; 2 leadership/local work group workshops; 2 cropping systems workshops; 2 grazing systems workshops; 2 cover crops workshops; 2 soil-health based gardening workshops; and 2 holistic management training events.

Davis, as part of her work for Dakota Prairies RC&D, is providing consulting services to Burleigh County SCD for the Healing the Land project. Dakota Prairies is also helping to sponsor several events through its 319 Water Wisdom grant.

The new Menoken Farm Web site is www.menokenfarm.com and Makedonski handed out new brochures, a soil health principles brochure and information on July educational events. Upcoming events include a Midwest Bugfest July 12 and 13 and a Northern Plains Grasslands Symposium July 19 and 20.

Dr. Johnathan Lundgren is the main speaker for the Midwest Bugfest, which features three events: 1) Lundgren's main public talk, "Trading Biodiversity for Pest Problems," at 6 p.m. at the National Energy Center of Excellence; 2) a pasture and cover crop walk at 1 p.m. at Menoken Farm; and 3) the annual Menoken Farm Garden Tour at 6 p.m. at Menoken Farm.

Allan Savory is the featured speaker for the Grasslands Symposium, which features four main events: 1) An ag policy discussion at 9:30 a.m. July 19 at Menoken Farm; 2) a tour of Black Leg Ranch at 1 p.m. July 19; 3) Savory's main public talk, "How Livestock & Grassland Soils Can Save Civilization," at 6 p.m. at the North Dakota Heritage Center; and 4) a tour of the Ken and Bonnie Miller Ranch at 9:30 a.m. July 20.

Other upcoming events include:

- A cover crop tour Sept. 14 at Menoken Farm featuring Justin Zahradka

■ David Montgomery, author of *“Dirt: The Erosion of Civilization,”* has been secured as the keynote speaker for the November 2017 annual convention of the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts (NDASCD)

■ Joshua Dukart will help identify resource concerns (such as erosion and salinity in eastern North Dakota) during the NDASCD convention

■ Dukart has been secured to lead two three-day holistic management training sessions. One will be held in 2017 and one in 2018

Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG)

Davis briefly reviewed the first performance report (included in the meeting packets) for the new SCBG that began Oct. 1, 2016. The grant is for \$199,351 for the project to grow specialty crops to improve healthy food access on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.

Member/director reports

■ *Rod Beck, Burleigh County WRD:* Beck reported they are dealing with Bismarck area drainage issues, which were caused from piecemeal development.

■ *Darci Gahner, Sheridan County SCD:* Gahner said she received four applications for this SCD’s cover crop project funded in part by a grant under the Water Wisdom 319 grant. Four were chosen to participate in the project. The district drill was used for the cover crops, but only about 10 percent of the crop came up because of the drought. This project may need an extension due to the drought.

■ *Cortney Kartes, Kidder County SCD:* Kartes reported a new grass drill was purchased. She is working with North Dakota Eco-Ed on a project and with NRCS on a mapping toolkit.

■ *Bill Koch, Grant County Commission:* Koch said dams in his area are low and are full of algae due to the severe drought. He reported he needed to buy pellets for his cattle from as far away as Carrington. CRP land has been opened for haying, but the quality is poor.

■ *Richard Perkerewicz, South McLean SCD:* Perkerewicz reported barley byproduct is selling for \$74/ton.

■ *Duane Olsen, Morton County SCD:* There are about 300 acres on this SCD’s new grass drill. Morton County SCD is working with Burleigh County SCD on Menoken Farm events.

■ *Doug Schonert, Burleigh County Commission:* Schonert said agriculture is still North Dakota’s biggest sector and the drought will eventually affect the state’s economy. Once the slowdown hits, it may affect real estate. Farmers are not buying.

■ *Sarah Tunge, Mercer County SCD:* Tunge, the new district manager, reported her office is fielding calls on concerns about high nitrate levels in hay. Under this SCD’s 319 watershed grant, cropland is being put back into hayland. The tree planting is complete, but the trees are stressed due to the drought.

■ *Richard White Bear, West McLean County SCD:* White Bear said a new grass drill was purchased.

■ *Deb Vollmuth, Cedar SCD:* Cedar applied for and received an extra \$350,000 in EQIP funding, which will be used for water development, including pipelines and tanks. The Selfridge summer school students helped plant the annual garden, which is growing well. There are 300 acres on the new grass drill. NUTBAL manure testing is continuing, with 300 samples already in. There are issues with the new juniper trees. The Area IV Research Farm near Mandan is holding its Friends and Neighbors Day July 27. Customer focus groups will look at what has been researched and what new research should be conducted.

Next meeting date and adjournment

The directors set Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2017, as the next quarterly 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 11:40 a.m. Following a boxed lunch, a tour was conducted of Menoken Farm and the high tunnel greenhouse.