

Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Dakota West RC&D
Dickinson Research Extension Center
Dickinson, N.D.
July 17, 2017

Call to order and attendance

President Jim Odermann called the quarterly meeting of Dakota West RC&D Area to order at 9:40 a.m. (MDT).

Those attending were:

- Frank Hatzenbuhler, director at large
- James Odermann, Southwest Water Authority
- Dr. Kris Ringwall, Dickinson Research Extension Center
- Bonnie Two Good, Stark and Billings Soil Conservation District
- Duane Urlacher, Stark County Water Resource Board
- Shari Wick, Adams County SCD

Also attending was Susan Davis, executive director. Attending from Dickinson Research Extension Center were Ryan Buetow, cropping systems specialist; Doug Landblom, beef cattle specialist; and Songul Senturklu, a Turkish research scholar.

Odermann declared a quorum as six of the 14 (12 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 as is by consensus.

Approval of minutes

The minutes from the Jan. 23, 2017, Dakota West RC&D annual meeting were reviewed. It was noted there are two entries for Duane Urlacher in the member reports and the first one (about feeding pheasants) should be deleted or attributed to Loren Myran.

Duane Urlacher moved to approve the Jan. 23, 2017, annual meeting minutes with this correction. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kris Ringwall and approved without dissent.

Treasurer's report

Treasurer Frank Hatzenbuhler reported that Lynell Rud with the Mahlum Goodhart accounting firm filed the 990 tax report for Dakota West. He also said dues have been received from all but the Three Affiliated Tribes. Jim Mossett is that representative. The Bowman County Weed Board and Bowman-Slope SCD did not renew their memberships.

Hatzenbuhler reviewed the Dakota West balance sheets as of July 11, 2017. It shows total assets and total liabilities/equity at \$33,260. The total assets include \$27,318 in the general checking account; \$5,848 in the certificate deposit; and \$94 in fixed assets.

Under liabilities and equity, the balance sheet shows \$35,926 in retained earnings, less \$2,431 in accounts payable (\$2,430 for a Visa credit card and 70 cents for contract labor) and less \$237 in retained earnings.

It was noted that the certificate of deposit was listed at \$5,909 in the Jan. 23, 2017, minutes. It was also pointed out that there should be no credit card or contract labor balance. Davis will work with Hatzenbuhler on the certificate of deposit discrepancy and Hatzenbuhler will work with Mahlum Goodhart to correct the accounts payable.

There was board consensus to reach out to the Bowman County Weed Board and Bowman-Slope SCD to ask them to remain members and remind them a benefit is project funding through the 319 grant program, which they both received in the past.

Duane Urlacher 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

- *Frank Hatzenbuhler:* Hatzenbuhler reported he acquired pollinator seeds but did not plant them due to the drought.

- *Dr. Kris Ringwall:* The Dickinson Research Extension Center's pastures are doing relatively well despite the drought. The rotational practices are helping. The early response to cutting cattle helped lighten the pressure.

- *Bonnie Twogood:* Stark and Billings SCD received 319 grant funds to help build a soils tunnel. It will be taken to the SCD state convention in November. The drought is affecting the trees planted. The loss is already at about 50 percent and could get worse.

- *Shari Wick:* Adams County SCD is urging people to test for nitrates in cattle feed due to the severe drought. Many farms are putting up crops for hay and are culling cattle herds. The tree loss is estimated at 30 percent to date. There may be some limited tree funding until August through the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Executive director report

Susan Davis reviewed her written report on activities performed since the annual meeting Jan. 23, 2017. Highlights include:

- Completed Dakota West activities, including writing and distributing the annual meeting minutes; sending cancellation notices for the April 2017 meeting; preparing reports and packets for the July 17 meeting; and holding discussions with President James Odermann.

- Western RC&D Association activities included reviewing Western related e-mails and notices and participating in conference calls.

- Completed Water Wisdom 319 grant activities, including writing and submitting two grant reimbursement requests (January-March 2017 and April-June 2017); outreach to members; meeting with Dakota West Feb. 13; meeting with Greg Sandness March 14; preparing for the March 22 319 Granting Committee meeting in Hebron; and participating in the April 21 319 Granting Committee conference call.

- Outreach included attending an NRCS partner meeting in Bismarck May 17; and participating in a June 15 teleconference with other RC&D employees from across the country.

Bonnie Twogood moved to accept the executive director report. The motion was seconded by Shari Wick and approved without dissent.

Western RC&D Association

Duane Urlacher, second vice president for the Western RC&D Association, reported Western's June conference call was canceled and there will be a new meeting in August. He reviewed the notice that there has been a bylaw change at the national Association of RC&D Councils that changes the board structure.

Susan Davis reported Western voted to reduce 2017 dues from \$150 to \$75. Dakota West has already paid \$150 and can either ask for a \$75 refund or leave the \$75 with Western for 2018 dues.

Duane Urlacher moved to approve using the overpayment of \$75 to Western for 2018 dues. The motion was seconded by Frank Hatzenbuehler and approved without dissent.

Water Wisdom grant update

Davis reviewed the 319 Water Wisdom grant balances to date. Of the \$60,000 approved for local events, about \$43,000 has been spent or committed, leaving about \$16,000 for local projects.

Greg Sandness, the NPS coordinator at the North Dakota Department of Health, approved combining Objectives 2 and 3 and partnering with Burleigh County SCD to help sponsor Allan Savory for a major grazing workshop. Grant funds will also help sponsor a major soil health workshop in Bismarck and SCD leadership and local work group training.

Dakota Prairies is contracting with NDSU Dickinson Research Extension Center to plan and conduct a soil health workshop in the Dakota West area. A total of \$10,333 is committed for this project.

Project presentations

Ryan Buetow, Doug Landblom and Songul Senturklu presented highlights of their two NDSU Dickinson Research Extension Center (DREC) projects to the directors. Summaries of these presentations are as follows:

- *Soil and Community Health project:* Buetow gave a presentation on this project, which was awarded \$6,000 (of the \$8,611 requested) under the 319 grant. DREC is working with CHI St. Alexius Health at the Soil and Community Health Agriculture Education Site west of Dickinson along Empire Road. Soil and water samples will be taken and, two workshops will be held and an educational field trip for local middle school students will be conducted. A new soil pit will be dug to show soil structure and water movement. Because of the severe drought this summer, this project may need to be extended into 2018 or a new grant may be needed to complete the work.

- *Student and Community Soil Health & Beef Cattle Workshop:* Landblom presented information on his \$10,333 project that will fulfill the current 319 grant's work plan to hold a major soil health workshop in the Dakota West RC&D service area. The event, which will be held Sept. 20, 2017, will consist of classroom presentations and in-the-field presentations and demonstrations associated with soil microbiology, physical characteristics and soil water dynamics, nutrient cycling and multiple drone uses for weed ID, herbicide resistant weeds, insect and mold field scouting and livestock applications. It is estimated about 100 people will attend the event. Many of these are expected to be students as schools and colleges in about a 150-mile radius will receive information on the workshop.

Final report on past demonstration project

Dr. Ringwall told the group one of Sen. Heidi Heitkamp's mission is soil health so it would be beneficial to complete a final report on a past soil health-related Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) grant. This was an eight-year demonstration project. Funds would be needed for the Dickinson Research Extension Center to hire someone to complete the final report. Jon Stika helped with this project and he may be able to complete the final report.

Duane Urlacher moved to approve an unrestricted gift of \$3,000 to the Dickinson Research Extension Center for its overall mission in soil health. The motion was seconded by Frank Hatzenbuehler and approved without dissent.

October quarterly meeting

The next quarterly meeting was scheduled for Monday, Oct. 16, 2017. It will be held at 9:30 a.m. (MDT) at the Dickinson Research Extension Research Center.

Adjournment

President Odermann adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m. (MDT)

Recorded by Susan Davis for Don Urlacher, secretary