

**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**  
Dakota West RC&D  
Dickinson Research Extension Center  
Dickinson, N.D.  
July 18, 2016

**Call to order and attendance**

Jim Odermann, president of Dakota West RC&D Council, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. (MDT).

Those attending were:

- Frank Hatzenbuhler, director at large
- Pam Meier, Slope-Hettinger Soil Conservation District
- Ron Obritsch, Western Soil Conservation District
- James Odermann, Southwest Water Authority
- Dr. Kris Ringwall, Dickinson Research Extension Center
- Kaylee Stein, Dunn County Soil Conservation District
- Bonnie Twogood, Central Stark Soil Conservation District
- Duane Urlacher, Stark County Water Resource Board
- Shari Wick, Adams County Soil Conservation District

Also attending was Susan Davis, executive director.

Odermann declared a quorum as nine of the 15 (13 organizational and two at-large) board members were present. One-third of the members need to be present for a quorum.

**Introductions and agenda**

Self-introductions were made. The group reviewed the agenda, which was approved by consensus.

**Approval of minutes**

The minutes from the April 11, 2016, Dakota West RC&D annual meeting were reviewed.

It was noted that in the middle of page three the end date of the Water Wisdom 319 grant should be changed to 2018 rather than 2016.

*Duane Urlacher moved to approve the April 11, 2016, quarterly meeting minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Pam Meier and approved without dissent.*

**Treasurer's report**

Treasurer Frank Hatzenbuhler reported Lynell Rud of Mahlum Goodhart PC was able to eliminate some old account and asset information on the QuickBooks financials. The main asset now is the computer. Rud also completed and filed tax Form 990 for Dakota West RC&D.

Under the profit and loss detail from Jan. 1 through July 15, 2016, total income was \$3,851.91 and total expenses were \$13,915.82. Income was mainly from member dues and a small amount of interest. Expenses included \$6,500 to open a new Water Wisdom 319 grant checking account; \$6,063.36 for contract labor and related expenses; \$388.20 for meeting meals; \$375 in registration fees; \$328.26 for telephone/Internet service; and \$140 in accounting fees.

Hatzenbuhler reported the Dakota West checking account balance is \$31,837.23.

It was noted under the check detail the \$375 should be conference registration rather than dues. This was Duane Urlacher's registration fee for the 2016 conference of the National Association of RC&D Councils.

*Bonnie Twogood moved to approve the treasurer's report as corrected and file for audit. The motion was seconded by Ron Obritsch and approved without dissent.*

### **National and regional meeting report**

Duane Urlacher reported on the recent conference of the National Association of RC&D Councils (NARC&DC). The event was held July 10-13, 2016, in Reno, Nevada. Opening speakers included Olga Walter, president of NARC&DC, and Andrew Gordon, CEO of NARC&DC. The keynote speaker was Rulon Gardner, Olympic gold and bronze medalist in Greco-Roman wrestling. He gave an inspirational speech titled "*Never Give Up, Never Stop Trying: 7 Steps to Success.*" Gardner grew up on a dairy farm in Wyoming. His father, Reed Gardner, was a former NARC&DC board member. The regional RC&D councils donated money so each conference participant could receive a free signed book from Rulon Gardner.

A large part of the conference featured information on using social media to engage youth in the RC&D program. Other discussions focused on funding sources for RC&D councils, following the federal government funding cuts in 2009. Some RC&D councils are getting contracts with NRCS and USDA Rural Development and some receive state funding. Other states are working with their state Forest Services, which results in larger budgets. Another idea was working with community foundations.

Each regional RC&D association has two reps on the NARC&DC board. Current Western reps are Joe Leichtnam and Susie Klein. A new NARC&DC goal is to improve communication between the regional councils and NARC&DC.

Urlacher also reported on the Western RC&D Association's (Western) annual meeting, which was held July 12 in Reno. Western now has 25 member councils in its 10-state region, down from 79 before the funding cuts in 2009. The 10 states are Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. Western's annual budget is less than \$20,000 and includes \$10,451 in savings. A total of \$6,000 is for scholarships and about \$3,000 is used to help send officers to the national meeting.

Urlacher was elected second vice president during the Western meeting. Susie Klein of Northern Plains RC&D Council in North Dakota replaces Joe Leichtnam as president. Western dues will only be \$75 for 2016. This should help councils join NARC&DC for \$450. In 2017, Western dues will increase to \$150, as \$75 in dues is not enough for operations. Several bylaw changes approved at the annual meeting include limiting each state to two Western officers and changing officer term limits from two years to three years. Officers can serve up to three terms. The next annual meeting will likely be held in January 2017 and may be held in either Idaho or New Mexico.

### **Executive director report**

Susan Davis reviewed her written report on activities performed since mid-April 2016. Highlights include the following:

- Completed Dakota West activities, including writing and distributing draft minutes from the April 11 quarterly meeting; making preparations and director packets for the July 18 quarterly meeting; forwarding event notices, funding opportunities and learning events to members; following up on new contract between Dakota Prairies and Dakota West for executive director services; updating Dakota West Web site; helping get Duane Urlacher registered for the NARC&DC conference; and writing and submitting a NARC&DC stipend request for Urlacher (\$500 awarded)

- Western RC&D Association activities included monthly conference calls; reviewing Western notices; corresponding with Joe Leichtnam and Pam Grouse on dues payments; completing voting delegate form for Urlacher; shopping for gift basket of \$100 in North Dakota products for NDAREC&DC silent auction; collecting mailed votes for the Western officer election; and attending the July 11 and 12 meetings of Western in Reno

- Completed Water Wisdom 319 grant activities, including volunteering at 2016 Earth Day event in Bismarck; organizing and reviewing in-kind match from Dakota West and Dakota Prairies; completing and submitting the first two grant reimbursement requests; mailing 319 reimbursement checks to members; holding discussion on match with Greg Sandness and others; and holding discussions with Jay Fuhrer, Josh Dukart and others on the event work tasks

- Other activities included participating in a June USDA programs webinar; attending the NARC&DC conference in Reno; and helping to construct a high-tunnel greenhouse (hoop house) at Reno-Sparks Indian Colony in Nevada

*Dr. Kris Ringwall moved to accept the executive director's report. The motion was seconded by Duane Urlacher and approved without dissent.*

#### **Executive director contract**

Odermann reviewed the proposed 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 a maximum of 15 hours per month, plus expenses such as mileage.

The only change as requested by the Dakota Prairies RC&D Council board is the following sentence: "This agreement will be reviewed and renewed annually, and can be renewed upon agreement by both parties after the June 30, 2018, end date."

*Duane Urlacher moved to approve the proposed new contract with the above sentence added. The motion was seconded by Ron Obritsch and approved without dissent.*

#### **Water Wisdom 319 grant update**

Davis reported \$10,479 has been dispersed to date and \$7,432.06 is pending from the \$145,000 new grant. Members receiving grant money to date are Golden Valley SCD, \$800; Sheridan County SCD, \$220; South McLean County SCD, \$1,050 and Western SCD, \$2,000. Under the pending reimbursement, \$3,000 has been approved for Cedar SCD for the 2016 Earth Dakota Festival.

The board reviewed the balance in the new Water Wisdom 319 grant checking account at Dakota Community Bank & Trust in Bismarck. The balance on July 17, 2016, was \$19,309. This account was started with a \$6,500 contribution from both Dakota West and Dakota Prairies.

Davis said match may be more difficult than originally expected as the North Dakota Department of Health is requiring all match be prorated to the portion that deals directly with water quality. For example, Western SCD's significant match needed to be reduced to 40 percent of the total match submitted.

The board discussed the match issue, which some expressed concerns about. Davis was asked to run some projections on match and send it to the Executive Committee. Then a meeting of both councils' executive committees will be held if necessary.

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

■ *Frank Hatzenbuehler*: Hatzenbuehler, a board member at large, said the Rural Fire Department has received two awards for its fire hall renovations, a beatification award and a city award.

■ *Pam Meier*: Meier, district manager of Slope-Hettinger SCD, reported she has been alone in the office since May, when the technician left to work for NRCS. Ashley Tim has been hired and will start work in September. Meier said she has also been busy with Outdoor Heritage Fund tree planting paperwork. Wind, rain and hail have all affected the area.

■ *Ron Obritsch*: Obritsch, a director from Central Stark SCD, said his area received 4 inches of rain a small amount of hail. The pastures are green and looks better than in June. Crops are growing nicely. However, the haying was bleak.

■ *Dr. Kris Ringwall*: Ringwall, director of the Dickinson Research Extension Center, reported the center has land in three counties and the hail missed every area. He also said there may be an opportunity to conduct a project on 15 acres just west of the hospital. Hospital staff contacted him to see if a community health project could be conducted on this land that contains chemicals and oil. A soil profile will first be conducted. Some uses for the land include a soil restoration demonstration site.

■ *Kaylee Stein*: Stein, the district technician for Dunn County SCD, reported a recent hail storm demolished all the SCD's vehicles and its arboretum. Many trees were destroyed, with about 30 needing to be taken out. Some trees, such as the spruce, may be left in to see if they recover.

■ *Bonnie Twogood*: Twogood, district manager for Western SCD and Central Stark SCD, said the primary vote to combine the two SCDs passed. The merger needs to be completed by Jan. 1, 2017. An existing process for selecting directors will be used. There will be three elected and two appointed directors. Twogood also reported the weed barrier crew did a record 45,043 feet in one day.

■ *Duane Urlacher*: Urlacher, a board member for Stark County Water Resource District, reported no hail at his place, but Taylor got hit with hail.

■ *Shari Wick*: Wick, the district clerk at Adams County SCD, said she has been busy with Outdoor Heritage Fund tree planting paperwork. This SCD hired a part-time district tech to help deliver drills, plant trees and conduct weed badgering. Crops look poor, with hay production less than half of normal. Some are cutting crops for hay.

### **Next meeting**

The next quarterly meeting was scheduled for Monday, Oct. 17, 2016. It will be held at 9:30 a.m. (MDT) at the Dickinson Research Extension Research Center.

### **Adjournment**

President Odermann adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m. (MDT).