



DAKOTA PRAIRIES RC&D COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 19, 2016 10 a.m. (CDT)
Menoken Farm

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	
Open	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 meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. at Menoken Farm east of Bismarck.

Attending were Darci Gahner, Rhonda Kelsch, Bill Koch, Cindy Makedonski, Gary Murray, Penny Nester, Duane Olsen, Richard Perkerewicz, Doug Schonert and Deb Vollmuth. Also attending was Susan Davis, executive director of Dakota Prairies RC&D; Jay Fuhrer, soil health specialist with NRCS; and Darrell Oswald, district technician with Burleigh County SCD.

Because a quorum was not present, no motions were made or voted on.

Agenda and minutes

The agenda was reviewed and approved by consensus.

Minutes of the April 12, 2016, annual meeting were reviewed. It was noted Cindy Makedonski's name was spelled incorrectly in the first paragraph. The minutes will be approved at the next quarterly meeting.

Financial report

Treasurer Doug Schonert reviewed the financials, including the profit and loss statement for January through June 2016. Total income was \$95,527 and total expenses were \$88,510.

As of July 18, 2016, there was a balance of \$12,963 in the checking account at Dakota Community Bank and \$44,959 in the special project account at Kirkwood Bank & Trust. The new 319 grant checking account at Dakota Community Bank had a total of \$19,310. The two CDs total \$12,999.

The board also reviewed a check detail and a deposit detail, which will now be presented at each meeting. The financial report will be approved at the next quarterly meeting.

Executive director report

Susan Davis reviewed a written report of her activities since the last meeting, which was April 12, 2016. Highlights include: 1) Prepared and submitted two Water Wisdom 319 grant reimbursement requests and dispersed member grants; 2) visited with Jay Fuhrer and Josh Dukart about Water Wisdom work plan; 3) planned and prepared for Dakota Prairies and Dakota West quarterly meetings; 4) prepared and submitted two reimbursement requests under the Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) project at Standing Rock Reservation; 5) wrote and submitted new SCBG application to the North Dakota Department of Health for \$199,351; 6) prepared and submitted two Menoken Farm 319 grant reimbursement requests; 7) updated Dakota Prairies and Dakota West Web sites; 8) participated in Western RC&D Association conference calls and attended the July 11 annual meeting at Reno, Nev.; 9) attended the July 10-13 conference of the National Association of RC&D Councils in Reno; and 10) assisted Tuttle Betterment Club with a Rural Business Development Grant application to develop a commercial/community kitchen in the former Tuttle school.

Water Wisdom 319 grant report

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 Day 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 \$6,500 contributions from both Dakota West and Dakota Prairies.

Davis said she has not yet billed Dakota West for its share of 319 grant related expenses, but plans to work on this in August.

Proposed new contract with Dakota West RC&D

Davis reported that on July 18, 2016, the Dakota West RC&D board approved the updated services contract between Dakota Prairies RC&D and Dakota West RC&D with the following sentence added: “This agreement will be reviewed and renewed annually, and can be renewed upon agreement by both parties after the June 30, 2018, end date.”

President Cindy Makedonski signed the contract, which was signed by Dakota West President James Odermann on July 18.

A short discussion was held on the higher annual dues paid by members of Dakota Prairies RC&D. Davis will encourage this board to keep gradually raising its dues. Dakota West raised its dues from \$200 to \$350 for 2016. The dues discrepancies will be looked at again when the services contract is reviewed again.

Member/director reports

- *Darci Gahner, Sheridan County SCD*: Gahner reported combining has started in the county. Soil testing will begin soon.
- *Rhonda Kelsch, Emmons County SCD*: Kelsch said she will be working on the Outdoor Heritage Funding grant for tree plantings during the next six weeks.
- *Cindy Makedonski, Burleigh County SCD*: Makedonski reported staff is busy with tours at Menoken Farm. The garden tour begins at 6 p.m. July 21 at Menoken Farm. NRCS employees will be there next week for a three-day training session.
- *Gary Murray, Mercer County Commission*: Murray reported Great River Energy is closing its Stanton Station power plant in 2017. It will affect about 60 people who work there. The plant is too old to bring up to standards. The closing will also affect taxes paid to cities and counties.
- *Penny Nester, Kidder County Commission*: Nester, who works for Kidder County Extension Service, is working on a pollinator garden through the Master Gardener Program at NDSU. The garden site at Steele contains both annuals and Prairie Pothole Region native plants. The Kidder County Fair went well. Nester also reported Jackie Hewitt, district clerk at Kidder County SCD, resigned her position and interviews are being conducted today to replace her.
- *Duane Olsen, Morton County SCD*: Olsen reported this SCD is working on its soil health mentorship program and is planning a soil health tour later this summer.
- *Doug Schonert, Burleigh County Commission*: Schonert reported the county’s Extension office has a community garden project that is very successful. People can rent a plot for \$20.
- *Deb Vollmuth, Cedar SCD*: Vollmuth said Cedar’s no-till garden is not as nice as in the past. She and others will be planting some cover crops. This SCD is busy with producers bringing in NUTBAL samples, which will show nutrient concentration. Each year, they handle about 350 samples, which they mail via Priority mail on a Monday or a Tuesday. They are also working on putting bird escape ramps on CRP and EQIP tanks.

Next meeting date and adjournment

The directors discussed holding the next quarterly meeting either Oct. 11 or Oct. 18. Davis will survey the members to see which date is best.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. and Jay Fuhrer led a tour of Menoken Farm.