

MEETING MINUTES

CENTRAL REGION RC&D COUNCIL

2003 Minneapolis Ave., Gladstone, MI

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2005

CALL TO ORDER 1:02 pm

INTRODUCTIONS: Board members and partners introduce themselves. UPRC&D has hired Candace Ruusi as the new Administrative Assistant (Candace was unable to attend today's meeting, but will be coming to future meetings).

MINUTES: Minutes from last quarter's meeting approved with motion by Quentin Peterson, supported by Don Sandstrom. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ITEMS: Paul Van Ryzin describes the DVD that will be available in the next few weeks. The DVD is part of a U.P.-wide project to promote the use of native plants in soil bioengineering to stabilize soil and restore diversity. It will provide an overview of harvesting woody native shrubs and assembling live fascine bundles, as well as installing fascines and live stakes in a riparian area. The product will be available free of charge to Conservation Districts and County Road Commissions.

U.P. RC&D Council's Executive Board voted in late 2003 to invest in a new web site. The site will be created by Land Information Access Association in Traverse City, and will include an interactive map feature showing the locations of prior and current RC&D projects in each region. Visitors to the site will be able to click on project sites to view details including digital photo, directions, partners, and other background information. The site will help the UP RC&D Council raise awareness of their efforts in the U.P., and will also provide online minutes, meeting agendas, current goals/objectives, and project application information. The site should be online beginning in early March at www.uprcd.org.

REPORTS: Quentin Peterson reported a Regional Council balance of \$691.58. He also suggested that the Regional Council consider having an outdoor event in the summer of 2005, such as a visit to the Fumee Lake Natural Area or the Bat Project Site. He suggested a horse-drawn wagon tour as a possible event. Quentin asked the Council to consider having a luncheon in addition to a tour of a project area. Paul and/or Candace will follow up on this suggestion for the May or August Central Region meeting.

Danita Rask of the Alger Co. Conservation District mentioned the CD's recent award of \$325,000 from DEQ to implement the Munising Bay Watershed Plan. Also getting ready for the annual tree sale.

Dave Andersen of the Forestry Committee was unable to attend due to illness.

CUPPAD: Jennifer Romstad introduced herself and talked about her recent work in identifying natural and human hazards to create community hazard mitigation plans. She is working in Delta, Dickinson, Menominee, and Schoolcraft counties, talking with township supervisors to identify needs. Communities interested in pursuing FEMA funding to mitigate hazards will need to have an approved plan. Paul will contact Jennifer to help her make contacts with local officials in the Garden Peninsula, where a flooding problem has been identified. Other areas of concern identified by the Council include Lake Minnewaska, Spaulding Twp, and Shakey Lakes area in Menominee County.

USFS: Revised forest plan draft completed, will be released soon. Don Howlett updates the group on the Forestry Committee meeting discussion about the small sawmill operators project. Don and Jim Isleib and partners have achieved their objectives with the feasibility study, and have identified a broker to help small operators market their products. Bell Forest Products in Ishpeming will help broker sawn lumber; if you know of interested producers, they can contact Dennis Bell in Ishpeming for more information. Don and Jim will also coordinate training on lumber and log grading. Contact Jim Isleib with Alger Co MSU Extension in Munising for details on training opportunities.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Dennis Maufort distributed the allocation report for RD funding in Michigan in the past year.

NEW PROJECTS – CANCELLATIONS – COMPLETIONS – UPDATES

Dickinson County Conservation District's Ann Hruska provided an application and background information on the "Dickinson County Stormwater Ordinance Development Project". The County's EPA approved watershed management plan identified stormwater runoff as the primary pollutant; lack of ordinances was cited as a necessary Best Management Practice for improvement of water quality. Requested an estimated 50 hours of technical assistance in order to bring a broader scope of experience to the project. Discussion of Dickinson County's refusal to pay RC&D dues of \$300. Members agreed that they may reconsider paying their dues if they see a valuable project being assisted by RC&D in their county. Other prior projects of value in the county include Pine Mountain erosion control, etc. Paul will ask Ann to write a letter of support for the Regional Council, and Don Peterson will present it to Dickinson Co. Commissioners. Motion to approve by Sandstrom, supported by Paschke. Motion carried.

Paul Van Ryzin provides an update on other current projects in the Central Region and throughout the U.P. Rapid River School Forest Native Plant Restoration project funded by NFWF/EPA. Restoration on site will begin in the Spring. Tom Tauzer has already been working with Ralph Lindquist and RR School students to gather native plant seeds. Heating With Wood Workshop cancelled due to poor attendance; another workshop may be held in Houghton in the Spring. C-L-K School Forest project funded with DNR grant (Houghton Co); M-28 Visual Enhancement Project seeking funds from Kellogg Foundation and/or RD; Iron Co Bicycle Trail Feasibility study submitted (\$75,000) to the Federal Highway Administration's National Scenic Byways program; rated first out of 9 projects from Michigan this year, so funding is likely if FHWA makes awards in 2005.

Meeting Adjourned, 2:05 pm. Next meeting TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2005. Location to be announced.

MEETING MINUTES

CENTRAL REGION RC&D COUNCIL

2003 Minneapolis Ave., Gladstone, MI

TUESDAY, May 3, 2005

CALL TO ORDER 10:06 am

IN ATTENDANCE: Kim Fudala, City of Gladstone
Dave Higbee, NRCS Menominee Co.
Warren Schauer, MSUE
Tom Tauzer, NRCS Delta Co.
Rory Mattson, Delta CD
Matt Soehnel, NRCS Delta Co.
Lowell Paschke, Menominee Co. CD
Don Sandstrom, Alger Co
Gerry Corkin, Marquette Co
Howard Haulotte, City of Gladstone
Roger Quist, NRCS Schoolcraft Co.

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Menominee Co. Board rep; Delta Co Board rep; Schoolcraft County board or CD board rep; Alger CD board rep; Dickinson Co. board or CD rep; Marquette CD rep;

INTRODUCTIONS: Board members and partners introduce themselves. UPRC&D has hired Darcy Rutkowski as the new Administrative Assistant. Hours are Mon-Thurs 12:30 to 3:30 pm; Friday 8 to 11 am.

MINUTES: Minutes from last quarter's meeting approved with motion by Sandstrom, seconded by Corkin. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ITEMS: Quentin Peterson sends his regrets for being unable to attend due to health concerns. Next Central Region meeting will be his last, after serving for many years on the RC&D board. He was involved in the very first RC&D meeting in the 1970s. Paul will coordinate with board members to recognize his service. New balance of Central account is \$816.58, with income of \$125 from CD contributions. All dues are received for 2005.

New web site is online at www.uprcd.org. In the future, please see the site for meeting dates, times, and locations; Annual Plan document; Area Plan document; meeting agendas and minutes; project information; current events; etc.

REPORTS:

Alger Co—Funding received and being used for St. Martin’s Hill and the Eastern Alger County Watershed Implementation project (both are RC&D projects).

Marquette Co—Dead River Cleanup continues, with Army Corps and UPPCO. A project will be brought in August from the Lake Superior Partnership requesting support with planning, research, and grant writing for the Iron Heritage Trail between Marquette and Champion.

Menominee Co.—The Conservation District is interested in developing one or more RC&D projects. A number of projects were developed in 2001-2, including boat launches and other ‘traditional’ RC&D projects; however, they were never implemented. Dave Higbee provides background on the ‘demise’ of these projects.

Delta CD—Ralph Lundquist unable to attend today’s meeting; Rory provides updates on tree sale, pilot wetlands project; plans to move the CD toward economic self-sufficiency, and away from reliance on grants only. Tom Tauzer provides an update on the Ford River cemetery project. NRCS will commit EQIP funds for the project. The Rapid River School Forest project is currently underway, although planting will be delayed until Fall due to funding delays. Larry Klope’s biomass project, involving switchgrass for fuel will be integrated with the native plant restoration area.

Schoolcraft Co –South Town creek project not moving forward now; Hamilton Lake Nature Area is currently being developed (RC&D project), with funds from NFWF pending. NRCS Plant Materials Center has provided seed to the CD for trial plantings.

MSU Extension—Warren discusses renewable energy program offered in April; discusses Ag Entrepreneurial workshop, MSU Product Center; Escanaba community garden; position responsibilities, including farm management.

NEW PROJECTS – CANCELLATIONS – COMPLETIONS – UPDATES

New Project: Gladstone Outdoor Classroom—DNR owned property, have given permission to develop. Lot, trails, restrooms, viewing platforms, boardwalk, picnic tables. Jill Martin of Wilcox Engrg has offered help with feasibility study or design information. U.P RC&D has a boardwalk design guide, will forward to Howard. Will be fully ADA accessible. Higbee suggests contacting Russ McDonald, DNR 786-2351 as he is knowledgeable about recreation area development. Project as proposed will be completed in phases. Wildlife Unlimited is a potential partner. Current cost estimates are \$5-600 for trail mix; \$2000 for parking lot grading and gravel. Rory suggests the Daigenais Foundation for local funding, he will contact them; also suggests U.P. Whitetails, he will bring up this project next Wed night; they will fund up to \$2000. Paul suggest UPSFWF with Bay De Noc Community College, will forward application materials to Howard; up to \$1000 in funding. Culvert may need to be widened as well. Porta potties will be adequate. For boardwalk, would like to use Trex. Phase 2 could

include a trail to the north, and Phase 3 could include the viewing platforms. Paul will assist with GPS unit to determine distances in order to calculate materials costs more accurately. Liability issue for viewing platforms discussed. Dave suggests there may be glossy buckthorn in the area, so this could be another avenue for a grant (invasive species removal). DNR could potentially turn the area over to the City. May need a permit for filling wetlands, even if you just put gravel on the uplands. Paul will forward link (<http://www.nfwf.org/programs/walmart/index.htm>) to Howard for Walmark grant to preserve wetlands and valuable natural areas. Craig Allbright, DNR, would also be a good contact.

Meeting Adjourned, 2:05 pm. Next meeting 10 am Central, TUESDAY, August 2, 2005. Location to be announced, but will be either Iron Mountain or Kingsford.

**MEETING MINUTES
CENTRAL REGION RC&D COUNCIL
Dickinson County MSU Extension Office
800 Crystal Lake Blvd.
Iron Mountain, MI
TUESDAY, August 2, 2005**

CALL TO ORDER 11:10 am Eastern Time

IN ATTENDANCE: Jude Holloway & Danita Rask-Alger CD, Heather Simeneta-Mqt. NRCS Intern, Ernie Hohokik & Lindsey Frenette-Schoolcraft Co Bd of Comm, Don Sandstrom-Alger Co Bd of Comm, Quentin Peterson-Dickinson Co Citizen, Dave Andersen-MSU Ext Schoolcraft Co, Judy Pomeroy & Lowell Paschke-Menominee CD, Gerry Corkin-Mqt Co Bd of Comm, Carol Kurtz, Chuck Harris & Ann Hruska-Dickinson CD, Mike LaPointe, Mqt NRCS, Don Howlett-USFS, Joe Stevens-Dickinson Co Bd of Comm, Paul VanRyzin-UPRC&D Coordinator

MINUTES: Minutes from last quarter's meeting approved with motion by Corkin, seconded by Sandstrom. Motion carried. Attendees had trouble printing directions-put directions to the meeting on agenda next time.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Quentin Peterson presented the report – balance on hand as of 5/3/05 was \$816.58. No activity to report.

BUSINESS ITEMS: Quentin Peterson has resigned as treasurer after serving since 1988 in this position. The Council elected Jude Holloway to replace Quentin as new treasurer. Quentin was honored with a card, certificate, jacket, and other gifts. The entire council thanked him for his dedicated service to RC&D in the Central Region.

Paul presented the draft communications plan developed by the Communications Committee and the draft media contacts list. Those in attendance gave input on new contacts to add to the list and Dave Andersen will work on a list of radio stations which he will forward to the Council Administrative Assistant.

REPORTS:

Alger Co—Two projects for Eastern Alger County Watershed Implementation project – Access stairs on Sucker River, 3-4 streambank CAT; St. Martin's Hill is completed, at a total cost of approximately \$625,000. RC&D helped secure about \$200,000 in grants, which leveraged the additional funds from the City of Munising.

Position Opening – Watershed Manager; The CD is in receipt of \$325,000 for Munising Bay Watershed, and also received assistance with grant writing for this project.

Marquette Co—Dead River Restoration continues with debris removal. Mike LaPointe reported that as a result of the flood there were urgent and compelling needs for funding.

Discussion of administrative issues. Restoration of Silver Lake Dam and dam in City of Marquette will begin soon.

Menominee Co.—The Conservation District is working on visibility in Co. Higbee reports completion of Wetland Reserve Program projects, as well as a general discussion of EQIP issues and trends.

Delta CD—No Reps Present

Schoolcraft Co –Dave Andersen reports that the South Town Creek boat launch project is currently on hold, but would like to revive the effort in 2006, possibly through application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant.

Dickinson Co – Two non-point CMI grants underway (2nd of 3); currently installing measures to control erosion such as the Hamilton Creek bank stabilization. Also using NRCS WRP funds in Norway and CMI for stream relocation; outdoor education center is discussed. Fumee Creek Stormwater management is continuing, a project assisted by RC&D. Paul has helped facilitate information gathering through meetings with Marquette City officials and the Central Lake Superior Watershed Partnership, which will join with the County to address the issue. The CD will offer a tour on Sept. 24, 8:30 to noon, meet at the CD office.

MSU Extension—Citizen Planner Program will be offered, 6-10 week certification program will teach rights, responsibilities, tactics and technical expertise for local planners. MSU Extension has also worked with the Firewise program, in partnership with Mike Jensen, USFS, MDNR, and local volunteer fire departments.

DNR – No reps present, Paul reported on a meeting at the Holiday Inn, Marquette coming on August 10, 2005 to discuss Landowner Assistance Programs.

CUPPAD – No Reps Present

NRCS – Moving into a new, upgraded office space in Marquette, on Commerce Drive by November 1, 2005.

USFS – Don Howlett reported that the USFS will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary at the UP State Fair in Escanaba on August 16, 2005.

Meeting Adjourned, 12:25 Eastern. Next meeting 10 am, location to be determined.

**MEETING MINUTES
CENTRAL REGION RC&D COUNCIL
Marquette Conservation Center
1030 Wright Street
Marquette, MI
TUESDAY, November 1, 2005**

CALL TO ORDER 10:00 am Eastern Time

IN ATTENDANCE: Jude Holloway, Liz Coyne & Danita Rask-Alger CD, Ernie Hoholik & Lindsey Frenette-Schoolcraft Co Bd of Comm, Dave Andersen-MSU Ext Schoolcraft Co, Bob Struck-Mqt Co Bd of Comm, Jerry Davis, Mqt NRCS, Don Howlett-USFS, Becky Otto, Rich Reader & Renee Leow-Mqt. CD, Tom Tauzer-Delta CD, Howard Haulette-City of Gladstone, Scott Wieting-Hannahville, Darcy Rutkowski-UP RC&D

MINUTES: Minutes from the meeting of August 2, 2005 were approved (Reader, Andersen).

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jude Holloway presented the report – balance on hand as of 11/1/05 was \$466.58. The only activity since the last meeting was an expenditure of \$350.00 for the Horse/Buggy Ride at the picnic. Group recommends that treasurer keep records for 7 years. Report approved (Frenette, Andersen).

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Vacant Coordinator Position: Jerry Davis reported that the Coordinator position has been posted and closes 11/14/05. Mike LaPointe, Asst. State Conservationist for Area 1, will make the selection within 30 days of receiving qualified applicants, and it might take as long as 6-8 weeks for the person selected to start the job.

Newsletter: Darcy Rutkowski, Council Administrator, will be working on a newsletter in the near future which will detail the new office location, new coordinator (if available) and highlights from each region.

REPORTS:

Alger Co—Annual meeting held, Jude Holloway re-elected, Hampton Waring is new chairperson. Hired new Munising Bay watershed mgr-Liz Coyne. Liz has been working on Christmas Motor Sports track erosion problem, and participated in Burt Twp. Environmental Fair. They are trying to develop curriculum for school forest. D. Andersen reminded council of curriculum developed for Rapid River School Forest (RC&D project) with contact persons Steve Ostrenga (teacher) and Bill Cook (MSU Extension).

Marquette Co—Renee Leow reported on recent success of Conservation Fest-250 students participated with NRCS, USFS and other conservation folks making presentations. Annual meeting held, Rich Reader and Bernie Huetter elected. Conservation District moving to new location on 11/16/05, sharing space with NRCS and UP RC&D. Several workshops (maple syrup, blueberries, wood heat, mushroom cultivation) given by Chris Burnett very successful (70+ participants in many). Suggestion that wild mushroom identification would be good topic

for future. Question regarding the conservation district's stand on new mining project in Yellow Dog Plains – CD will provide unbiased information to public, remaining neutral on the issue.

Menominee Co.—No Reps Present

Delta CD—Tom Tauzer reported that district is spending a great deal of time with DEQ and Corp of Eng. on wetland issues. Delta Co. and City of Escanaba provided funding for District to hire part-time office staff to help out. The CD will oversee a mitigation site for the Hannahville parking lot expansion. Escanaba establishing Wetland Task Force - CD, planning comm., forest service will all have reps. Currently 3 RC&D projects: 1) Ford River Cemetery Site (erosion of grave sites), 2) Rapid River Forestry Club (partners are NMU, For. Svc. and Lk Superior Wtrsd Partnership), and 3) Gladstone Nature Preserve-Howard Haulotte (city of Gladstone) reported that the city is waiting for approval from the DNR in Lansing for the transfer of state wetland property located in the city (or a conservation easement) which would allow them to proceed with this project. They have local funding and other support in place, but can't move forward until land issues are settled. They will not be pursuing the services of a local engineering firm and would like to start working with UP RC&D again. Dave Andersen reminded those present that MSU offers a "Small Town Design Initiative", an engineering service using professors/students for a minimum of \$2,000 plus expenses that could be a feasible option for certain projects.

Schoolcraft Co –Lindsey Frenette reported that the County purchased a Creek in Thompson with future projects in mind.

Dickinson Co – No Reps Present

MSU Extension—Citizen Planner Program—every county reached in the last 3 years. Will be offered again, 6-10 week certification program will teach rights, responsibilities, tactics and technical expertise for local land use planners. Due to cost constraints may be offered as Video Conference at Bay College. Dave is in need of volunteers for steering committee. Look for informational brochure in Jan. 2006. MSU Extension has also received continued funding for Firewise, a program that educates landowners and communities about what they can do to minimize the impact of wildfire. Mike Jensen is covering the western UP and Dave Andersen is covering the eastern UP. Had presentation at UP Builders Show with quite a bit of interest from builders. Extension is also in planning stages for a day-long UP Regional Program regarding "How to Finance Infrastructure for Communities". It will probably be held in late summer/early fall 2006.

DNR – No reps present

CUPPAD – No Reps Present

NRCS – Moving into a new, upgraded office space in Marquette, 780 Commerce Drive, November 16, 2005.

USFS – Don Howlett reported that the USFS celebrated their 100th Anniversary at the UP State Fair in Escanaba on August 16, 2005. Lots of positive feedback on the historical information set forth in musical presentations. He also distributed a news release detailing a grant program dealing with woody biomass utilization. Looking for slash reduction on Forest Service Land that enhances economic development. The slash is a product not being fully utilized at the present time. Pre-applications for the grant are due December 1, 2005. Contact Ralph Winkler, USFS (906) 786-4062, Pete Cambier (????) or Bill Cook, MSU Ext. (906) 786-1575 with questions or for more information. (More info available at www.fpl.fs.fed.us/tmu under woody biomass grants). Nelson family in Escanaba has a slash-bundler which could be useful. Question raised on the impact of slash removal on nutrient cycling and wildlife habitat. D. Andersen reported that studies by MTU forestry dept. showed that whole-tree harvesting had little negative impact on nutrient pool.

Hannahville Tribe – Scott Wieting, natural resource person with the tribe reported that he developed a planning matrix to be used for a tool in planning natural resource protection/programming. They are increasing staff with new GIS position, also have water quality specialist doing surface water monitoring. Size of reservation about 6,000 acres, but spread out geographically. They are challenged to balance economic development with natural resource protection. Their controversial coal-fired power plant is not being readily pursued right now due to focus on new casino in downstate Romulus.

Bob Struck (Mqt Co. Comm) provided information about the Partners of the Americas program for which he is the Michigan president. Michigan is partnered with Belize and the Dominican Republic. They are always developing projects which could use the expertise of members of a group like RC&D. For more information, contact Bob (228-4182) or visit the website www.partners.net.

Motion by Andersen, seconded by Frenette to accept all reports. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 7, 2006 in Gladstone at the Conservation District Offices, 1pm. Election of Officers will take place at this meeting.

Meeting Adjourned, 11:30 Eastern.