

MEETING MINUTES - CENTRAL REGION RC&D COUNCIL
Gladstone City Hall - Tuesday, January 5, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am by Chairman Ernie Hoholik. Everyone introduced themselves.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ernie Hoholik-Schoolcraft Co; Howard Haulotte & Benny Herioux-Delta CD; Tom Tauzer-NRCS Delta Co; Hamp Waring-Alger CD; Kate Waring-MTU; Renee Leow & Jaime Beranek-Marquette CD; Dave Andersen-MSU Extension Schoolcraft Co; Clyde Thoune-Menominee CD; Ann Hruska & Chuck Harris-Dickinson CD; Darcy Rutkowski-UP RC&D Council

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES: The agenda was approved (Andersen/Thoune). The minutes from the meeting of October 6, 2009 were approved (Herioux/H Waring) with the following correction under the Marquette County Report: the word expensive should be changed to inexpensive.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Dave Andersen presented a summary of the activity in the checking account through January 4, 2010. The ending balance is \$642.58. A motion was made to place the treasurer's report on file (Thoune/Herioux).

BUSINESS ITEMS:

2010 Annual Plan of Work: Darcy reported that the UP Council approved the 2010 Annual Plan of Work for the council at their December meeting. Having an approved Annual Plan of work on file prior to the start of the new fiscal year is required by NRCS. The Annual Plan lists all active projects and the format allows for progress to be recorded as the year progresses so council members are aware of what is happening on the various projects. When new projects are adopted, they can be added to the Annual Plan of Work which is available on the website.

Mini-Grants (possible use of treasury funds): Treasurer Dave Andersen explained that the amount of money in the Central treasury is increasing and he is of the opinion that the Central council should either find a productive way to spend some of the funds or stop requesting dues from the conservation districts. He suggested that the central council could award mini-grants for projects that came to their attention. A motion to institute a mini-grant program with the following criteria was made by Andersen, and seconded by Thoune:

- 1) Maximum grant to be awarded is \$150 or one-third of total project cost (whichever is smaller)
- 2) The current UP RC&D Council project application will be used to apply for the mini-grants
- 3) The applicant is required to go through their local CD for prior approval before bringing the mini-grant request to the Central RC&D Council
- 4) The Central RC&D Council will maintain a \$200 minimum balance in their checking account
- 5) The Central Council will award a maximum of 2 mini-grants per year
- 6) It is suggested that the grant recipient make a presentation on the project to the Central Council following completion of the project
- 7) A written report of the project accomplishments and accounting of how the funds were expended is required at the completion of the project
- 8) Approval of the mini-grant awards will be by the entire membership during regular council meetings

Motion passed.

Renee Leow distributed some photos and described a request for funds from an Eagle Scout candidate that is planning a project to build some steps and eliminate an erosion problem at an access point on the Carp River in Marquette County. She said this would be an ideal project to receive one of the new mini-grants.

The entire cost of the project is \$800 and the scout has already secured \$400 from the Superior Watershed Partnership and an additional \$200 from the Marquette CD. He needs the funding by the end of April. She will inform the scout about the procedure for applying for a mini-grant and he can submit a project application at the next Central meeting scheduled for April 6, 2010.

REPORTS

Alger Conservation District: Hampton Waring reported that the district finished restoration at Kolbus racetrack in Christmas as part of the Munising Bay Watershed project. They still have a few remaining projects on the Anna River and Perch Lake Road. They will be planting trees in the city of Munising with grant funds that can only be used to purchase trees. The CD is providing match for the grant. The state has zeroed out the Conservation District funding so they are looking for new, creative ways to raise revenue. They have recently collaborated with RC&D on a couple of invasive species grant proposals. They are also hoping to have a good tree sale by increasing their offerings and visibility. Alger and Marquette CD's are still sharing a forester and possibly looking at a fee for services. They are also working with the Marquette CD to promote the farm bill programs.

Delta Conservation District: Benny Herioux reported that since the CD has taken over the responsibility of soil permitting they have had some ups and downs (particularly regarding the fee structure with one landowner). Tom Tauzer reported that the district has now hired the new forester (Shawn Cannon) that will be providing assistance to private landowners under a joint funding agreement between the CD and NRCS. Each will fund one year and they still have hopes that the DNR will fund a third year of assistance. Tom hopes this will be a successful pilot project and the model might be employed in the future for other CD's. Their CD experienced a tremendous work load related to the CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program), and he reported that there is another round of EQIP and WHP funding coming up. Howard Haulotte will be helping Jack Harrington (Region 2 of MACD).

Dickinson Conservation District: Ann Hruska reported that the Dickinson CD tree order forms went out last week. Their Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 30 and all are invited. They have continued with their photo contest – using the photos to create a calendar which they sell. For the first time they have realized a small profit. Their current watershed projects on Fumee and Hamilton Creeks are now completed and they are also looking for creative ways to raise funds and get exposure. It looks like they will have a contract to do EAB work in Menominee, Iron, Dickinson, Baraga and Ontonagon counties which will provide them some funding. They are also working collaboratively with Grand Valley State University on a 2 year genetic study on Eurasian Water Milfoil (studying hybridization and morphological changes). They have some funding from WEnergies for the Menominee River watershed area as well. Wood Fibers, Inc has a new pelletizing plant in Niagara, WI and they are experimenting with pelletizing switchgrass. They are already enrolled in BCAP as a supplier of chips to Verso paper, but want to become a certified receiver of switchgrass as well. At this point it is not possible to be enrolled in BCAP as both a receiver and a supplier and Ann is trying to assist them through her contacts in NRCS.

Marquette County: Renee Leow reported that the Marquette District is having the same funding problems that have already been reported by the Alger and Dickinson Districts and they are also trying to find creative ways to survive the funding crisis in the state. They had a successful fall tree and native plant sale and are in the process of planning for their spring tree sale. They assisted with the BURN-UP harvest demonstrations which took place in September, and also had some EAB funding. An EAB beetle was found in Alger County and this may be the impetus for additional work on EAB in the area. They also received a grant from UPPCO to do work on Mulligan Creek (tributary of the Dead River), similar to the work they just completed on Connor's Creek.

Menominee County/CD: Clyde Thoun reported that their district is staffing their office at 26 hrs and under per week split between 3 people who are each focusing on one thing (tree sales, general office manager, grant writer). They are renting out their tree planter (\$13/acre, minimum of \$50 and limit on how far it can travel) and their no-till drill. They have scheduled their Annual Meeting for Saturday, March 13 and invite everyone to attend. They have planted 8 acres of switchgrass for pheasant habitat.

Schoolcraft County: Dave Andersen reported that the CD completed their move into a smaller space in the courthouse, and they no longer have a resource professional on staff. The CD administrator is working very few hours with the majority of their funding coming from the millage that supports the CD.

MSU Extension: Dave Andersen reported that there are major organizational changes being implemented statewide at MSUE. This is due to severe funding shortages in the state. The regional offices will be eliminated, as well as county extension directors (by April 1). The “Area of expertise teams” will be eliminated. They are focusing on 4 new program areas 1) Greening of Michigan, 2) Agriculture, 3) Health & Nutrition, 4) 4H. The state leaders will be restructured to be a Director, Assoc. Director, and 4 program institute directors. These appointments should be complete by February 1. The state will be divided into 12-14 districts with two districts in the UP (probably Delta and Alger counties and east will be the dividing line). Each district will have a coordinator, probably by the end of March. Each district will also have employees with a certain area of expertise to be used in multiple counties within the district. This will change the current relationship that most county extension directors have with their local units of government. The timetable for full implementation is by July 1. Most services will still be available, but there will be a reduction in administration and they will rely on distance learning technology and cut back on travel. This is modeled after similar programs in Iowa and Minnesota.

Dave also reported that the UP Sustainable Forestry and Wildlife Fund recently made 3 grant awards. They awarded \$866 to girls scouts who are restoring/maintaining an interpretive trail at Clear Lake Environmental Camp. The total cost of the project is \$2376. They awarded \$1016 for a “Stewards of the Stream” project which is being done by Bothwell Middle School (Marquette) and the Glenn T. Seaborg Center at NMU for work on invasive species and salmon planting on the Carp River. They also made an award to the “Inspirations Riding Program”, a therapeutic riding club for disabled riders. Dave reminded folks about the fund and that they distribute grants of up to \$2000 twice a year. The contact person is Gary LaPlant at the UP Community Foundation (906-789-5972). The UP RC&D Council has a seat on the board.

Coordinator’s Report: Marilyn was not able to attend the meeting because she is sick.

New Projects: Defending the Upper Peninsula of MI, “Know It, Don’t Grow It” Invasive Species Mass Media Education Campaign- Ann Hruska (Dickinson CD) wrote up the project application on behalf of a group of 8 CD’s which were all interested and already working on invasive species issues. They applied to the “Temper of the Times” organization for a grant to do an educational marketing project across the UP. This organization only funds marketing for conservation projects. If funded, they plan to determine which type of marketing will work best in various parts of the UP and collaborate to get a coordinated message out to the public. They are requesting coordination/facilitation from the UP RC&D Council coordinator. They feel this can also serve as a model for CD’s working together, using the various strengths that each one can bring to the table to accomplish common goals. The project was approved (Andersen/Herioux).

Project Updates: Dave Andersen gave an update on the Manistique District Heating Plant Feasibility Study. This project is an offshoot of the BURN-UP project. The USFS provided a feasibility study for 4 of the 17 buildings that are part of the cluster (these 4 would utilize 85% of the total energy). The study

determined that it would be feasible to implement a district heating plant in the area and the payback on the investment was dependent on the location of the plant. If it was located at Camp Manistique it would take 25 years to payback the investment. If it was located in the middle of the buildings the payback was only 8 years. If additional entities get involved (Manistique Papers), that would have the effect of changing the load and focus. At this point they have submitted an EECBG grant application to the State of Michigan and applied for \$64,900. They will know if they will receive the grant by the end of January and would implement the work by March 31. The work would involve doing energy conservation plans for all buildings and full-blown feasibility of a District Heating Plant or CHP. If this was eventually implemented, Dave thinks they would be the first renewable district heating plant in the state. Darcy reported that the BURN-UP project received a grant extension for Phase II until March 31, 2010. The two harvest demonstrations were held in September and had great attendance.

Howard Haulotte reported on the Gladstone Outdoor Classroom Project. He has resigned from the City of Gladstone but still serves on the Delta CD board. He will be making a proposal to the City Council in the near future that the Gladstone Kiwanis Club assume responsibility for the project, but that the funds remain with the city (where they would be subject to an annual audit). Howard and Tom Tauzer are both members of the Kiwanis Club and the club is very interested in the project.

Next Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am and the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at 10 am at the Gladstone City Hall.

MEETING MINUTES - CENTRAL REGION RC&D COUNCIL
Gladstone City Hall - Tuesday, April 6, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Vice-Chairman Hampton Waring. Everyone introduced themselves.

IN ATTENDANCE: Howard Haulotte & Rory Mattson-Delta CD; Tom Tauzer-NRCS Delta Co; Dave Schultz & David Rivard-Delta Co Comm; Hamp Waring & Teri Grout-Alger CD; Jerry Doucette-Alger Co Comm; Donna Silta-FSA; David Silvieux-Hiawatha Natl Forest; Lloyd Matthes-CUPPAD; Liz Coyne-CUPCWMA; Renee Leow-Marquette CD; Jean Gagliardo-NRCS Mqt and Alger Co; Clyde Thoun & Carol Pfeifferkorn-Menominee CD; Chuck Harris & Bobbie Klocke-Dickinson CD; Marilyn Shy & Darcy Rutkowski-UP RC&D Council

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES: The agenda was approved (Grout/Schultz). The minutes from the meeting of January 5, 2010 were approved (Leow/Coyne) as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Dave Andersen was not able to attend the meeting but provided a written treasurer's report which summarized of the activity in the checking account from October 2009 through March 24, 2010. The ending balance is \$792.58. The treasurer's report will be placed on file.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

County Dues Update: Dues notices were sent to all counties January 19, 2010. To date dues have been received from 10 of the 15 counties with Baraga, Gogebic, Ontonagon, Menominee, and Schoolcraft dues still remaining unpaid. Darcy received notice that Gogebic County has approved dues payment already and she has notified county commissioners from the other four counties that the dues have not been received and asked them to follow up with their respective counties.

Legislative Update: Darcy reminded council members that when the President's budget was released in February, the RC&D Program was zeroed out and subsequently we had sent letters to the UP offices of Stupak, Stabenow and Levin requesting that they work to reinstate this funding (\$50.73 million). We were notified that both Stabenow and Levin had signed onto a "Dear Colleague Letter" that was circulating in the Senate. We have not heard back from Stupak's office as to what if anything he did or plans to do to support the RC&D Program. Darcy will follow up with staff in his UP office to determine what action might have been taken by Rep. Stupak.

RC&D Performance Improvement Criteria: Marilyn summarized a new RC&D Performance Improvement Criteria Implementation Process that the UP Council and all other councils in the U.S. are undergoing right now. The National Assoc. of RC&D Councils and NRCS have identified 7 criteria that they are requiring all councils to be compliant with by September 30, 2011. The UP Council is already meeting 5 of the 7 criteria. The two criteria not now being met are 1) Completes Annual Report, and 2) Conducts Annual External Financial Audit/Review. The Council has scheduled an Annual External Financial Review for April 21st and will also be completing an Annual Report during 2010.

Mini-Grant Applications:

Chatham Native Plants Pathway-Teri Grout provided a synopsis of this mini-grant project which is sponsored by the Alger CD. The CD owns a small piece of land which connects with land owned by the village in Chatham and is working with an NMU student and the Protected Area Management Class to create a native plants pathway on the land. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$1,915 and a \$150 mini-grant was approved for this project (Coyne/Klocke).

Stairs for Morgan Creek Falls-Renee Leow provided a powerpoint presentation (which was put together by the Eagle Scout who is doing this project) for the group. The project is sponsored by the Marquette CD and the Eagle Scout will work with partners to install stairs and erosion control measures at an access site to Morgan Creek Falls which is currently a highly eroded site. The total cost of the project is \$1,420.52 and the

Scout has already obtained some additional funding from the Marquette CD and Superior Watershed Partnership. A grant of \$150 was approved (Grout/Thoune).

REPORTS

Alger Conservation District: Teri Grout reported that the CD is wrapping up their tree sale (which also includes offerings of blueberries and native plants). They have found a way to continue EAB monitoring (the state is no longer providing funding for monitoring since the insect has now been found in the county) with assistance from the county, UPPCO, townships, donation of traps and hope to install 150 traps this summer. They are also doing some garlic mustard mapping near AuTrain, working on a small pocket park in Munising (green space, native plants), held a very successful apple pruning workshop, and are participating with the Munising Farmer's Market. Their watershed funding is wrapping up at the end of May, and they have applied for an EPA grant.

Jerry Doucette reported that the MiWorks summer work programs have not yet passed in congress and funding and final notification about the program availability will probably not occur until June.

Delta Conservation District: Rory Mattson reported on their tree sale which is also underway. They have assisted Delta County in completing their strategic plan, with fencing at the airport, helping with the environmental assessment there. They are partnering with the USFS on the Rural Secure Schools program which is seeking members for an advisory committee that will help decide how to utilize funds that the county will receive in lieu of taxes (see more details under USFS report). They have been designated a SLAM site for EAB control measures and will be hiring 10 individuals for 2 years to intensively fight the newly discovered EAB outbreak near Garden Corners. They are proceeding with their Forestry Wildlife Program, a cooperative venture of the district, NRCS and MDNRE which serves the needs of the non-industrial private forest landowners. This pilot project is a model for what could happen in other CD's in future years and they have received favorable support from Garry Lee (NRCS State Conservationist) and Russ Mason (DNRE). The Delta CD is also one of 3 pilot areas in the state which is assisting the DNRE in doing on-site evaluation and assistance for wetlands (short of issuing permits) and this is ongoing through 2012. They provide total wetland services up to the point of issuing the permit. He hopes that in the future CD's can fill this niche for the state (also pilot projects in Muskegon and Calhoun CD's). Rory will be making a presentation at the summer MACD conference on how/what to do to limit a CD's liability.

Dickinson Conservation District: Bobbie Klocke reported that the district is doing EAB work in Dickinson, Menominee, Iron, Gogebic and Ontonagon counties – currently preparing to set 1600 traps. Switchgrass has been harvested from the test plots there (8 round bales which is pretty good for the first harvest). They will be creating pellets and working with Verso Papers. They hope to answer the question as to whether this is a viable cash crop for that region. They are working with partners in the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (Wisconsin and Michigan partners). Also, 689 acres of private forestlands have been enrolled in a new Conservation Stewardship Program rolled out by NRCS last year.

Marquette County: Renee Leow reported that the Marquette District is also in the middle of their tree sale. They received a grant from UPPCO to do work on Mulligan Creek (Dead River tributary), and also have some EAB work which they are overseeing in Marquette, Baraga, Houghton and Keweenaw counties. They still have a consulting forester on staff in cooperation with the Alger CD providing services to both Marquette and Alger county residents. A work day has already been conducted at the Trestle Park Native Plant Corridor and they have a new partner – Starbucks – who will be supporting their work and also planting a native shrub garden at their business. They are working with the Marquette County Historical Society and the Peter White Public library to install native shrub gardens. They are assisting the Negaunee (upstream) and Marquette (downstream) middle school students to monitor the Carp River and working with UP Engineers and Architects and the Big Bay Schools to restore hiking trails. She advises other districts to “look outside the box” for new partners.

Menominee County/CD: Carol Pfefferkorn reported that their tree sale is doing extremely well, they have introduced some new offerings like raspberries and blueberries. Their Annual meeting was held recently and some new board members were elected. By taking a neutral position on the mining issues in the area they are hoping to get people talking about it more freely, maybe a meeting with lots of partners to start a dialogue between opposing sides. They would like to make the information science-based and centrally located. They are continuing their 5th grade conservation project and looking for funding to upgrade the program. They are also looking for land to start a native plants nursery (as a fundraiser) and at holding planting workshops (How to plant a tree for success) and donating a tree to the library at the workshop.

USFS: Dave Silvieus from the Hiawatha National Forest informed the group that Don Howlett had retired and he will be attending RC&D meetings to represent the USFS. He distributed a Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA) for the period 1/1/10 to 3/31/10, and also a schedule of Proposed Timber Sales from April 1, 2010 to September 30, 2010. He elaborated on the Secure Rural Schools Program – local counties could opt to receive 25% in lieu of taxes to fund forest service projects in the counties under the direction of a resource advisory committee (15 people). Both Delta and Chippewa Counties opted to receive these funds (\$75,000 - \$100,000 per year) which will be used for restoration projects. They are in the process of formulating the advisory committee. The Hiawatha has received approximately 10.5 million in stimulus funds and a good portion is going to the counties for road projects and ecosystem restoration. They are using the funds for Kirtland warbler habitat, to deal with budworm, to install culverts and upgrade bridges. The funds will be spent prior to 9/30/10.

Farm Service Agency: Donna Silta reported that they have been extremely busy and that their workload always increases when the economy is poor. They are busy with farm loans, disaster programs (still finishing up 2008 disaster programs), and new NRCS programs (Conservation Stewardship & BCAP) which have been extremely popular (and are now on hold during a comment period).

CUPPAD: Lloyd Matthes reported that the Michigan Great Lakes Wind Council is hosting a series of meetings in coastal communities to get input from the public on its recommendations related to offshore wind energy development. A meeting will be held in Escanaba on April 14th at 6 pm at 4989 Danforth Road. The Fish America Foundation is sponsoring community based habitat restoration projects (funded by NOAA) which emphasize implementation of locally driven habitat projects. Lloyd, Jeff Hagan and Matt Johnson are co-chairs of the Natural Resources Commission on Mining Issues (there is no such thing as non-sulfide mining) and there is a meeting at the Casino in August to discuss issues of environmentally sound mining. The Michigan Township's Association will sponsor a program in August about the need for 3 stages of planning: planning, diversification (recognize that all businesses are finite), and re-use (what to do when businesses move out). CUPPAD is looking at re-use (best use is closest to original use) for buildings in the UP. Approximately 27 school buildings will become vacant in the next 2 years in a 6 county region (schools typically make good small factories).

NRCS: Jean Gagliardo and Tom Tauzer reported that the new Farm Bill forestry programs have been extremely popular.

Coordinator's Report: Marilyn reported that she has completed training to be a facilitator and is available to assist partners in facilitating (not mediating) with natural resource related issues. She has already facilitated a meeting of the EUP CWMA. She distributed an updated Annual Plan of Work which provided progress updates on projects.

New Projects:

Pioneer Trail Park Renovation: Rory Mattson gave a synopsis of this project which is sponsored by Delta County, the Delta County Parks and Rec. Commission, and the Delta CD. This project proposes to repair and expand (bathroom and kitchen facilities) the current pavilion at the Pioneer Park and has been identified as

the main priority for the entire parks system in the county. They have already applied for a MNRTF grant for \$250,000 and are seeking assistance with other funding opportunities to complete this project. This project was approved (Pfefferkorn/Grout).

Escanaba River Clean-Up: Howard Haulotte and Rory Mattson provided information about this project which involves the removal of 2 abandoned bridges that are falling into the river just upstream from the city dock, fish cleaning station, and park area. The abandoned bridges pose safety, boating and environmental hazards and need to be removed. Some streambank restoration will also be needed at the places the bridge was anchored to the shore. It was suggested that the Army Corp of Engineers might need to be involved and might also be a source of funding for the removal. This project was approved (Haulotte/Thoune).

Project Updates:

Howard Haulotte reported on the Gladstone Marsh Project. More buckthorn has been mechanically removed and two volunteer days were held to handcut what couldn't be mechanically removed. They have had problems there this spring with 3 fires being set (one almost got out of control and had to evacuate nearby residents). This is a problem because they will be installing waterfowl nesting boxes and they don't want them burned. They also plan to plant native species after the buckthorn is under control.

Liz Coyne, project director for the CUPCWMA, reported that the CWMA is open to anyone who wants to cooperatively work on invasive plant management and share resources in the 4 county (Marquette, Alger, Schoolcraft and Delta) region. They currently don't have any partners in Delta and Schoolcraft counties (except USFS partners) and later today Liz will meet with partners from Delta County. The CWMA already includes Mqt and Alger CD's, TNC, USFS, NPS, and SWP and they have some funding from the USFS to do work.

RRIP-IT-UP: The UP RC&D Council was notified that their project was funded at \$150,000. Darcy attended the grant presentation event in Grand Rapids yesterday. The project will bring many of the folks in the UP that have been working to control invasive species together to collaborate and get training. Rapid Response Invasive Plant Intervention Teams will be formed in all 13 conservation districts, two UP-wide workshops will be held and 8 training sessions, and 4 demonstration projects will be implemented during this 18 month project.

BURN-UP: The Phase II extension was completed March 31, 2010. All remaining funds have been received. Engineering pre-feasibility studies were completed at the Republic-Michigamme School and also for select buildings at the Ford Center. A grant proposal was submitted to the USFS for "BURN-UP Phase III" which would continue the current work being done and expand activities with new partners in northern Wisconsin (Lumberjack RC&D Council, BEREC). A final report is due to the USFS by June 30, 2010.

Grand Marais Harbor Breakwall: Marilyn reported that she had been contacted by partners in this project and they are hopeful that the Army Corp. of Engineers funding for this work might become available this summer.

Other: It was suggested that the UP RC&D Council participate at the UP State Fair this summer (possibly could join the booth which is sponsored by FSA, RD, NRCS & CD's). Dave Rivard reported that the Fair is no longer receiving state funding and they have cut the budget considerably. They will need 45,000 people to come through the gates to cover expenses and have already received some funding from the Hannahville Tribe.

Next Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm and the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 6, 2010 at 10 am at the Gladstone City Hall.

MEETING MINUTES - CENTRAL REGION RC&D COUNCIL
Gladstone City Hall - Tuesday, July 6, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:07 am by Vice-Chairman Hampton Waring. Everyone introduced themselves.

IN ATTENDANCE: Dave Andersen – MSUE; Renee Barron – City of Gladstone; Howard Haulotte - Delta CD; Dave Schultz -Delta Co Comm; Hamp Waring-Alger CD; Jerry Doucette-Alger Co Comm; David Silvieux-Hiawatha Natl Forest; Lloyd Matthes-CUPPAD; Clyde Thoune & Carol Pfefferkorn-Menominee CD; Chuck Harris -Dickinson CD; Marilyn Shy -UP RC&D Council

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES: The agenda was approved (Andersen/Thoune). The minutes from the meeting of April 6, 2010 were approved (Thoune/Pfefferkorn) as written.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Treasurer Dave Andersen provided a written treasurer’s report which summarized the activity in the checking account from October 2009 through July 2, 2010. The ending balance is \$492.58. The treasurer’s report will be placed on file.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Election of Officers: Election of Officers: Hamp Waring was nominated for Chairman (Andersen/Thoune) and elected to that position, Renee Barron was nominated for Vice-chairperson (Andersen/Haulotte) and elected to that position, and Dave Andersen was nominated for Secretary/Treasurer (Haulotte/Waring) and elected to that position.

County Dues Update: Dues notices were sent to all counties January 19, 2010. To date dues have been received from 13 of the 15 counties with Ontonagon and Schoolcraft dues still remaining unpaid.

2009 Annual Report: Marilyn Shy distributed copies of the 2009 Annual Report for the Upper Peninsula RC&D Council. They were very well received.

REPORTS

Alger County and Conservation District: Hamp Waring reported that the CD will receive a grant for \$789,000 in GLRI funding for a watershed implementation project. It will replace 3 culverts and a bridge, install 4 sediment control basins, and establish priorities using social monitoring. The Alger CD is participating in RRIP-IT-UP, and had volunteers doing some weed pulling and are scheduling more for the future. They are continuing their EAB monitoring project. They are planning to have some wildflower plugs for sale this fall, and some of the plugs are being sold at the Farmer’s Market. Some extra wildflower plugs have been donated to Munising’s downtown development authority, and to their mini-grant project. Jerry Doucette reported that things are slow in Lansing, as all are waiting for the elections. Alger County is focusing on hazardous waste. So much has been dumped over the years, the county has determined that it is time to get some brownfield grants. There is also potential for a hydroponic tomato farm in the Munising area, on an old landfill site. It could employ 25-30 people.

Delta Conservation District: Howard Haulotte reported that the District has been getting out the traps for EAB. This year they are one of the SLAM (Slowing Ash Mortality) sites. They have hired 10 individuals under this project, and are ahead of schedule. They are progressing well on their forestry projects with NRCS and DNRE. All of the staff in the office are very busy with field season in full

swing. This year they have special funding in the amount of \$270,000 through GLRI and NRCS in the Whitefish River watershed, which involves habitat restoration on private lands. The District is also involved in RRIP-IT-UP. They are working to recruit volunteers. The US Forest Service has discussed with them the possibility of sharing a work crew that could work on both private and public lands on invasive species control. Dave Schultz reported that it is possible to get a regional transportation center in the UP. It could include a deep water seaport, rail, etc, and could be located in south central: Menominee, Delta or Schoolcraft County.

Dickinson Conservation District: Chuck Harris reported that the District has installed 1600 EAB traps; most traps are either in campgrounds or near camps. The traps were set in Dickinson, Iron, Menominee, Gogebic and southern Ontonagon Counties. They have hired an intern to work with the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC). They are also working with the RRIP-IT-UP project, and held an educational workshop on June 17th. The District has a grant from WE Energies to sample water milfoil in 25 lakes in Dickinson, Iron and Florence Counties to determine its genetic makeup and get a better idea on the extent of hybridization. They recently judged the photos that were submitted in their annual photo contest; once again the winning photos will be featured in a calendar due out in August. They are planning to have another fall tree sale this year as they did last year.

Marquette County: Hamp Waring reported that they are working on their fall tree sale, will have more advertising this year. They are working on a weed ordinance with Marquette Township. One idea that may be included is that certain species of weeds would have to be eradicated on a parcel of land before it could be developed. The District is participating in the RRIP-IT-UP program. They have been working on the Trestle Park Corridor, a native plant demonstration site along an old railroad grade, and also a bike path in the city of Marquette. The District partnered with the Alger CD to submit a grant proposal under Michigan's statewide CIG (Conservation Innovation Grant) program for forestry assistance to non-industrial private forest landowners. Cliffs Natural Resources took out a full page ad in The Mining Journal, and mentioned the Conservation District as the source of all of the trees purchased by the company in doing their reclamation work.

Menominee County/CD: Carol Pfefferkorn reported that they are planning a fall tree sale. Although they wrote a letter of support for RRIP-IT-UP, they do not currently have the staff to take on the program. Dickinson County may be able to provide some assistance in this effort.

Schoolcraft County/CD: Dave Andersen reported that since they lost all of their state funding, there has been very little activity. Their millage generates about \$11,000 per year. They did hold a spring tree sale, but may not have any activities until the next one. Dave talked to Marilyn Lindberg, one of the district board members, about RRIP-IT-UP, who seemed interested in the project.

MSUE: Dave Andersen reported on the restructuring of MSUE, which was implemented on July 1st. The plan eliminated the positions of regional directors and CEDs (but not the people). Four program institutes have been created. Of the 13 new districts in the state, 2 are in the UP—east and west. Mike Erdman is the western district coordinator, and Jim Lucas is the eastern district coordinator. The remaining staff are now all educators. Dave's main responsibilities are in 3 areas: forestry, land use, and planning and zoning. From the client's viewpoint, there will be no change, or maybe even an improvement in services. Dave is working with the City of Manistique, Schoolcraft County, and other partners on a second and more comprehensive feasibility study for a district heating plant. He helped the partners to write a proposal which was submitted to DELEG in October, but was not funded. In April, they were asked to resubmit the proposal. Shortly afterward they were notified that they would

be receiving a \$65,000 grant. There are now 17 stakeholders, and Manistique Papers may possibly be interested as well, if it is determined that CHP (combined heat and power) is the best way to go. Since Cloverland Electric has purchased Edison Sault, there may be a possibility for a CHP plant, with electric power being sold back to Cloverland. Edison Sault had been contacted, but was not interested. Presently, all of the stakeholders will be meeting to draft an RFP which will go out to engineering firms potentially interested in performing the feasibility study. In the first study, there was an 8-yr. or 24-yr. payback, depending upon the location. Part of the project will be creating a District Energy Authority.

Marilyn Shy passed along a few items from Bill Cook, MSUE Forester: 1) MSUE & DNRE has sponsored several "Family Forest Succession" programs, focused on having current forest owners planning on how they will pass their forest land on to the next generation. 2) Bill would like to know if any member groups would be interested in hosting a program about cellulosic ethanol, especially in relation to the planned Frontier Renewable Resources facility in Kinross Twp.

USFS: Dave Silvius from the Hiawatha National Forest informed the group that the USFS has standards and guidelines on the removal of tops for woody biomass based on soil type. Poorer soils, like sands, require that more biomass is left on the site. The USFS is struggling with budget reductions. They are reducing their workforce down to 110 by 2012, after having 140 employees on in 2006. They have lost 12 employees thus far, due to transfers and retirements, thus, they have 18 positions to go in the next two years. Even though the staff is being downsized, the work still remains to be done. They are trying to fill the gaps by hiring contractors and temporary employees. This summer they are hiring between 25-30 summer employees, both high school and college students. For their YCC crew, they had 55 applicants for 6 jobs. The USFS has a program for youth working with Delta County YMCA, which serve about 50 young people, ages 6-10 years. Each Thursday is a different theme, from archaeology to zoology. There was a great turnout for Kids' Fishing Day, with over 300 youth signed up. Their timber sales program is still successful, even with all of the restrictions on federal sales. Dave has submitted nominations for 15 positions for the Secure Rural Schools Program Advisory Committee. Under this program, counties opt to receive 25% in lieu of taxes to fund forest service projects in their counties. Both Delta and Chippewa Counties opted to receive these funds (average \$30,000 - \$40,000 per year) which will be used for restoration projects. Hiawatha NF has an American Beech Salvage project. There are 25,000 acres of beech on the forest and most will probably get beech scale; there is no way to stop it. They have between 2-4 years to conduct management activities such as thinning, regeneration harvest, etc. The Hiawatha NF is working through an environmental analysis of relocating part of their snowmobile trail system. Since winters are not as cold as they once were, in forested wetlands, there is a lot of breaking through with the groomers, causing damage.

CUPPAD: Lloyd Matthes reported that they are getting a lot of unfunded mandates from Lansing. He is working on a Sustainable Communities pre-application. He is also working on a project for Camp Manistique. He would like to create a lab that would research products and predators to use as controls for invasive species. The building is laid out so that there could be a flora wing, a fauna wing and a marketing wing. It has a good location being one mile from Lake Michigan and 38 miles from Lake Superior, thus being in a good position to work with aquatic species. The project would create jobs.

Coordinator's Report: Marilyn reported that the RRIP-IT-UP project has been a priority since they received word that we will be receiving the grant from the NFWF. In May, 3 workshops were held on invasive plant identification, prioritization, and how to use MISIN, which is a database to map invasive plant locations in Michigan. The workshops were very well attended. They were held in the east, west

and central, with one in Brimley, one in Marquette, and one in the Keweenaw. In addition, a training session was held for all Conservation Districts to discuss details about recruiting volunteers and forming Rapid Response Teams, who will scout for invasive plants and report back to the District staff. Marilyn and Darcy will be meeting with each of the tribes to discuss their priorities for inventory, invasive plant control, and training needs. Marilyn passed out a RRIP-IT-UP flyer which explains the program and provides contact information for all of the Districts.

New Projects:

Mining Meetings: Carol Pfefferkorn explained that the Menominee Conservation District would like to sponsor a two-way, unbiased discussion related to mining issues in Menominee and Marquette Counties. This would involve planning 3 facilitated meetings held in key counties (Menominee, Marquette, Delta, possibly Dickinson) throughout the fall of 2010. By taking a neutral position on the mining issues in the area they are hoping to get people talking about it more freely, maybe a meeting with lots of partners to start a dialogue between opposing sides. They would like to make the information science-based and centrally located. This project was tabled (Andersen/Matthes). The sponsor (Menominee Conservation District) was asked to first get all of the Districts in the Central UP to approve before the project would be ready to move forward.

Project Updates:

Howard Haulotte reported on the Gladstone Marsh Project. They are working to control the buckthorn, and trying to get an extension on their grant. Their plans are to have another herbicide application this fall, and then plant native species in the spring.

Other: It was suggested by Dave Andersen that the Central UP RC&D Council contribute \$50 to the City of Gladstone to offset costs of the snacks provided at each meeting by the city. Motion by Matthes, second by Pfefferkorn; motion passed.

Next Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm and the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at 10 am at the Gladstone City Hall.

MEETING MINUTES - CENTRAL REGION RC&D COUNCIL
Gladstone City Hall - Tuesday, October 5, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am by Chairman Hampton Waring. Everyone introduced themselves and welcomed Ernie Hoholik back since he had not been able to attend a meeting in quite some time.

IN ATTENDANCE: Dave Andersen – MSUE; Renee Barron – City of Gladstone; Howard Haulotte -Delta CD; Dave Schultz -Delta Co Comm; Ernie Hoholik-Schoolcraft Co Comm Rep; Barbara VanAlstine-Ottawa National Forest; Hamp Waring-Alger and Marquette CDs; Jerry Doucette-Alger Co Comm; David Silvieus-Hiawatha Natl Forest; Clyde Thoune-Menominee CD; Chuck Harris -Dickinson CD; Darcy Rutkowski -UP RC&D Council

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES: The agenda was approved (Andersen/Thoune) with the addition of “Circle of Diamonds” under business items. The minutes from the meeting of July 6, 2010 were approved (Haulotte/Andersen) as written.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Treasurer Dave Andersen provided a written treasurer’s report which summarized the activity in the checking account from October 2009 through September, 2010. The ending balance is \$492.58. Dave will be making a \$50 donation to the City of Gladstone to help offset the cost of snacks that the city provides for our meetings. This was approved at the July 6 meeting. The treasurer’s report will be placed on file.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

County Dues Update: Darcy reported that 2010 dues have now been received from all 15 counties. Ontonagon and Schoolcraft counties both paid their dues since the last meeting.

Set Meeting Schedule for 2011: Quarterly meetings were scheduled for 2011 on January 4, April 5, July 5, and October 4. A motion to approve this meeting schedule passed (Andersen/Thoune).

Circle of Diamonds: Darcy reported that the UP RC&D Council submitted an application and has been approved for the Circle of Diamonds basic level by the National Association of RC&D Councils. The Circle of Diamonds program is designed to highlight the work that RC&D Councils perform in their communities and to recognize good stewardship of the local non-profit council in “Making Things Happen.” The program is set up to be a proactive approach for Councils to demonstrate that they are complying with the basic requirements of the RC&D statute, and best non-profit management practices. Circle of Diamond Councils exemplify positive impacts upon the quality of life within their local areas. Members are publicly accountable and realize that their accountability directly relates to their Council’s structure, processes, and outcomes attained. The program highlights Councils that have produced quality programs within their local community.

REPORTS

Alger County and Conservation District: Hamp Waring reported that the Alger and Marquette CD’s partnered to sponsor “Agri-Palooza” for 300-350 kids from both counties. It was held at the MSU Experiment Farm in Chatham and very well received by the students and teachers. Topics covered were farming, weather (NOAA), trapping (UP Trappers), forestry, soils, endangered species, hay rides and ice cream. The Alger District received final approval for a GLRI grant in the amount of \$789,000 which will help remediate stream crossings, and bridges, as well as conduct social monitoring. Their Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 5. They held a fall tree and native plant sale in conjunction with the Marquette District. The EAB work resulted in no new infestations found. They are also working on a second culvert project on the Anna River (using polyacrylamide for erosion control, Steve Iwinski is the consultant). They have been working with 3 schools on invasive plants, and have exceeded their required match for RRIP-IT-UP. They are utilizing their mini-grant for the native plant garden in Chatham to plant plugs with school groups. Jerry Doucette reported that state funding to counties looks bleak over the next few years and that there has been a lot of “robbing of funds” to balance budgets in the past few years – meaning that these funds for designated purposes were used for things other than that for which they were designated. He expressed appreciation to the USFS for the work done on Alger County roads in conjunction with the road commission. He said the work was well-done and county residents are happy with it.

Delta Conservation District: Howard Haulotte reported that the District EAB project is on schedule. Their new forester has been very busy. They are right on track with their RRIP-IT-UP activities and match. They are also helping NRCS on the GLRI-funded grant to enhance wildlife habitat on the Tacoosh and Whitefish Rivers. They are working to develop an agreement with the county to take over management for the 5 county parks. They hope to be able to staff 1 full-time person and several summer employees and that this will actually free up funds to enhance the park system. Dave Schultz reported that the county has been happy with the other projects on which they have collaborated with the CD, and he thinks these projects are mutually beneficial.

Dickinson Conservation District: Chuck Harris reported that the District had installed 1600 EAB traps and that no new EAB infestations were detected. They held a fall tree and plug sale and think that the seedlings planted in the fall have good survival rates. They are also involved in lots of invasive plant work through RRIP-IT-UP and the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition.

Marquette County: Hamp Waring reported that they held their fall tree sale in conjunction with the Alger CD and sales were a little slower than in past. Left over native plant plugs will be planted in Trestle Park. They are putting together a Christmas Tree Sale Book with wreath kits, and tree gift certificates. They held a few RRIP-IT-UP workshops for the public and had relatively poor attendance. They are working with the boy scouts on a Japanese Barberry pull on October 11. They just received word that they received a grant from NRCS to fund a forestry position in conjunction with the Alger district (districts will provide some of the funding). Their assistant administrator, Jaime Beranek, helped organize a conference for outdoor educators that will be taking place this weekend in Pellston. Their Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 4, and have invited Jack Deo from Superior View to be the speaker. He has wonderful historical pictures and always does a fantastic program.

Menominee County/CD: Clyde Thoune reported that their fall tree sale was slow this year as well. Dan Mathein will be resigning as Administrator, and Rhonda Gerlach will most likely be his replacement. She is already working on the RRIP-IT-UP project for their district. He reported that the state of Wisconsin is spraying invasive plants along the Lake Michigan shoreline as far north as Marinette, and he feels that someone should be doing the same from Menominee north. He would like to see a new bridge across Devil's creek for snowmobiles and other ATV's. These vehicles are currently driving through the creek. Rhonda Gerlach has held two RRIP-IT-UP meetings to recruit volunteers and is working with a farmer who has 40 acres infested with autumn olive.

Schoolcraft County/CD: No members were present from the Conservation District, however, Darcy reported that she and Marilyn will be attending their next board meeting on October 18th to discuss the RRIP-IT-UP project with them. Teri Grout from Alger CD will be attending also as several Schoolcraft County residents have contacted her regarding invasive plant issues or attended her invasive plant information workshops in Alger County. Dave Andersen reported that the county cut the RC&D dues payment from their 2011 budget, and he feels that they have benefited greatly from the RC&D program. The Manistique District Heating Plant project was a direct result of the free engineering feasibility studies provided to the school district and other partners there under the BURN-UP Project.

MSUE: Dave Andersen reported that the restructuring of MSUE is still ongoing. As a cost-cutting measure they are holding their first "Virtual" Fall Conference. Employees will participate using a broadband internet connection instead of traveling to MSU for the week-long conference. This will save a great deal on travel costs and will be a good test of using new technology like Skype and Adobe Presenter. On Monday, all the UP employees will travel to Bay Mills for District Day, Tuesday will feature break-out sessions (there will be 80-90 throughout the entire conference and Dave will be hosting 4 of them), Wednesday is Institute Day (for the 4 institutes), Thursday is another break-out day, and Friday will be Poster sessions (done electronically as well). Dave hopes to utilize some of this same technology to offer future training for all counties in the UP at one time. This works well with such a large service area.

Dave also reported that he will be attending the Michigan Prosperity Initiative later this week. This economic summit is intended to bring together people from all walks of life to bring forth ideas to help re-invent the economy

of Michigan. The MSU Land Policy Institute is involved in the summit and it has pretty broad support from both political parties.

USFS: Dave Silvius from the Hiawatha National Forest reported that they just completed a successful, productive fiscal year and summarized some of the accomplishments.

- More than 8,000 cords of timber sold, the focus of the sales was forest health (EAB and American Beech scale disease salvage and pre-salvage), and also age-class diversity. They worked with researchers from MTU on the SLAM program (slowing ash mortality) to try to find disease resistant trees and seeds
- Received and spent more than \$11 million dollars of recovery act funding focusing on getting the money out of their hands through contracts with local counties and contractors to do work on roads, bridges, trails, etc (at least 20 different contracts)
- In the area of recreation the focus was on working on OHV use, working with user groups, especially on the west side of the forest, to develop good routes and trails, and rehab damaged areas. They work in collaboration with the DNRE on these issues and opportunities. There are tremendous OHV opportunities in the forest
- Wildlife Programs focused on threatened and endangered species like the piping plover. They monitor nesting sites and protect the birds from ATV's, dogs, etc. The nest closest to the Rapid River ranger station failed when the eggs were washed out in a storm, and Dave mentioned this is not an uncommon occurrence with that species' nests.
- Botany programs focused on NNIS like garlic mustard (which can choke out hardwood regeneration). He hopes they can work with Delta and Schoolcraft counties/CD's next year to put together a cooperative weed crew that can work on invasive plants on the forest and surrounding land
- They are in the process of finalizing their RAC (15 members)
- They are starting their fall prescribed burning program and have 2-3 burns planned, they do most burning in spring, and a little burning in the fall depending on conditions

Barbara VanAlstine, District Ranger with the Ottawa National Forest, reported that she regularly attends the Western UP RC&D Council meetings where most of the Ottawa is located. She wanted to meet partners in the Central region because the McCormick Tract is part of her district and is located in Marquette County. She already works with the "Friends of the McCormick" and that group helps with trail work and remediating illegal campsites. The McCormick is designated wilderness and they are working to uphold all the standards that go with that designation. They are interested in obtaining a 40 acre tract of land that is for sale and adjacent to the tract and very close to the trailhead. Hamp Waring will put her in touch with Marquette CD staff to look into this further.

CUPPAD: No CUPPAD representative was in attendance, but Dave Andersen reported that he was disappointed that Schoolcraft County also cut their funding for CUPPAD (one of the six counties in the CUPPAD area). Lloyd Matthes attended the Schoolcraft County Board meeting to report on the benefits that the county receives from this organization, but they still voted to pull the funding. Commissioners from other counties present at today's meeting expressed the benefits they feel that CUPPAD provides and that CUPPAD is a critical support mechanism for getting grant funding.

Coordinator's Report: Marilyn is on vacation this week and was unable to attend the meeting.

New Projects:

Dickinson/Iron Conservation District NIPF Landowner Assistance- Chuck Harris gave a synopsis of this project and reported that forestry assistance to private landowners is a primary need in their county. Verso Paper is putting in a biomass boiler and there is a need in the area to make sure that harvests are done in a responsible manner. There is also a need to educate landowners about the NRCS programs that can assist them. They are requesting assistance from the RC&D Coordinator to help facilitate a steering committee and assist with possible grant writing. The two counties are working to come up with some match dollars for future grant funding. A similar project has been ongoing in Delta County and is considered a success, and the Marquette and Alger CD's just received funding from NRCS for a similar program. A motion to approve the project passed (Andersen/Haulotte).

Sturgeon River Analysis and Bank Stabilization Plan – Dave Silvius reported that this application is a joint effort between the USFS and the Delta County Road Commission. The Sturgeon River is a designated Wild and Scenic River, and an oxbow in the river is within 10 feet of taking out CR497 which provides emergency services to Nahma. Relocating the road would be about 5 times as expensive as fixing the problem. They must protect the outstanding values of the river (historical log drives and sawmills), and their forest plan stipulates they must consider bio-engineering techniques in the remediation. They are hoping to find a combination of federal and other funding (possible source is American Wild Rivers Society), and would like NRCS to evaluate engineering alternatives for the remediation. Hamp Waring reported that he has been impressed with a company that is doing remediation on the Dead River following the flood, and also that Steve Iwinski is very knowledgeable of bio-engineering techniques, and will put the partners in this project in touch with those folks. This project could possibly serve as a demonstration of new techniques. They would like to have something in place by spring or early summer to avoid an emergency situation. Lots of partners are involved and they have an engineering plan that they would like scrutinized to see if it could be successful in solving the problems. A motion to approve this project passed (Haulotte/Hoholik).

Project Updates:

RRIP-IT-UP- Darcy distributed a handout on project accomplishments to date. Eleven of the 13 Conservation Districts have been sponsoring activities and many have exceeded match expectations as of October 1. The UP-wide conference they are sponsoring is scheduled for November 3 in Marquette, and they are very excited about the speakers they have lined up. Rachel Miron from the Delta CD manned the RRIP-IT-UP booth at the UP state fair where a raffle was held and 232 people stopped by and signed up, with 64 of them requesting more information on invasive plants. The contact information was passed on to the appropriate CD for follow-up.

Gladstone Marsh Project- Howard Haulotte reported that the Gladstone Marsh Project is on hold for now. The transfer of land from the state to the city had a glitch that they are working to resolve and can't do more buckthorn treatment on that portion of the land until the transfer is finalized. They are working to control the buckthorn on the piece of land that the city does have ownership of. Howard also reported that he sits on the State Council for the MACD and that all state funding has been taken away with little hope that it will be reinstated anytime soon. Many districts across the state are looking for creative ways to sustain their funding. He requested that once the election is over in November, that folks be sure to let any new reps and senators know that CD's are an important mechanism for getting projects completed.

Manistique District Heating Plant Feasibility Study – Dave Andersen reported that Integrated Designs was hired to do the energy audits and engineering work on this project. They are just starting the energy audit phase (18 buildings) and will have the energy conservation measures delineated and energy conservation plans for all buildings completed by the end of December. They will be looking at two options, district heat or district heat and power, and presenting these options to local partners to determine which option is best. If CHP is the chosen option, then Cloverland Electric and Manistique Papers are interested in possibly joining the project. They hope to have the information necessary to make a decision on proceeding with this project by April. Dave is looking at the entity that will have the legal ability to own and operate the district heating or CHP plant if it does come to fruition. He is working with MSU, and has found that no such model currently exists in Michigan. One possibility is a for-profit cooperative.

Escanaba River Clean-up and Garden Flood Control Projects – Darcy reported that Marilyn has been in touch with Rory at the Delta CD on both these projects, but she couldn't report on details of progress.

Correspondence: None

Next Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm and the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 4, 2011 at 10 am at the Gladstone City Hall.