

MEETING MINUTES - CENTRAL REGION RC&D COUNCIL
Gladstone City Hall - Tuesday, June 18, 2013

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Vice- Chairman Howard Haulotte.

IN ATTENDANCE: Howard Haulotte-Delta CD; Brian Bousley-Menominee Co Administrator; Bernie Lang-Menominee Co Comm; Chuck Schwenner-Menominee CD; Bill Rice-Dickinson CD; Barb Kramer-Dickinson Co Comm; Lloyd Matthes-CUPPAD; Darcy Rutkowski -UP RC&D Council

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES: The agenda was approved (Rice/Matthes). The minutes from the meeting of December 4, 2012 were approved (Schwenner/Kramer) as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Executive Director (ED) presented the treasurer's report which indicated that there was a balance of \$437.58 in the bank account. The only activity since the beginning of 2012 was a \$5 inactivity fee. Motion by Schwenner, seconded by Kramer that the report be filed. Motion passed.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

County Dues Update: ED reported that 2013 county dues have not been received from Dickinson or Schoolcraft counties. Dickinson County Commissioner Barb Kramer will follow up to see why their dues have not been paid.

Appoint Representative to UP Council: Nominations for a Central representative to the UP RC&D Council were opened. Matthes nominated Bill Rice to represent the Central Region at UP RC&D Council meetings. Nominations were requested two more times, with no additional nominations being made. A Motion was made by Kramer, seconded by Bousley that nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast for Rice. Motion passed. Howard Haulotte and Teri Grout also represent the Central Region at UP Council meetings.

Update on UP Council Bylaws Changes: Haulotte reported that the UP RC&D Council is still in the process of revising their bylaws and in discussions about possible restructuring of the regional councils. Members present suggested that in addition to county dues, the UP RC&D could also request individual membership fees. Also, it was suggested that a fact sheet be put together with descriptions of past and current activities and projects.

REPORTS

Alger Conservation District and Alger County: No reps present

Delta Conservation District: Howard Haulotte reported that their District has been very busy working on the phragmites project and that there is a lot of phragmites in their county. They are still managing the Delta County park system, and the CD office is actually co-located with the Pioneer Park office. The CD also hopes to receive funding (pending budget approval by the state) and if received will be responsible for removal of an abandoned bridge which is falling into the Escanaba River. They are managing 4 grants at this time through NRCS/MDARD and doing lots of work through QFP with private, non-industrial forest landowners. There are now 5 foresters in the state through this program but that will be expanding. The goal is better management of private forestry land.

Delta County: No rep present

Dickinson Conservation District: Bill Rice reported that their new forester is doing a great job promoting forestry in their county. Their district is also administering several grants. Eurasian water milfoil is a big issue in their county and they have confirmed seed germination for this species.

Dickinson County: Barb Kramer reported that the Iron Mountain Tree Board has a grant to do tree work and planted 50 street trees in cooperation with Norway. They are working towards becoming designated as a Tree City USA, which requires having a forester involved. The county board was approached by a seller of land on Fumee Lake who wanted an easement. The landowner planned to cut the land and then deed it to the county. Their board also supports the non-motorized trail which has been promoted by Gov. Snyder should go through the southern UP. They feel there is already more connectivity in the southern UP.

Marquette Conservation District and Marquette County: No reps present

Menominee CD: Chuck Schwenner reported that the district's main revenue comes from their tree sale and renting out their No-till drill. They sponsor a 5th grade education visit to a dairy farm, Stephenson School forest, and DNR fire and wildlife Division participate. Not all 5th graders in the county are able to participate due to a lack of travel funds. The CD has been helping with the phragmites project by helping to sponsor two public workshops in March. They are in the process of hiring a new Ex. Director. They have lots of "absentee" landowners in the county and they are trying to make them aware of the forestry program they offer.

Menominee County: Brian Bousley reported that Menominee County is very interested in the UP Phragmites project and he is working with the UP RC&D to make sure that all the county properties that are infested with phragmites get treated.

Schoolcraft CD & County: No members were present

CUPPAD: Lloyd Matthes told members about a Heritage Route planning meeting which will take place on June 24th at 4 pm. The state has made threats to de-certify these routes if interest declines. They are also working on providing input on the Right to Farm Act which has considerations for urban farming (not just traditional rural farming). He reported that Michigan has more public land than any other state and the state wants to make sure all land is being used by the state and has value to the state. They plan to divest of property that is not useful to the state.

New Projects: The UP RC&D Council is not accepting any new project applications at this time.

Project Updates:

UP Phragmites Project - ED reported that the UP RC&D received a \$458,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to map and treat (with herbicide) 400 acres of non-native phragmites in the UP. They sponsored 6 public workshops in March (Cedarville, Manistique, Stephenson, Menominee, and 2 in Escanaba) to inform residents about the phragmites project and how they could participate in this project to have the phragmites on their property mapped and treated with herbicide. The mapping has now been completed along the entire 140 mile shoreline in Delta County and is beginning today in Menominee County. Project partners are also mapping all interior infestations they are aware of in all UP counties. The Chippewa/Luce/Mackinac Conservation District (CLMCD) is coordinating the mapping and treatment efforts in the Eastern UP, the Alger CD is coordinating landowner contact and treatments in Schoolcraft and Alger counties, the Dickinson CD is helping the UP RC&D coordinate efforts in Menominee and Dickinson Counties, and the Delta CD is helping coordinate landowner contact and mapping in that county. Two more public workshops will be held – July 8 in Manistique, and July 9 in Cedar River.

RRIP-IT-UP: Eradicate Garlic Mustard in the UP – This project will be wrapped up prior to December 31, 2013. The UP RC&D received \$150,000 and is working with project partners in the CLMCD, Alger CD, Marquette CD, Ottawa and Hiawatha National Forests to control garlic mustard on a minimum of 350 acres throughout the UP.

Gladstone Marsh Project: Howard Haulotte reported that this project is currently stalled due to ownership and funding hang-ups with the city.

Correspondence: None

Next Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm (Matthes/Kramer). The next meeting is scheduled for December 3, 2013.