

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: 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 Silviesu 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.

Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council

PROJECT APPLICATION

Please Note: All new project applications must be received at the UP RC&D Council office a minimum of two weeks prior to the regional meeting at which they are being considered for approval. A schedule of the regional meetings is available on our website at www.uprcd.org.

1) General Information

Proposal Name: **Dickinson/Iron Conservation District NIPF Landowner Assistance Program**

List County or Counties in which the project is located: **Dickinson and Iron**

Sponsoring Organization: **Dickinson Conservation District**

Primary Contact Person: **Ann Hruska**

Address: **102 N. Hooper St., Kingsford, MI 49802**

Phone: **906-774-8441**

Fax: **906-774-0177**

Email Address: **ann.hruska@mi.nacdnet.net**

2) Project Description – In less than 500 words, describe your project, indicating key potential partners, timeline and geographic scope.

The purpose of this project is to provide a process whereby the Dickinson Conservation District and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will deliver a program of technical assistance to non industrial private forest land (NIPF) owners in the south-central Upper Peninsula. This will help them manage their forests in a sustainable manner, which will benefit all natural resources as well as the local economy. A resource professional will be hired and stationed at the USDA Service Center in Kingsford and will be employed by the Dickinson Conservation District. This resource professional will have a broad background in forestry, wildlife habitat, and government assistance programs.

The project will focus on private lands in Dickinson and Iron counties addressing the key forest resource concerns identified by the cooperating partners DCD, ICD, DNRE, NRCS and Verso Paper. Each landowner will be provided with a site assessment that will include a document that explains wildlife habitat needs, appropriate silvicultural treatments, timber cutting methods, habitat management techniques, applicable NRCS practice standards and best management practices on forestlands. The plan will focus on the landowner's goals and objectives and areas of emphasis identified by the cooperating partners. Direct assistance to landowners will occupy approximately 75% of the resource professional's time. The remaining 25% of his/her time will be spent identifying the various assistance programs and resources available to landowners and organizing the information so professionals in other agencies have a better understanding of how to assist landowners in their work areas. Currently there are a myriad of government programs and initiatives to enhance stewardship of privately owned lands, but no central organization of the information. A committee comprised of representatives from each contributing partner will be formed to provide direction and general oversight to the program.

3) Provide a brief justification describing how the project will impact your community:

The goal of the pilot program is to prepare plans for and facilitate the management of 7,500 acres of private land over the next 2 years. The resource professional will educate landowners in responsible forest and habitat management and make landowners aware of other natural resource experts who can be of assistance. The resource professional will also assist the NRCS, DCD, and ICD in implementing natural resource conservation programs and projects that meet the goals and objectives of the landowner and the priorities of the various programs. Most importantly, the resource professional will maintain contact with landowners to help them overcome obstacles that would otherwise hinder implementation of the recommended management actions. This will provide additional wildlife habitat on many of the acres managed, as well as additional opportunities for enhanced economic activities throughout both counties.

4) What do you feel the role of the UP RC&D should be in this effort?

We are requesting assistance in finding funding, as well as assistance in implementation, through activities of the RC&D Coordinator. This may include facilitation of the Steering Committee, or participating as a member of the Steering Committee, or serving as a liaison to the NRCS Area office, etc.

5) What can you or your organization do to help ensure the success and sustainability of this project?

We will continue to work with Verso Paper, and the DNRE Wildlife Division, to provide the matching funding needed to make this program successful.

6) Please give us an estimate of the total financial resources, in dollars, that you will need to complete the project. If possible, attach a budget indicating line items for personnel, supplies, etc.

Funds to be applied as follows:	FY- 2011	FY - 2012
SALARY		
Forester Position (NRCS funds)	\$ 60,000.00	
Forester Position (DCD funds)		\$ 60,000.00
Outreach (DCD Funds)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Salary Sub-total	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 65,000.00
TRAVEL		
MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE	\$ 2,000.00	\$ (cont'd)

		2,000.00
SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS		
EQUIPMENT	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
Budget Sub-total	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 74,000.00	\$ 74,000.00

7) Please feel free to attach additional documentation, photos, or letters of support, to help our group better understand this request.

Applicant Signature: Marvin E Johnson

Applicant Title: MANAGER Date: 8-17-10

Please email completed application to: darcy.rutkowski@rcdnet.net

Also send your signed copy to:

Upper Peninsula RC&D Council
780 Commerce Drive, Suite C
Marquette, MI 49855

For office use :

Regional Council

Executive Board

Date Adopted _____

Date Adopted _____

Signed By: _____

Signed By: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council

PROJECT APPLICATION

Please Note: All new project applications must be received at the UP RC&D Council office a minimum of two weeks prior to the regional meeting at which they are being considered for approval. A schedule of the regional meetings is available on our website at www.uprcd.org.

1) General Information

Proposal Name: Sturgeon River Analysis and Bank Stabilization Plan
List County or Counties in which the project is located: Delta County
Sponsoring Organization: US Forest Service, Hiawatha NF and Delta County Road Commission
Primary Contact Person: David Silvieus, Hiawatha NF, Rapid River Ranger District
Address: 8181 US Highway 2, Rapid River, MI 49878
Phone: (906) 474-6442
Fax: (906) 474-9122
Email Address: dsilvieus@fs.fed.us

2) Project Description – In less than 500 words, describe your project, indicating key potential partners, timeline and geographic scope.

Bank erosion on the Sturgeon River is encroaching on and is within 10 feet of undermining Delta County Road 497, on the Hiawatha NF section 6, T40N, R18 W, about 3 miles NW of Nahma, Michigan (see attached map and photo). CR 497 was recently paved and a new bridge constructed to provide access and emergency services to the town of Nahma. The Sturgeon River is a Wild and Scenic River under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSR). Under the Act, the Sturgeon River provides outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) for wildlife, heritage, ecological/botanical, and hydrological resources. Any stream bank erosion stabilization work or river channel modifications must consider the use of bio-engineering techniques to protect these resources, the free flowing condition, and the wild and scenic nature of the river corridor. (Hiawatha Forest Plan, 2006).

The Project would include survey and design work, including river dynamics and flood plain analysis to develop plans for stabilizing CR 497. These plans would include a range of alternatives for relieving stress exerted on 400 feet of the meander bend where it is threatening the stability of CR 497. These alternatives should be supported by appropriate analysis of fluvial dynamics. Alternatives may include bioengineering stabilization of the bank, or the creation of a new channel. All alternatives must protect scenery and the outstandingly remarkable values of the WSR.

Partners in this project include the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Delta County Road Commission (DCRC) Delta County Conservation District, and Nahma Township. Other partners will be the MDNRE, and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). A joint meeting with Delta County Conservation District, DCRC, Hiawatha NF, MDNRE, and ACOE was conducted on the site in May 2010 to discuss options.

The timeline includes the need to complete this work before a flood event damages the road. If possible, the work should be completed during the fall of 2011 during the low flow period of the river. It would be optimal to have the plans and a proposed action in place by spring of 2011. This would provide time for permits with MDNRE, ACOE, and compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the section 7 analysis of the WSR act.

This project will address two goals and two objectives that are in the Central UP RCD 2010 program of work:

Goal B: Assist two sponsors yearly in their efforts to protect and/or improve fish and wildlife habitat

Objective B1: Protect or improve at least four stream sites and at least 200 acres of wildlife habitat by 2012

Goal M: Reduce erosion and sedimentation by installing erosion control systems on 300 acres of land by 2012.

Objective M1: Install at least five conservation systems to protect the land bases in the U.P. by 2012.

3) Provide a brief justification describing how the project will impact your community:

CR 497 provides access to the community of Nahma and recreation sites along the Sturgeon River and the Lake Michigan shore. Fire and emergency medical services for this part of Nahma Township are located at Nahma Junction near the intersection of CR 497 and US 2, so CR 497 is the fastest and most direct route to Nahma and southern Nahma Township. The sudden loss of the road surface would be a dangerous safety concern for motorists and would require an estimated \$350,000 to \$400,000 to relocate the road after it was repaved less than 2 years ago.

4) What do you feel the role of the UP RC&D should be in this effort?

UP RC & D could support this project and the NRCS in providing the skills necessary to evaluate alternatives and complete the survey, design, and plans needed to reach a solution that will protect the county infrastructure and the WSR values of the Sturgeon River. The UP RC & D could also provide additional partners for collaboration and experience with similar projects.

5) What can you or your organization do to help ensure the success and sustainability of this project?

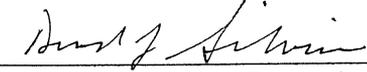
The USFS and DCRC will work closely with NRCS and any other agency or firm to provide guidance and oversight for compliance with laws, policies and regulations. The USFS and DCRC will provide technical review of all plans. The USFS and DCRC will complete applications for all required permits. The USFS will complete the public scoping, analysis and documentation for compliance with NEPA and section 7 of the WSR Act. The USFS and DCRC will provide technical oversight of the implementation of the selected course of action. Funding for the implementation of this project is expected to come from many sources.

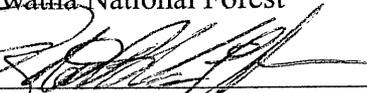
6) Please give us an estimate of the total financial resources, in dollars, that you will need to complete the project. If possible, attach a budget indicating line items for personnel, supplies, etc.

The estimated cost for the flood plain and river dynamics analysis, survey, design, and plans for bio-engineering bank stabilization are \$40,000. This is an estimate based on past experience with similar projects. The implementation of this project is anticipated to cost \$150,000 to \$200,000, although firm estimates are not available at this time and will depend on the alternative selected during the design and analysis phase.

7) Please feel free to attach additional documentation, photos, or letters of support, to help our group better understand this request.

See attached map and photos.

Applicant Signature:  David J. Silvieus
Applicant Title: District Ranger, Rapid River /Manistique Ranger District,
Hiawatha National Forest Date: 8/6/10

Applicant Signature:  Rob Van Effen
Applicant Title: Managing Director, Delta County Road Commission
Date: 8/5/10

Please email completed application to: darcy.rutkowski@rednet.net

Also send your signed copy to:

Upper Peninsula RC&D Council
780 Commerce Drive, Suite C
Marquette, MI 49855

For office use :

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