

Red River Regional Council Annual Report 2012

Year 2012 in Review

This year 2011 annual report provides a listing of highlight activities of the Red River Regional Council. The council serves the counties, municipalities, and people of Grand Forks, Nelson, Walsh and Pembina Counties. The Board of Directors consists of one mayor, one county commissioner, one soil conservation district supervisor and a representative from the City of Grand Forks, Job Service North Dakota and minority groups. Funding to meet operating expenses is divided from each of the four counties and certain Federal and State agencies. The council also uses a fee for services that are not covered by the above contributions.

This report indicates that the council continued to use its three Economic Development loan programs as gap financing. Our region continues to have an inadequate level of quality jobs to stabilize population decline. The three council loan pools and other local, state and federal funds slow the population decline.

The report also shows that the council continues to assist communities in upgrading community facilities and housing. Usually our programs assist with the payment of special assessments derived from the upgrade of income qualified households. In 2012, the Drayton Housing rehabilitation program was completed and the City of Thompson's program continued.

In 2011, we continued to contract with the Pembina and Nelson County Job Development Authorities (JDA) for administrative services. Funding from the JDA's is blended with other funding in the development of job creating projects. The council also provides administrative services to the Pembina and Walsh Counties Historical Preservation Commission.

In February 2011 the Council hired Maddy Steffenson as the new Riparian Manager. The Riparian Program is partially funded by the State Health Department and provides assistance to landowners in upgrading riparian areas. The North Dakota State Forest Service has assigned David Nowatzki to assist with the project.

Also in February 2011 the council hired Carol Gierszewski as the Economic Development Coordinator. Carol devotes 50% of her time to the Small Business Development Center program and 50% to the council's Economic Development program.

The Hazard Mitigation program has continued throughout the year. Resident's in flood-prone areas are being purchased and sold or demolished.

We hope to provide similar services throughout 2012. It is a privilege to serve the entities and private groups throughout the region.

Julius M. Wangler
Executive Director

Inside this issue:

Budget	2
Historic Preservation	2
Economic Development	3
Small Business Development Center	4
Hazard Mitigation	4
Community Development Block Grant	5
Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)	5
Half Mill Self Help Program	5
Environmental Quality Activities	6
Photo's	7
Board of Directors & Advisory Committee Members	8
Red River Regional Council Staff	8

Budget Summary

REVENUE	
EDA Planning Grant	\$ 61,000
Small Business Development Center Subcontract	74,230
County Memberships	64,557
Nelson/Pembina County Job Development Authorities (JDA's)	70,192
Historic Preservation	17,770
CDBG/Public Facilities/Ranking Contract	40,968
Disaster Mitigation	14,497
Environmental Programs	78,788
Housing	18,982
Revolving Loan Fund/CDLF/Progress Fund	47,458
Other	<u>12,782</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 501,224
EXPENSES	
Salaries/Benefits	\$ 377,797
Travel	20,115
Operational Expenses	74,614
Contract Work/Audit	21,415
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>493,941</u>
REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ 7,283

Historic Preservation

In 2011 Pembina and Walsh County Historic Preservation Commissions (HPC) developed new strategic/work plans. The process was facilitated by Lynette Flage, NDSU Center for Community Vitality. Steve C. Martens, architect and Associate Professor NDSU provided a presentation on The Social Value of Work "Depression-Era Buildings, Investment, Spirit and Renewal."

The Pembina County Historic Preservation Commission (PCHPC) and the Walsh County Historic Preservation Commission (WCHPC) believe nomination work is important and continue to search for properties worthy of preservation and National Register designation. It is the hope of both Historic Preservation Commissions that their National Register Nomination work, past and future, will have an impact on North Dakota. The preservation of worthy structures, sites, archeological digs, etc. can only assist in the education of all persons. It is believed by the Commissions that nomination work is important in the overall development of preserving our heritage and in the development of rural tourism.

Economic Development Activities

Regional Economic Development Loan Programs

2012 Approved Funding

Funded Projects	Location	Amount	Usage
Midway Seed	Neché	\$30,000 loan	Purchase
Lapp's Kuchen	Tolna	\$56,000	Purchase
Feed First	Walhalla	\$150,000 loan	Purchase

Pembina and Nelson County Job Development Authority

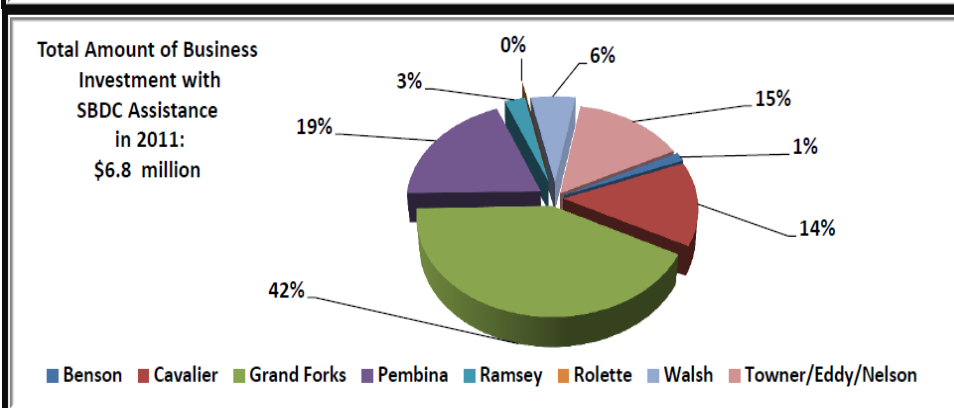
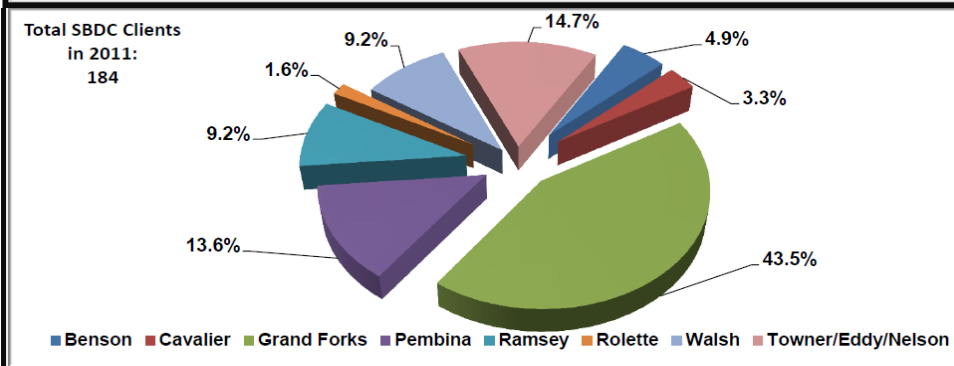
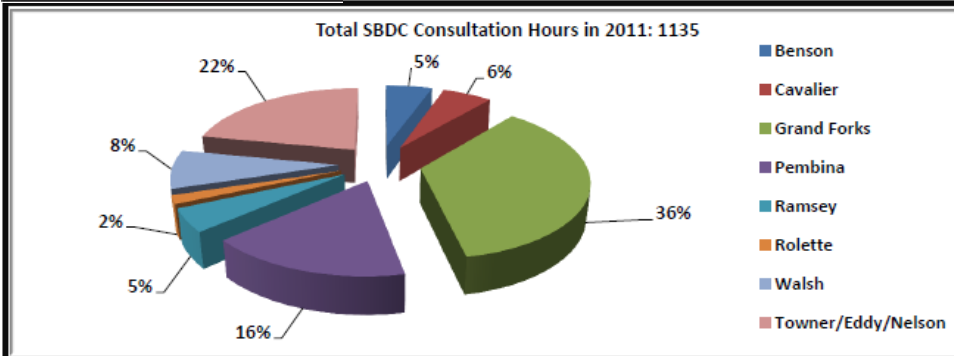
2012 Approved Funding

Projects	Location	Amount	Usage
Youth Entrepreneurship Program	Pembina County	\$5,000 grant	Supplies, registration and facilitators
Drayton Economic Development Corporation	Drayton, Pembina County	\$5,000 grant	Purchase kitchen equipment
City of Cavalier	Cavalier, Pembina County	\$3,000 grant	Housing study
TrainND	Pembina County	\$5,000 grant	Business training
Small Business Development Center	Pembina County Nelson County	\$3,000 grant \$1,500 grant	Local Match Local Match
Frost Fire	Walhalla, Pembina County	\$15,300 grant	Feasibility study
Red River Repair	Pembina, Pembina County	\$20,000 loan	Expansion and Working Capital

Small Business Development Center



The SBDC program is a consulting program that assists new and existing entrepreneurs with starting or expanding their business ventures. Typical services provided include: business plan development, financial analysis, financial projections, financial packaging, and marketing enhancement. Our clientele spans from mom-and-pop retailers to large manufacturers. The cost of the SBDC services are underwritten by the Small Business Administration; ND Department of Commerce, Dakota CDC and a host of local donors throughout the entire region.



Northeast Staff:

Josh Klug,
Regional Director
Grand Forks Office
701-738-4851
josh@ndsbd.org

Sandy Shively,
Business Consultant
North Central Planning
Council
Devils Lake Office
701-662-8131
sandyncpc@gondtc.com

Carol Gierszewski
Business Consultant
Red River Regional Council
Grafton Office
701-352-3550
cdgierszewski@nd.gov

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

An acquisition/demolition application was submitted by the City of Cavalier for two properties. Staff also assisted with an application for Ward County near Minot.

For initiative projects, early warning sirens were purchased and installed in the City of Inkster and Stump Lake Park. The City of Minto purchased and installed emergency generators at its water plant and two lift stations. Applications were also submitted for the City of Pekin for a siren and generator, and for the Grand Forks County Water Resource District for sirens at Fordville and Larimore Dams.

Community Development Block Grant

The goal of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is to provide assistance to very low, low and moderate income individuals/households. Region IV's FY 2011 allocation was \$240,862. As a result of amendments to the 2011 Program Distribution Statement (PDS) funds were distributed as follows:

Public Facilities	\$ 187,200	Economic Development	\$ 13,144
Housing	\$ 40,496		

City of Minto—Wastewater Repair and Replacement Project The 2011 public facilities CDBG allocation was awarded to the City of Minto Wastewater Repair and Replacement project. Funds will be used to pay special assessments of the very low, low and moderate income households.

City of Drayton and Thompson Housing Rehab The Regional Council has completed the city of Drayton Housing Rehab project. A total of 19 owner-occupied homes in Drayton are complete. All households must be occupied by low to moderate income individuals. Total funding secured was \$298,483. The Regional Council is assisting the city of Thompson in securing and the administration of grants for housing rehabilitation. Current participation include homes and individuals in 13 owner-occupied homes in Thompson. All households must be occupied by low to moderate income individuals. Eight homes are complete, work on four homes has commenced and one home has been inspected. Total secured funds equal \$186,929 from ND Division of Community Services, USDA Rural Development and the City of Thompson.

Half-Mill Self-Help Program (Pembina & Walsh Counties)

Established prior to 1980, the "1/2 Mill Self-Help Program" continues to assist communities with projects. The main objective of this program has always been to promote development within the community; whether it be economic development or development of other community services (i.e., playgrounds, community centers, etc.), all insure the viability of a community. All communities are encouraged to utilize this program. In 2011 Pembina County had ten (10) participating cities. Cities were awarded \$1000 with the exception of one who received the requested amount of \$633. Walsh County had ten (10) participating cities each receiving \$500.

Red River Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)

The 2011 Appropriations Bill has eliminated the funding for the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program thus ending the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) support to the RC&D program. The Red River RC&D had provided much support to the Red River Riparian Project including a committee to provide input and approval for project spending. The RC&D committee is now operating under the Red River Regional Council as the Riparian Committee to provide support to the Red River Riparian Project.

Alternative Acquisition Projects

Alternative projects use Public Assistance funds to acquire properties that have become inaccessible due to flooded roads. Two homes in Ramsey County were purchased and resold by that county for relocation. Two properties in Towner County are also in progress. These two counties outside of Region IV have contracted for administrative services of these buyout projects from the Council.

Environmental Quality Activities

Red River Riparian Project 2011 Accomplishments

Project and Operations

The Red River Riparian Project (RRRP) continues to provide technical and financial assistance for riparian restoration to landowners, communities, water resource districts and soil conservation districts within Walsh, Nelson, Pembina, Cavalier and Grand Forks counties. The RRRP saw quite a few administrative changes during 2011. Maddy Steffenson started with the RRRP in February of 2011. She began working on the RRRP while finishing a Master's degree in Business Administration from North Dakota State University and took on the position full time in June upon completing her education. She holds an undergraduate BS in Civil Engineering from North Dakota State University. The Red River Riparian Project's budget and timeline also changed in 2011. The current project grant started June 1st, 2008 with an end date of December 31st, 2012. The end date has been extended to September 30th, 2014. With the recent wet years northeastern North Dakota has been experiencing this extension allows for more projects to be constructed under the grant funding. A \$200,000 reduction in 319 funds, which provide 60% cost share for the project was approved in May of 2011. Ultimately this reflects a \$333,333 reduction in funding available for total project costs. During the same time the opportunity for engineering services to be provided to 319 projects throughout the state at 100% became available. This came at an optimal time for the project which had been looking for a firm to provide engineering services. The project is now able to work with K2S Engineering out of Ypsilanti, ND to provide engineering services to landowners/ operators. This has already proven to be very beneficial to the RRRP. The project continues to partner with the North Dakota Forest Service for further technical assistance. Dave Nowatzki specializes as a Riparian Forester for the project. Additionally, a contract with University of North Dakota was arranged to do research on the Tongue River in Cavalier, ND. Work began in November 2011 and is scheduled to be completed by August 2012. The RRRP has also called upon North Dakota State University and Extension services to aid with grazing management assistance this year, and will continue to do so in 2012.

Practices and Implementation

The RRRP approved the addition of septic tank replacement/repair to systems in riparian areas to their list of cost-share practices available under this phase. This is a 319 approved Best Management Practice that other counties have been successful in implementing.

Accomplishments in 2011:

- 1 Livestock exclusion fence along the Forest River (506 feet)
- 4 Areas of bank stabilization along the Park River (695 linear feet)
- 1 Tree planting at Mt. Carmel Dam (50 pine, 668 willows)
- Ecological site description work done under contract with NDSU produced five fact sheets on riparian grazing (Completes Grant Goal #9, under Object #4 of the Project Implementation Plan (PIP))
- 9 Engineering plans designed
- 6 Riparian Forest Management/Planting plans designed

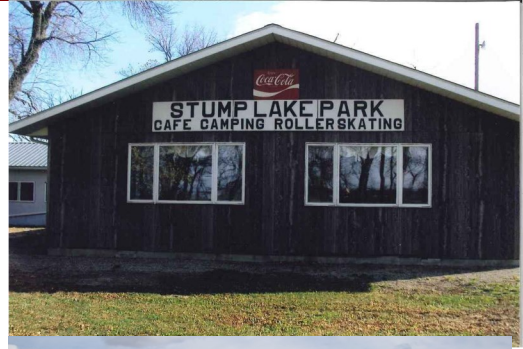
Financial Report

Total Dollars Applied in 2011		
319 Cost Share (60%)	Local Match (40%)	Total
\$39,176.98	\$26,117.98	\$65,294.96



City of Thompson—before roof repair.

Current restaurant at Stump Lake, Nelson County. A new restaurant, restroom/shower facility will be built this summer.



City of Thompson—after roof repair.



Fairdale lagoon—Lift station rehabilitation and forcemain replacement. 10/24/2011



Riparian—Streambank stabilization in Park River 11/02/2011



10/19/2011

Pembina water tower—replace main pipe.



05/02/2011

May is National Historical month and the Pembina County CLG held their May 2, 2011 meeting at the Garnett Home—St. Thomas, ND—left to right: Graham Smith, Kim Littlejohn, Zelda Hartje, Ron Baker, Jim Benjaminson, Deanna Larson, Karen Thiele, and Donna Niemann.



10/24/2011

Minto—old and new lift station

**RED RIVER
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Ph: 701-352-3550
Fax: 701-352-3015
Website:

STAFF

Julius M. Wangler,
Executive Director
rrrc@nd.gov

Katherine A. Lunde,
*Community Development
Director*
klunde@nd.gov

Carol Gierszewski,
*Economic Development
Coordinator*
cdgierszewski@nd.gov

Sarah Braaten,
*Environmental Projects
Manager*
sarbraaten@nd.gov

Janet Dvorak,
Administrative Secretary
jedvorak@nd.gov

Lori A. Estad,
Secretary
lestad@nd.gov

**Red River Regional Council
Chase Building
516 Cooper Avenue
Grafton, ND 58237**

Board of Directors

- Corene Vaughn, PC Commissioner
- Mary Houdek, *Treasurer*, Job Service ND
- Dan Stenvold, *Pres. Mayor*, City of Park River
- Ronald Dahlen, NC Commissioner
- Steve Girodat, *V Pres. Mayor*, City of Michigan
- Allen Ruzicka, WC Commissioner
- Kristina Halverson, PC SCD
- Michael Brown, Mayor, City of GF
- Ardis Olson, Mayor, City of Drayton
- Carol Ondrachek, WC Three River SCD
- Kevin Landeis, NC SCD
- Rosa Balderas., Minority Representative
- Gary Gonitzke, GFC SCD
- Andy Adamson, Local Dev. Corp.
- Cynthia Pic, GF County Commissioner
- Eric Icard, GF Regional EDC

Advisory Committee Members

Mike Dunn, Construction Engineers Ltd.
Tim Schroeder, UND Recreation & Leisure
Helen Cozzetto, Grand Forks
Dr. Phyllis E. Johnson, UND
Gary Paulson, First United Bank

Tami Egeland
Shelley Popiel, WCHA