

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors consists of 16 members including mayors, county commissioners, soil conservation district supervisors, workforce, private sector, and a representative of the City of Grand Forks.



Members of the 2013 Board of Directors include, front, from left to right, Mary Houdek, Andy Adamson, Dan Stenvold and Maynard Loibl. Row 2: Carol Ondracek, Becky Chyle and Hetty Walker. Back: Todd Whitman, Stacy Twete, Keith Lund and Allen Ruzicka. Not pictured: Michael Brown, Kristina Halverson, Ardis Olson, Cynthia Pic and Steven Sand.

MOVING THROUGH TRANSITIONS

Concluding 40 years of dedicated service, Julius Wangler retired as the RRRRC's Executive Director in July 2013.

In celebration of the accomplishments of the RRRRC under his leadership, a 40 year completed project list was developed and presented at his retirement party. This list included hundreds of projects completed in communities, rural areas, and region wide which led to the investment of millions of dollars. Wangler frequently boasted that the RRRRC's job was to make the region a better place to live, work and play.

During his final year at the RRRRC, Wangler worked with a local group of livestock producers to develop a livestock processing facility within the region. He continued leading this group upon his departure.



Our staff in October 2014:

- **Lori Estad** is the Office and Fiscal Manager and manages the day to day functions of the organization and fiscal management for projects and the loan programs.
- **Jolene Halldorson** joined the RRRRC in April 2014 as a Developer. Jolene provides business consulting and development, grant writing, and historic preservation management.
- **Stacie Sevigny** joined the RRRRC in September 2014 as a Developer. Stacie will manage the CDBG program, housing projects, disaster projects, and grant writing and management.
- **Cheryl Osowski** has been a part time employee of the RRRRC since April 2014. Cheryl facilitated and drafted five economic development strategic plans and has been a temporary program manager.
- **Dr. Phil Gerla**, a UND Associate Professor of Geology and Geological Engineering, has provided technical expertise to the riparian program on a part time basis since April 2014.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The RRRRC assists in the mission of the Historic Preservation Commission which is to provide a program for the designation, preservation, protection, renovation and use of historic properties within Pembina and Walsh counties.

In 2013, the RRRRC worked with Walsh and Pembina County Historic Preservation Commissions to complete the process of adding two structures to the National Register of Historic Places.

In Pembina County, Vikur Lutheran Church in Mountain was placed on the national register in November. It was the first church built by an Icelandic Lutheran congregation in the United States and is the oldest Icelandic church in North America. Today it is part of joint parish, with services held Sunday mornings.

In Walsh County, The Edinburg General Store was also placed on the national register in November. It was constructed in 1938 as a Works Projects Administration project. With its art deco and art moderne architecture, it was a striking new building for downtown Edinburg.

In 1994 the building was purchased by Bernice Flanagan and continues to be an important gathering place and business in Edinburg. It is also home to the Rendezvous Region Bird Club.



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New website: www.RedRiverRC.com
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2013 ANNUAL REPORT



October 2014

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The Red River Regional Council (RRRC) is one of eight regional planning councils in North Dakota established in 1973 to enhance the ability of local governments to jointly plan, address issues, and seize opportunities that transcend individual boundaries.

We are an independent quasi-governmental consulting group assisting local governments, business owners, homeowners, landowners, healthcare providers, and educational institutions in solving problems, creating holistic solutions, planning, and making dreams come true. **We are assisting in building vibrant communities – one project at a time.** We've established three primary categories for all of our work. These include:

- **Developing Our Communities** by implementing projects which enhance the places we live. We do this by improving public infrastructure, rehabilitating homes for low income households, preserving our history, mitigating disasters, and implementing community improvement projects. We assist people in having quality places to live.
- **Helping Business Thrive** by assisting entrepreneurs to establish and grow businesses. We assist in developing and implementing business plans, financial projections, and financing plans. We assist people in succeeding economically.
- **Preserving Our Environment** through reducing natural and human-made pollution by restoring the areas where the land and water meet and improving water quality. We draft grazing and forestry plans, stabilize riverbanks, and advocate responsible management of riparian areas. We assist people in having high quality water for drinking and recreation.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ideas are ideas ... until people come together to research, refine, strategize, plan, and secure funding to implement projects. **Moving Ideas to Actions.** Simply, that's what we do.



To demonstrate our effectiveness on Moving Ideas to Actions, we developed a 10 Year Summary Report as an insert to our 2013 Annual Report. Over the past ten years, we have assisted people with 1,314 projects. Many of these projects resulted in action and implementation.

Historically, county dues have provided approximately 10 percent of our revenue with the remaining 90 percent derived from service contracts. The 1,314 projects resulted in a total investment of \$124 million within the region – of which we assisted in securing \$34 million.

For every \$1 in county dues, our efforts have yielded a \$55.75 return in the form of grants and loans to implement local projects – a 5,575% return on investment.

In July 2013, I accepted the position of Executive Director and am delighted to be in a position to exercise my professional passion of building strong, vibrant communities. I come with 22 years of community and economic development experience and thoroughly enjoy the challenge of assisting our rural communities achieve their goals.

The North Dakota landscape offers an unobstructed view of the prairie sky. For me, the prairie sky is symbolic of "the sky is the limit" – let's dream and get it done together!

— Dawn Keeley

Find us online: www.RedRiverRC.com and Red River Regional Council on Facebook

DEVELOPING OUR COMMUNITIES

Grafton Housing Rehabilitation Project Assists Low Income Homeowners

In 2013, the RRRRC passed the \$1 million mark for grant funds awarded for housing rehabilitation over a five year period. The City of Grafton completed the second year of its three-year \$487,000 project. Funding partners included the City of Grafton, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, the USDA Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant, and the Federal Home Loan Bank Affordable Housing Program supporting the rehabilitation of more than 30 homes. The dedicated Men in Mission group responded to our calls for donated skills and labor. Projects included such items as: replacement of siding, soffits and fascia; exterior painting; front and back entrance step construction; and ramp entrance construction.

Other Community Projects Facilitated by RRRRC:

- The City of Cavalier was awarded a \$50,000 CDBG grant for Phase 1 of a three-year housing rehabilitation project. The city also received Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds which resulted in the acquisition and demolition of two houses in danger of landslide.
- The Grand Forks County Water Resource District was awarded \$38,667 HMGP funds for the purchase and installation of warning sirens at Fordville and Larimore Dam Recreation Areas.
- Cities throughout Walsh and Pembina County were awarded more than \$113,000 in County Self-Help Program funds to help with citywide betterment projects. Cities used funds for everything from street repair and landscaping to the purchase of an electronic message center.
- The City of Cavalier was awarded \$175,000 in CDBG funds to pay the special assessments of 63 eligible low and moderate income households for a street reconstruction project.
- The City of Niagara received \$237,871 in CDBG funds to repair and modify its wastewater lagoon system.

HELPING BUSINESSES THRIVE

Bank of North Dakota: A Strong Partner

The RRRRC provides professional services to the Nelson and Pembina County Job Development Authorities (JDAs). A common use of JDA funds is to finance the local match for the Bank of North Dakota's Partnership in Assisting Community Expansion (PACE) interest rate buy down program. The JDAs loaned more than \$125,000 to six area businesses. Nelson County businesses receiving loans include AMB, LLC of Petersburg and Wagon Wheel Bar and Grill in Michigan. Pembina County businesses were J&B Holdings and Stateside Electric, LLC, both of Cavalier; and Walhalla Farmers Grain and Walhalla Ag Services, LLC.

Other Business Projects Facilitated by RRRRC:

- \$50,000 grant to match USDA Rural Development funds for the Rural Business Opportunity Grant in Pembina County to: assist primary sector businesses in developing a capital expenditure plan; develop a small multi-species slaughtering plant; provide technical assistance to Enduraplas in Neche; and update the Pembina County Strategic Plan.
- \$1,250 match to the Small Business Development Center from Pembina County.
- \$10,000 for development of the Nelson County Strategic Plan.
- \$5,000 grant for the Youth Entrepreneurship Educational Program and summer camp in Pembina County.
- \$25,000 grant from ND Parks and Recreation to match \$25,000 in Nelson County funds for playground equipment and tennis court improvements at Stump Lake Park.
- \$6,000 grant to the Nelson County Barn Quilt Trail Committee for promotional costs.
- \$2,000 sponsorship for the TrainND Program which offered training events attended by seven businesses in Pembina County.

PRESERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT



Stream Bank Stabilization Project in Cavalier

Homeowners in the City of Cavalier have experienced bank instability caused by an overly incised channel and saturated stream bank conditions. This has resulted in sections of lawn sliding into the Tongue River, leaving very little room between homes and the river. Neil and Sandra Fedje live near the outer river bend of the river and had experienced at least 10 feet of erosion in prior years. The RRRRC coordinated the design and construction of a cribwall structure to stabilize the stream bank and halt further erosion of the outer bend.

LEFT: Eric Steinhaus, Environmental Protection Agency; Corene Vaughn, former Riparian Committee member; Sarah Braaten Johnston (hidden), RRRRC; and Greg Sandness, North Dakota Department of Health; view the completed Fedje project.

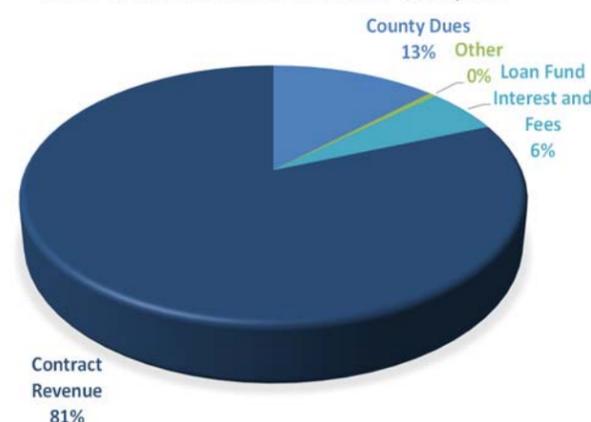
Other Environmental Projects Facilitated by RRRRC:

- An off-channel cattle watering system was completed as part of a rotational grazing system comprised of 400 acres of terrain along the Sheyenne River near Tolna. In 2013, much needed pipeline and troughs were installed utilizing a well for continuation of the grazing plan.
- For several years the stream bank under the O'Hara Bridge, located two miles southwest of the City of Pembina, had been eroding, which threatened the vital farm-to-market structure. The RRRRC provided project development and implementation and 60 percent cost share to restore and stabilize the south stream bank. Total cost of the project was \$102,000.

OPERATIONAL AND PROJECT BUDGETS

In 2013, the RRRRC generated revenue primarily through county dues (13%) and contracts for services and program delivery (81%). There are no direct appropriations or tax revenues to support the RRRRC operations. In addition, the RRRRC had \$378,670 in project revenues and \$405,071 in project expenditures.

2013 OPERATIONAL REVENUES: \$587,240



2013 OPERATIONAL EXPENSES: \$473,895

