

Red River Regional Council Annual Report 2010

From the Director

The Red River Regional Council (RRRC) serves a four county area known as substate planning Region IV. The counties are Grand Forks, Pembina, Nelson and Walsh. The council operates under section 54-40 of the North Dakota Century Code.

The board consists of 15 members comprised of a mayors, county commissioners, Natural Resource Conservation supervisors, City of Grand Forks representative, minority representative, and workforce development. The board members serve on one of the following board committees: Economic Development, Community Development, and Resource Conservation and Development. The board averages nine meetings per year.

The purpose of the RRRC is to serve the residents of the region in making the area a better place to live, work and recreate. This is accomplished by addressing problems and opportunities on a regional basis. These problems and opportunities are matched with resources available from federal, state and local governments and the private sector.

In 2010, the RRRC continued to manage its three economic development revolving loan pools. Two of the loan pools are capitalized by the Federal Economic Development Administration and one by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program of the U.S. Department of HUD. The council also contracts with the Nelson and Pembina County Job Development Authorities for administrative services.

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) continued its partnership with the council. This has allowed our regional businesses to receive business counseling and assistance with business plan development as the need arises.

The third phase of the Red River Riparian program saw work being undertaken along the Sheyenne River in Nelson County and the Pembina River in Pembina County. Aaron Sawatzky, project manager, accepted a position with American Crystal Sugar in Drayton. The council hired Maddy Steffenson to assume project management.

The council nearly completed the City of Drayton Housing Rehab project. Single family owner occupied homes were brought to the Housing Quality Standards. The City of Thompson began the process of undertaking a similar housing rehab program.

The Pembina and Walsh County Historic Preservation Commissions furthered the preservation of historic properties and provided education related to preservation.

The Housing and Urban Development Block Grant program Region IV funds are divided by the council into Economic Development, Housing and Community Development and were again available in 2010.

We hope to be able to continue to serve the region throughout 2011.

Julius M. Wangler
Executive Director

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Budget Summary

REVENUE	
EDA Planning Grant	\$ 62,920
Small Business Development Center Subcontract	115,077
County Memberships	60,815
Nelson/Pembina County Job Development Authorities (JDA's)	62,504
Historic Preservation	21,709
CDBG/Public Facilities/Ranking Contract	21,067
Disaster Mitigation	5,163
Environmental Programs	87,946
Housing	19,894
Revolving Loan Fund/CDLF/Progress Fund	53,905
Northwood Economic Development Administration	77,762
Other	<u>14,420</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 603,182
EXPENSES	
Salaries	\$ 321,467
Benefits	134,558
Travel	29,316
Rent/Utilities	13,999
Supplies/Communication	19,766
Management/Consultants/Accounting	6,775
Contract Work/Audit	31,318
Legal/Professional	3,736
Equipment/Equipment Rental/Computer Maintenance	11,554
Other	21,075
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>593,564</u>
REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ 9,618

Economic Development Activities

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

The council completed the required EDA planning document (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy—CEDS) in August 2010. This requirement and the submission of reports enable the region to maintain its eligibility for Economic Development Administration (EDA) assistance. In 2010 infrastructure projects partially funded by EDA were allocated to the cities of Northwood and Walhalla. EDA has been a partner related to development and has provided planning assistance to the council throughout the years. We hope to be able to continue to make use of EDA funding that will lead to job creation.

Regional Economic Development Loan Programs

The region's three loan programs were used by businesses to create or retain employees. In 2010, the following businesses made use of the loan programs in the following manner.

2010 Approved Funding		
Funded Projects	Location	Amount
Mountain Community Center	Mountain	\$40,000
Waste Control International	Neché	\$150,000

Council Employs Economic Development Staff Person

In November 2010 Amy Hall resigned from the position of Economic Development Specialist. In February 2011 Carol Gierszewski was named to replace Amy. Carol retired from the City of Grand Forks after 21 years of service on January 31. She was currently working as a Human Resources Generalist in HR. She has both a BSPA and a MPA degree in Public Administration from the University of North Dakota and holds licensure as a Professional in Human Resources. Carol is glad to be here and is enjoying her new position very much.

Pembina and Nelson County Job Development Authority

In 2010, the council continued to provide administrative assistance to the Pembina and Nelson County Job Development Authorities. Both of the authorities local mill levies support the activities. The authorities supported the following activities:

2010 Approved Funding			
Projects	Location	Amount	County
Youth Entrepreneurship Program	Pembina County	\$5,000 grant	Pembina
Small Business Development Center	Region IV	\$2,000 grant	Pembina
Bordertown Wire Products, Inc	Neché	\$3,224.09 PACE Buydown	Pembina
Rendezvous Region	Pembina County	\$5,000 grant	Pembina
Pembina County Leadership Program	Pembina County	\$5,000 grant	Pembina
Dairy Processing Feasibility Study	Nelson County	\$16,250 grant	Nelson

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 2010, Pembina County had ten (10) participating cities each receiving \$1,000. Walsh County had eleven (11) participating cities each receiving \$500.

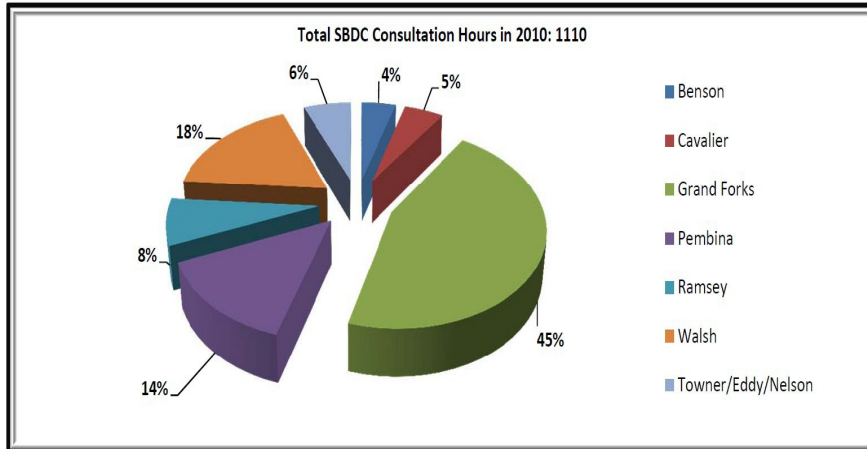
Small Business Development Center



North Dakota Small Business Development Center
Your Ideas. Our Expertise. Your Success.

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.



- * \$5.3 Million in area businesses
- * 88 Jobs created or retained
- * 21 clients started or expanded their business

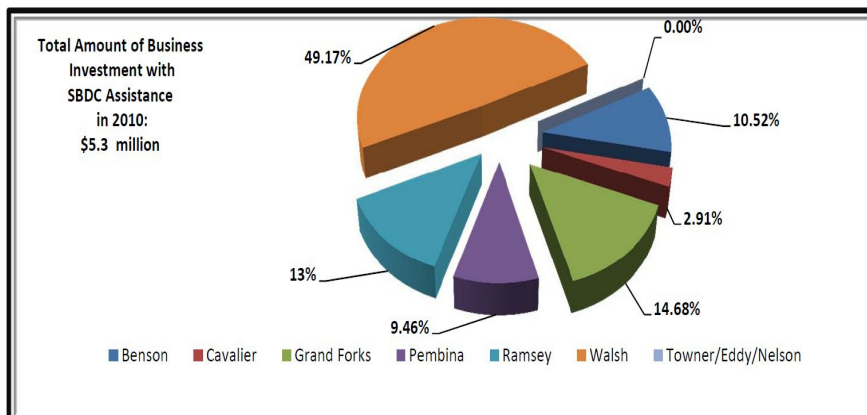
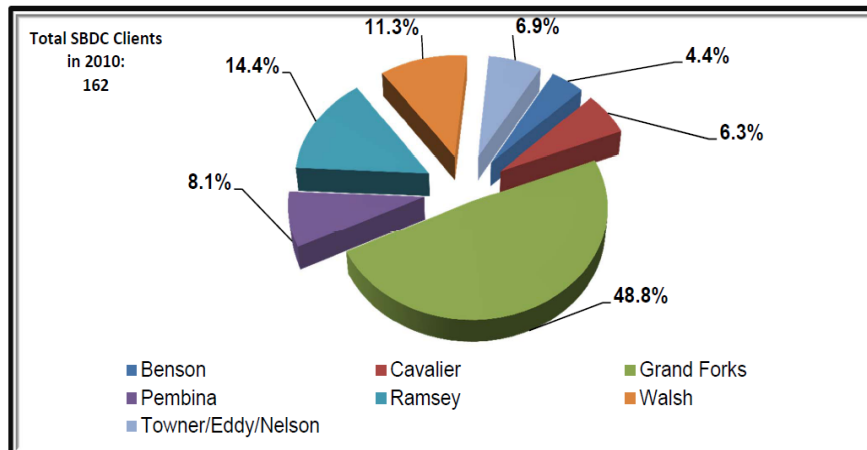
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Community Development Block Grant

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 2010 allocation was \$288,433. As a result of amendments to the 2010 Program Distribution Statement (PDS) funds were distributed as follows:

Public Facilities	\$175,000	Housing	\$113,433
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City of Drayton Housing

The Regional Council is completing the city of Drayton Housing Rehab project. A total of 18 owner-occupied homes in Drayton will be complete. All households must be occupied by low to moderate income individuals. Total funding secured was \$298,483.

City of Pembina

The 2010 public facilities CDBG allocation was awarded to the City of Pembina water system and forcemain improvements project. Funds will be used to pay special assessments of the very low, low and moderate income households.

Northwood Disaster Recovery

At the request of the ND Department of Commerce, Red River Regional Council continues to provide technical assistance to the City of Northwood in the administration of their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) received as a result of the tornado. Funds were awarded under "urgent need" to assist low and moderate income individuals and businesses. Most recently, funding has been allocated to the demolition of residential properties destroyed and abandoned. This final phase of the CDBG will be completed during spring/summer of 2011. Previously, funding was directed to four main focus areas: 1) Individual housing assistance, 2) Reconstruction of the East Mobile Home Court, 3) Demolition of three (3) downtown sites and 4) Rehabilitation of Northwood Manor Apartments.

Historic Preservation

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.

In 2010 the Pembina County Historic Preservation Commission (PCHPC) and the Walsh County Historic Preservation Commission (WCHPC) assisted in the purchase of National Register plaques. Plaques presented were the Drayton United Methodist Church, Grace Episcopal Church (Pembina United Methodist) and St. Joseph's Chapel (located in rural Walsh County). The PCHPC also held a workshop called "Treasures in Pembina County". Guest speaker was Lorna Meidinger of the North Dakota State Historical Society (NDSHS).

Hazard Mitigation

HMGP acquisition projects were awarded in December 2010 to Nelson, Traill, and Walsh Counties and the City of Manvel. A total of six properties are to be acquired and structures either relocated or demolished. HMGP initiative (non-incident) projects were awarded to Nelson County (Stump Lake Park) and the City of Inkster for early warning sirens, and to the City of Minto for emergency generators. All projects are in progress and expected to be completed in 2011.

Environmental Quality Activities

Red River Riparian Project 2010 Accomplishments

Pembina County

141.4 acres of floodplain debris removal along the Tongue River

Nelson County

200 acres of prescribed grazing implemented along the Sheyenne River

4,200 tree hand plants installed along the Sheyenne River

Deer exclusion fence installed along the Sheyenne River

Walsh County

5 acres of floodplain debris removal along the Park River

90 feet of stream channel stabilization along the Forest River

16 acres of timber stand Improvement (Scarification) along the Park River

46 acres of tree thinning along the Park River

Cavalier County

500 tree hand plants installed at Mt. Carmel Dam

32,730 feet of trees machine planted at Mt. Carmel Dam

Grand Forks County

Provided technical assistance to the Turtle River Watershed Project as requested

There were 7 management plans written for landowners in 2010.

Total dollar amount applied in 2010

<u>319 Cost Share(60%)</u>	<u>Local Match (40%)</u>	<u>Total</u>
\$189,761.24	\$126,507.49 (cash and in-kind)	\$316,268.73

Red River Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)

The Red River Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) provides leadership by seeking technical and financial assistance to create new opportunities in agriculture, employment, area conservation, and development in Walsh, Nelson, Pembina, and Grand Forks counties. The Red River RC&D is made up of local leaders who volunteer their time to determine area needs and create solutions. The Red River RC&D area is locally organized, sponsored, and led. Because of this, local people come together to make choices for their communities – working on projects that address the following resource concerns: land conservation, land management, water management, and community development. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance and sponsors obtain additional funding and services from a variety of other sources. Throughout 2010, the Red River RC&D continued to assist local communities by assisting on over 25 projects.

2010 RC&D Projects

Project	Sponsor
Eastern North Dakota Soil Salinity Project—in progress	4 Eastern ND RC&D Council's and other agencies
Purple Loosestrife on the Pembina River—completed	Pembina County Weed Board
“Jugville” Restoration—completed	Heritage Village
Stump Lake Pioneer Village Church—completed	Nelson County Historical Society
Living on the River Handbook—in progress	RR Riparian Project, Lake Agassiz RC&D Council, Cass County SCD
2010 Farm Rescue—completed	Farm Rescue
2010 ND Envirothon—completed	Coalition for Conservation & Environmental Ed. (C2E2)
Emerado Playground—completed	ND Community Foundation
Pembina County Historical Museum Sawmill—completed	Pembina County Historical Society
Stump Lake Campground Installation—completed	Nelson County Park Board
Stump Lake Campground Map—in progress	Nelson County Park Board
Park River Rescue Truck Replacement—completed	Park River Volunteer Fire Department
GF Health & Wellness Center—Landscape—in progress	Grand Forks SCD
LENSS Task Force—in progress	LENSS Task Force Group
Growing Leaders in Pembina County—in progress	Pembina County JDA
Historic Elmwood Home Repair—in progress	Historic Elmwood
Stegman Barn—in progress	Pembina County Historical Society
Crystal City Park—in progress	Crystal Park Board
Historical Josephine Garnett Home Repairs—completed	St. Thomas Preservation Society
Stump Lake Campground Restroom Facility— in progress	Nelson County Park Board
Annual Arts & Heritage Festival—completed	Gorge Arts & Heritage Council
Lighting of the Grafton Bike Path for a Healthy Future—Phase I—completed	Leadership Education & Development (LEAD) Group
Stump Lake Pavilion Historic Register App.—complete	Nelson County Park Board
2010 RR Riparian Project—Priority Watershed in NE North Dakota—in progress	WRB's, SCD's, NDFS, NSDU, ND Dept. of Health, RRRC
Riparian Project Tour—completed	Red River Riparian Project
Red River RC&D Area Plan 2011—2016—in progress	Red River RC&D Council
Icelandic—Walhalla Bike Trail—in progress	City of Walhalla Economic Development Office

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Board of Directors

- Corene Vaughn, *Pres.*, PC Commissioner
 - Mary Houdek, *Treasurer*, Job Service ND
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 - Dr. MC Diop, Minority Representative
 - Allen Ruzicka, WC Commissioner
 - Michael Kotchman, PC SCD
 - Ronal Dahlen, NC Commissioner
 - **Executive Committee Members**
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Vern Russum, WC Three River SCD
Erin Schrupp, NC SCD
Steve Girodat, Mayor, City of Michigan
Andy Adamson, Local Dev. Corp.
Cynthia Pic, GF County Commissioner
Gary Gonitzke, GFC SCD
Muriel Stadstad, GFC SCD
Charles Durrenberger, GF Planning Dept
Michael Brown, Mayor, City of GF

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Julie Hovde, RRVCAA
Tim Schroeder, UND Recreation & Leisure
Helen Cozzetto, Grand Forks
Dr. Phyllis E. Johnson, UND
Gary Paulson, First United Bank