

NPS Task Force member in attendance

Name	Agency
Karl Rockeman	NDDEQ
Ted Preister	RRBC
Julie Ellingson	ND Stockman's Association
Kathy Duttonhefner (Online)	NDPRD
Kevin Kading	NDGF
Emilee Novak	NDDEQ
Rachel Takala	NDRW
Matt Purdue	ND Farmers Union
Joe Nett	DWR
Joel Galloway	USGS
Dan Hovland	NRCS
Heather Husband	NDNRT
Carrie Johnson	NDSSCC
Rhonda Kelsh	NDASCD
Matt Olson	NDFS
Mark Hyatt	NRCS
Mark Wax	USDA-RD

Additional Attendees

Name	Agency
Scott Ressler	NDSA
Tina Harding	NDDWR
Joe Gross	NDDEQ
Lane Dahl	NDDEQ
Emily Brazil	NDDEQ
Meridith Miller	NDDEQ
McKenzie Schick	NDDEQ
Mary Keena	NDSU
Noah Galloway	NDDEQ
Brian Houle	NDDEQ
Joshua Wert	NDDEQ
Dan Gackle	West McLean SCD
Bob Flath	Ransom County SCD
Jill Olson	Barnes County SCD
Eric Trum (Online)	EPA
Isabella Seffra (Online)	Williams County SCD
Jeremy Ludlum	Williams County Parks
Jodi Delozier	NDSU Extension
Emily Spolyar	Pheasants Forever
Austin Lang	Pheasants Forever

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS- Karl Rockeman

PROJECT PROPOSAL REVIEW AND COMMENT PROCESS- Emilee Novak

- Funding 75% of 4 million.
- Packets
- Q: Has the EPA already funded the money?
- A: No not yet.

PROJECT PROPOSAL PRESENTATIONS – multiple presenters

PRESENTATION #1

North Dakota Eco Ed Grant, Jill Olson

(See project proposal)

Q: Does the curriculum update as science advances?

A: We try to. The last update was 4 years ago.

Q: What kind of results do you see with the pre and posttest?

A: 15-20% increase.

Q: Do the students come to multiple education opportunities?

A: There are transitional programs.

Q: When did this start?

A: 1988 was the initial, 1997 was the statewide.

Q: How many kids per year?

A: 70

PRESENTATION #2

ND Soil Conservation District Area Program Coordinator Project, Jodi Delozier

(See project proposal)

Q: How did you choose area 1 and 5?

A: Have looked at which districts are stronger, and which aren't and decided who needed more help.

Q: Does extension help with any of the back work?

A: We do the bulk of the work. We do rely on the extension office to provide technical training.

Q: Is the resource library only for employees or is it also public facing?

A: It is only for employees, maybe in the future we would consider doing more public programs.

Q: Who are you pulling for the focus group?

A: Just the area coordinators.

Q: Why are we spending 319 dollars on a soil project?

A: Understand where you're coming from. Working on a better relationship with the DEQ. Having a challenge to break into the water world but we are trying to change that. SCDs tend to focus on soil but try to train watershed coordinators.

Q: Are you noticing more retention with the training and the employees feeling empowered?

A: I feel like we are having more success with the new employees. Starting with a basic process. It's a slow process.

PRESENTATION #3

ND Stockman's Association, Scott Ressler

(see project proposal)

Q: When choosing projects for funding is there any priority for proximity to waterbodies?

A: We take them as they come and identify the resource concern then. Since the producer has to buy in it is harder to prioritize by waters only.

Q: Is there a permit process?

A: There is a statewide permit that covers all of the projects.

Q: Why isn't this a new phase?

A: We are counting it as a continuation.

PRESENTATION #4

NPS BMP Team, Bob Flath

(see project proposal)

Q: How do you determine the level of eligibility?

A: It's the watershed project team to decide if the project meets the objectives of the watershed project.

PRESENTATION #5

Little Muddy River Watershed Program, Isabella Sferra

(see project proposal)

Q: Are you taking flow measurements? Or using a USGS station?

A: Not sure. In the process of implementing TMDL processes for help with TMDL development.

Q: Have you heard from any cattle producers about health concerns with the amount of E.coli in the water?

A: Haven't heard anything yet.

Q: How did you come up with specific numbers for the goals?

A: Just estimates. We don't want to have to say no to anyone asking for help. Also helps us track where we are in our goals.

Q: Is there any working with local cabin owners and how they are using their lakefront property?

A: We could think about working with them. Don't have urban BMPs to utilize at this time.

Presentation #6

Douglas Creek Watershed, Dan Gackle

(see project proposal)

No questions

Presentation #7

Epping-Springbrook Dam, Jeremy Ludlum

(see project proposal)

Q: Has there been any thought to springtime water management?

A: Great idea haven't looked at that yet.

Q: How did you decide where to place the buoys and how they are being maintained?

A: The company decides where the buoys are placed. Maintenance costs \$10,000 a year. The park board is taking care of that cost. The company has travel maintenance staff to be there if there are any issues.

Q: Is the buoy measuring at a single point?

A: Different depths

Q: Are you doing all the grant writing?

A: Yes

Q: Is 20% going to be enough for all the work?

A: The park board is ok with me taking more time if needed.

Q: Were there BMPs included in the heritage fund?

A: No, just the buoys.

Presentation #8

Precision Ag and Business Planning, Austin Lang and Emily Spolyar

(see project proposal)

Q: Is the 5-year easement renewable?

A: No.

Q: Are there restrictions on what the landowner can seed with?

A: Use the NRCS site specifications and then we try to tailor it for the landowners needs.

Q: How are you getting ahold of these producers?

A: Mostly word of mouth but have been utilizing booths at seed shows, newsletters, and previous connections.

Q: What is the challenge of getting people to participate?

A: Crop insurance - make more attempting to plant it. Still need to break into the agronomist field.

Q: Have you assessed the red acres for water quality issues?

A: Can look at overlapping this tool with PTMapp.

----- **Break** -----

Task Force Introductions

Jan. 10, 2023, Meeting minute Review – Karl Rockeman

- Any additions or corrections
 - o None

Task Force Discussion on FY24 Project Proposals

- Comments Due by Feb. 1st, 2024
- Dakota Legacy Initiative for resources and partnerships.
- **Project 1 – ND Eco Ed Program**
 - o Opportunity to work with Hannah with extension office.
 - Have started working with them already.
 - o Comparison of project wet and eco ed
 - Who is reaching more students?
 - Cost benefits
 - o Both are different programs.
 - o Low cost/ high impact
 - o Do they have a goal for how many students they reach?
 - o There needs to be a set timeline for reassessing the program and adding any new information or new science into the curriculum.
- **Project 3 – ND Stockman’s Association**
 - o All the money requested is BMP dollars.
- **Project 2 – ND Soil Conservation Districts Area Program Coordinators**
 - o Needs to be tied into water quality more. Tell the story more.
 - o Deliver water quality information utilizing their resources (podcast, leadership academy, etc.)
 - o Elaborate on the water quality aspect of the project.
 - o Make sure there isn’t an overlap with other projects in that area.
 - o Partnerships can be overwhelming so having someone to connect with is important.
 - o Likes the idea of building retention by empowering the employees.
- **Project 4 – NPS Best Management Practice Team**
 - o Nice having them as a resource.
 - o The program has followed Bob and finding a SCD that is willing to spend the resources for this project.
- **Project 5 – Blacktail Dam / Little Muddy Watershed Project**
 - o Received settlement dollars for BMPs so the work has already been started.
 - o Settlement dollars were allocated because of the Blacktail Creek spill.
 - o 319 dollars are needed to supplement the project.

- Is there a timeline from the settlement trustees? 2-year assessment then 5 years to use the remaining.
 - Riparian easements timeline? 10–15-year commitment
 - Look at the septic's, at least talk to the cabin owners. Maybe surveys. Get them involved.
 - Internal lake management should be considered.
 - Project seems disjointed. More clarity in the proposal. The where and why.
- **Project 6 – Douglas Creek Watershed Project**
 - Using AnnAGNPS to find priority areas.
 - PTMApp is exclusive to the Red River Basin for now.
 - Budget table is missing (something)
 - Maybe host a grazing lands coalition tour.
- **Project 7 – Epping-Springbrook Watershed Project**
 - Appreciate that they are balancing the cost and not asking 319 for everything. Makes them seem more invested in the project.
 - Continue near shore monitoring for HABs as well. The buoy seems to only be for deeper water.
- **Project 8 – Precision Ag Business Planning**
 - Work seems like it will be more relevant in the future because of pesticide requirements.
 - Would like them to implement the PTMApp and overlay them with the program used in the project.

Open floor up to any other comments

- Thank you for being a part of this Task Force.

Adjourn