

# Red River Regional Council Annual Report 2005

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## Introduction

The Red River Regional Council thanks the entities and individuals the council and its staff have had the privilege of providing service to throughout the year 2005.

The council's goal, as initially established over thirty years ago, is to use local, state, federal and private resources to assist in making Grand Forks, Nelson, Pembina and Walsh counties a better place to live and work for all of its residents.

This year 2005 annual report provides a brief description of projects that various revenues were used to provide services. Please feel free to provide the council and its staff with comments/recommendations as how to improve and become more accountable to the residents we serve. Please call 701-352-3550 for input or e-mail rrrc@state.nd.us.

## Community Development Block Grant

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program is targeted to assist individuals of low and moderate income (LMI). The program is divided into housing, public facilities, and economic development.

The Regional Council manages the CDBG Program for Region IV (Grand Forks, Nelson, Pembina and Walsh Counties). The Region IV allocation for FY 2005 was \$297,987. Public facilities and housing applications are accepted in January and economic development applications are considered throughout the year. Kathy Lunde manages the public facilities portion of the CDBG Program.

### 2005 CDBG Public Facilities Projects

Grant Recipient	Description	Funding	Total Cost
City of Lakota	Replacement of Forcemain	\$78,967	\$181,000
City of Tolna	City Office (ROAB)	To be awarded	
City of Aneta	City Auditorium (ROAB)	To be awarded	

### 2005 Allocations

Economic Development	\$125,493
Public Facilities/ROAB	\$125,494
Housing	\$ 20,000

## Housing

The Red River Regional Council continues to pursue housing assistance to the region's communities. Work activities during 2005 are:

- Closed-out the City of Grafton Rehabilitation Program
- Continued to rehabilitate housing units within Walsh County
- Completed the management agreement for new single family construction in Grand Forks
- Continued to provide assistance to the Regional Housing Development Organization (CHDO)

## Budget Summary

<b>INCOME</b>	
EDA Planning Grant	\$ 51,000
SBDC Subcontract	132,000
County Memberships	50,254
Nelson/Pembina County JDAs	55,500
Historic Preservation	18,400
CDBG—Public Facilities/Ranking	34,200
Disaster Mitigation	37,000
Environmental Programs	81,000
Housing	14,000
Revolving Loan Fund/CDLF	56,000
Other	<u>25,243</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 554,597</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	
Salaries	\$ 331,910
Fringe	123,173
Travel	26,179
Rent/Utilities	17,494
Supplies/Communication	24,854
Management/Consultants	9,900
Misc.	48,824
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b><u>\$ 582,334</u></b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$ &lt;27,737&gt;</b>

## Red River Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)

The Red River Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Committee helps people in rural areas plan and carry out activities that increase conservation of natural resources, support economic development, and enhance the environment and standard of living in local communities.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides technical and financial assistance and sponsors obtain additional funding and services from a variety of other sources. The premise of the RC&D program is that local people know what is best for their communities.

Throughout the year 2005 the Red River Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Committee continued to assist residents of the region to enhance the environment and standard of living in local communities.

Paul Wellman, continues to be the RC&D Coordinator. His efforts and that of the RC&D Committee have encouraged local projects.

### 2005 RC&D Projects

Project	Sponsor
Innovative Cropping System Workshop	Walsh, Pembina and Grand Forks County SCD's
4th Annual Nature & Rural Tourism Conference	ND Rural Tourism Association
2005 ND Environthon	Coalition for Conservation & Environmental Education and many others
Nelson County Park Board Pavilion Improvement	Nelson County Park Board
Grafton Bike Path Improvement	Grafton Chamber of Commerce
Heritage Village Exhibit Building	Heritage Village Board—Grafton
Heart of North America Tourism Partnership	Rendezvous Region, Turtle Mountain Tourism, Walhalla Chamber of Commerce
Regional Rendezvous Market Community Kitchen	City of Walhalla
Icelandic—Walhalla Bike Trail	Red River Rural Tourism Committee
Edinburg Park Improvements	City of Edinburg
Raney Farm Tourism	Red River Rural Tourism Committee
Hoselton Alternative Livestock	Red River Rural Tourism Committee
Historical "Jugville" Relocation	Heritage Village Board
Pembina County Historical Sawmill Demonstration	Pembina County Historical Society
Red River Basin Riparian Project	ND Forest Service; ND Dept. of Health; UND-EERC; Nelson, Walsh, Pembina and Grand Forks SCD's and Water Boards
City of Cavalier—Riparian Project	City of Cavalier
Cart Creek Watershed Project	Pembina and Walsh County WRB
Rural Tourism Marketing Project	Red River Rural Tourism Committee

## Mitigation Efforts

Mitigation projects continue to be the primary focus of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the direction of the Department of Homeland Security. Areas of training include National Incident Management System, biohazard, and mass casualty response training.

### Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Flooding continues to be a major problem throughout the region. Our region received a presidential disaster declaration again this year due to the heavy snow, spring rains and ongoing high ground water saturation. Hazard Mitigation Grant Applications were submitted for the following communities:

- Lakota, \$550,000—Emergency Raw Water Line Improvement
- Pembina County, \$200,000—Housing Buyout, 2 homes
- City of Grafton—Housing Buyout, 5 homes
- City of Minto—Housing Buyout, 2 homes



Sarah and Florian Wosick's home was bought out in the Grafton HMGP Program. Two benches now sit where their house once stood, donated by the family.

### Other Mitigation Work

#### Citizen Corps Council—CERTS

Together with the League of Cities, the Citizens Corp Council was established in Pembina and Walsh Counties. A Citizen Emergency Response Team is being formed in Pembina County. Training to the group will be provided in the near future.

#### Brownfield Mitigation

Two applications have been submitted to the State Health Department for an environmental survey necessary for Brownfield participation. Once a hazard has been identified, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funds will be used for the removal of the hazardous material. The Red River Regional Council has also requested permission to submit an application to EPA for the development of a Revolving Loan Fund for Brownfield Restoration Projects.

#### Fire Departments

Ongoing assistance is provided to fire departments. In 2005, the Council has assisted in efforts to secure funding to eight fire departments for equipment and supplies, and to two departments for funding under fire prevention and safety activities. This category includes

recruitment of volunteer firefighters and education to citizens.

#### Pre-Disaster Mitigation

A Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant was submitted for the Pembina County Water Resource Board. This is a National Corporation Grant based on information provided by the ND Department of Emergency Services. It appears that funds will be awarded to develop a Pembina County Emergency Dam Plan for all dams in the county.

#### Rural Leadership of North Dakota

Together with North Dakota State University, a private business, and the RC&D office two individuals from Walsh and Grand Forks County have been accepted into the Rural Leadership ND Program. Over the next two years they will attend extensive training in a variety of areas to enhance their current skills and assist them in their future leadership roles.

Sandra Simonson continues to be the Council's staff person responsible for the mitigation work efforts.

## Historic Preservation

### Certified Local Governments (CLG)

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, in part, established a nationwide program of financial and technical assistance to preserve historic properties. Local government can participate directly in this program when approved (certified) by the National Park Service (NPS) and the State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHPO).

The CLG Program is designed to establish a working partnership among local, state and federal government to encourage historic preservation at the local level. As a CLG, the Historic Preservation Commission is eligible to compete for a special set-aside of grant funds that originate from the National Park Service (NPS) and are managed by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

### Walsh County Historic Preservation Commission

Past work activities include National Register Nominations, and three studies on the Red River Oxcart Trails. 2005 work activities were focused on the National Register of Historic Places Nomination of the Red River Oxcart Trails. This discontinuous trail nomination is presently being reviewed by the National Parks Service in Washington, D.C.

### Pembina County Historic Preservation Commission

The Pembina County Historic Preservation Commission became a Certified Local Government (CLG) on September 26, 2003. Funds have been received for the development of a Five-Year Work Plan and the restoration of the Pembina County Courthouse Stained Glass Dome. Following the devastating fire in August of 2005, funds were also received for the design phase of an elevator for the Pembina County Courthouse. The renovation of the Courthouse and design of the elevator are being undertaken at present.

Kathy Lunde continues to be the Council's staff person responsible for Historic Preservation.

## Economic Development Activities

### Small Business Development Center

SBDC Results 2005 est.	
Activity	2005
# of clients served	160
Hours of service	1350
Training events/attendees	20/259
Businesses started/retained/expanded	38
Jobs created/retained	177
Total business investment secured	\$14 million
% primary sector clients of total	24%

The Regional Council and the North Central Planning Council have teamed up to subcontract with the University of North Dakota to provide the delivery of the Small Business Development Center program throughout ten counties in northeastern North Dakota.

This program provides funding for one full time and two part time staff.

### Consulting Services

The SBDC provides free confidential one-on-one professional consulting. Specific types of assistance can include:

- Advice on operating challenges in existing businesses
- Review and assistance with business plans and strategies
- Information and guidance in new business start-ups/business purchase
- Loan preparation and/or loan application assistance
- Financial analysis, developing projections and budget development
- Research services

### Training Opportunities

Training courses range from advanced seminars aimed at the experienced entrepreneur to introductory programs for those planning to start a business.

## Economic Development Activities Cont.

### Economic Development Loan Programs

The Red River Regional Council owns and facilitates three loan programs including the Red River Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), Progress Fund and the Community Development Loan Fund. These programs focus on primary sector projects as well as essential community services. Quality job creation/retention are also items of consideration when evaluating a loan package.

These funds have a capital base of over \$4 million and currently have greater than fifty borrowers.

These programs are managed by the Regional Council's Economic Development Committee. This committee's intent is to provide gap financing to projects that will be beneficial to the local economies by creating quality jobs and increasing the local tax base.



Above: Northwood Mills, LLC ground breaking ceremony in Northwood, ND. From L to R Bruce Uglem, President, Northwood Economic Development Foundation; Linda Butts, Department of Commerce; Richard Johnson, Mayor, City of Northwood; Paul Sproule, Founder of Northwood Mills; Governor John Hoven; Clarence Leschied, Founder of Northwood Mills.

Approved Investments 2005		
Funded Projects	Location	Amount
D&K Grocery	Pembina	\$80,000
City of Northwood	Northwood	\$100,000
Harriston-Mayo, LLC	Minto	\$140,000
Northwood Mills	Northwood	\$200,000

These programs are routinely utilized as “gap financing” tools for borrowers throughout the region. Loan packages typically include other local, state and federal financing options that complement the local bank and the owner's equity contribution.

Dawn Keeley continues to manage the SBDC Program as well as the Council's three loan programs.

### Pembina County Job Development Authority

The Pembina County Job Development Authority (JDA) was formed by the Pembina County Commissioners approximately ten years ago. The state enabling legislation authorizes the Authority to be the official group responsible to assist the development and expansion of the economy in the county.

The Authority contracts with the Red River Regional Council for administrative services. Julius M. Wangler is the staff person responsible for the Pembina County JDA administrative agreement.



### 2005 Businesses Assisted in Pembina County

Valley Crete —Pembina, ND	\$35,275 Bank of North Dakota PACE Interest Buydown
“La Tea Da” Tea Room—Cavalier, ND	\$8,714 Interest Buydown
Carpenter Innovation	\$5,000 Interest Buydown
Red River Ox Cart Trails	\$1,200—Grant for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places
Bizpathways	\$1,500 grant for local match
Small Business Development Center	\$2,000 grant for local match
Pembina County Historic Preservation Commission	\$1,500—to develop a brochure depicting the Pembina County properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places

La Tea Da Tea Room, Cavalier, ND

## Nelson County Job Development Authority

The Red River Regional Council also provides technical assistance to the Nelson County Job Development Authority (JDA).

Julius M. Wangler is the staff person responsible for the administrative agreement.

### 2005 Business Assisted in Nelson County

Lundeby Nursery— Tolna	\$2,563 Bank of North Dakota PACE Interest Buydown
Dusty Willow Dairy—Lakota	\$33,887 Bank of North Dakota PACE Interest Buydown
Stump Lake Park—Rural Nelson County	

## Environmental Quality Activities

### Red River Environmental Projects for 2005

It was another year of success for the Regional Council's environmental projects. Two assessment projects were completed earlier this year: the preliminary water management plan for the Pembina River Basin and the water quality assessment results for the Tongue River Watershed Rehabilitation Project. Both reports are available from the Regional Council or on the Pembina River Basin Advisory Board Website at [www.undeerc.org/watman/html/PRBAB.html](http://www.undeerc.org/watman/html/PRBAB.html). The work in both watersheds lays the foundation for implementing more effective water management and conservation measures in the future. The Regional Council is currently working with Pembina County to acquire funding to develop a water plan specifically for the county.



The Red River Basin Riparian Project made significant advances this year, even though it remains behind schedule. Since the beginning of Phase III in 2003, assistance has been provided to over 50 landowners and communities and the project is currently working with more than 35 new requests. Over \$332,000 in cost-share has been provided for implementing riparian best management practices (BMPs) on 13 miles of river corridor. The project has also helped participants by leveraging over \$170,000 in federal and local funds to off-set restoration costs. In addition to implementing BMPs, riparian forest management plans have been written for 66 landowners and over 6000 riparian acres. One of the most innovative projects completed last year was the restoration of 7.5 miles of natural channel in Richland County. In cooperation with Lake Agassiz Regional Council and RC&D (a Riparian Project co-sponsor), Natural Resources Conservation Service, the State Water Commission and the Richland County Water Resource District, a functioning meandering channel with a buffered 10-year flood plain was established (Figure R). Restoration work such as this is being considered for portions of Cart Creek in Pembina and Walsh Counties. With slightly more than half of the project period past, ample funds are available to carry the project into 2007. We also welcome Dave Nowatzki as the new Riparian Forester from the North Dakota Forest Service assigned to the project and located in Grafton.

Dave Rush continues to be the overall manager for the environmental projects.

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## Board of Directors

- Corene Vaughn, *President*, Pembina County Commissioner
- Wesley J. Davidson, *Vice-President*, Nelson County Auditor
- George Walstad, *Treasurer*, Mayor, City of Park River
- Pat Hardy, Mayor, City of Walhalla
- Muriel Stadstad, Eastern Grand Forks County Soil Conservation District
- Vacant, Minority Representative
- Allen Ruzicka, Walsh County Commissioner

Charles Durrenberger, Grand Forks Planning Department

Richard Johnson, Mayor, City of Northwood

Michael Kotchman, Pembina County Soil Conservation District

Clayton Linstad, Nelson County Soil Conservation District

Vern Russum, Walsh County Soil Conservation District

Tom Trenbeath, Local Development Corporation

Spud Murphy, Grand Forks County Commissioner

Allen Orwick, Mayor, City of Michigan

Larry Anderson, Job Service North Dakota

- **Executive Committee Members**

## Advisory Committee Members

David Raney, Pembina County Soil Conservation District

Bob Sobolik, Bremer Bank, Larimore, ND

Floyd Anderson, Larimore Sunflower Inc.

Kurt Eickhof, Construction Engineers Ltd.

Kent Keys, Red River Valley Community Action Agency

Tim Schroeder, UND Recreation & Leisure

Helen Cozzetto, Grand Forks

Rosemarie Myrdal, NE North Dakota Heritage Association

Jon McMillian, WC Historic Preservation Commission

