

# Red River Regional Council Annual Report 2008

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## Introduction

Welcome readers to the 2008 Red River Regional Council annual report. This year has again allowed the region's local political entities to make the area a better place to live, work and play through use of Federal, State and local programs.

In 2008 the Council was able to manage three Economic Development loan pools, two of which are capitalized by the Federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) and one by the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). We were also able to provide technical assistance to the Pembina and Nelson County Jobs Development Authorities (JDA) as well as deliver business consulting assistance available from the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) program.

Also in 2008 we were able to begin one housing rehabilitation program—City of Drayton. Approximately 15 single family owned occupied homes will be rehabilitated.

A new phase of the Red River Riparian Program was started. Craig Brumbaugh, Dave Nowatzki, Bob Harsel, and Tom Clayes of the State Forest Service and the state's two universities are helping the Council in making the program available to the region.

The Housing and Urban Development's Block Grant program has enabled the Council to assist the City of Wahllalla with a street resurfacing/repairs project. Other Community Development projects such as the Pembina Community Center, Lakota lagoon and force main, McVille city hall renovations, and Tolna Community Center were completed in 2008. The City of Mountain Community Center became closer to reality.

The Pembina and Walsh County Historic Preservation Commissions were able to further their work by nominating structures to the National Register of Historic Buildings.

We hope to be able to again serve the Region throughout 2009.

Julius M. Wangler  
Executive Director

## Budget Summary

<b>REVENUE</b>	
EDA Planning Grant	\$ 25,500
Small Business Development Center Subcontract	141,998
County Memberships	56,636
Nelson/Pembina County Job Development Authorities (JDA's)	61,528
Historic Preservation	17,554
CDBG/Public Facilities/Ranking Contract	28,318
Disaster Mitigation	20,321
Environmental Programs	22,881
Housing	6,090
Revolving Loan Fund/CDLF/Progress Fund	48,856
Northwood Disaster Recovery	18,013
Northwood Economic Development Administration	3,790
Other	<u>11,316</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 462,801</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Salaries	260,940
Fringe	107,795
Travel	15,231
Rent/Utilities	19,484
Supplies/Communication	20,234
Management/Consultants/Accounting	5,500
Contract Work/Audit/Computer Maintenance	42,169
Legal/Professional	3,387
Equipment/Equipment Rental	6,323
Miscellaneous	30,732
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b><u>511,795</u></b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$ &lt;48,994&gt;</b>

- Shortage due to project funds not being received in calendar year 2008 as projected.

## Economic Development Activities

### Economic Development Loan Programs

The Region's loan programs were used to transfer ownership that allowed the retention of a grocery store in Michigan. In Neche an expanded company that assembles and markets recycling equipment was assisted. Also, a custom feedlot near Walhalla will begin operation and make use of an existing cattle site. Byproducts from local agriculture processing plants will be used by the feedlot.

#### Approved Investments 2008

Funded Projects	Owner(s)	Location	Amount
Wangler Foods	Fred Wangler	Michigan	\$60,000
Waste Control International	Stanley Hughes	Neche	\$100,000
Hidden Valley Ranch	Stanley Keller William Fischer	Walhalla	\$75,000

### 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 2008 allocation was \$260,983. As a result of amendments to the Program Distribution Statement (PDS) 2008 funds were distributed as follows:

Public Facilities - Walhalla Street Improvement	\$175,748
Unity Medical Center (set-aside)	30,235
Housing - Drayton Housing Rehabilitation	55,000



Pembina Community Center, Pembina, ND.

### Pembina County Job Development Authority

#### 2008 Businesses Assisted in Pembina County

City of Mountain	Grant for Community Center
City of Cavalier—Park Board	Grant to construct new bathroom facility
St. Joseph Preservation Society	Grant to install central air
Prairie Woods Trail Project	Grant for signage and brochure development for bike path
Small Business Development Center	Local Match

The Pembina County Job Development Authority provided a \$5,000 grant to assist in making a Mountain Community Center a reality in 2009. Bids will be let in early spring.

The Cavalier Park Board also received a grant to develop a new bathroom within the City park. A bike trail from Walhalla to Cavalier will be developed. The JDA will assist with the projects signage and brochure development. The SBDC received support from the JDA for 2009.

### Nelson County Job Development Authority

The Nelson County Job Development Authority also uses staff of the Council to administer their programs. In 2008 the Wagon Wheel Bar & Grill received a loan to rehabilitate and allow the bar and grill to reopen. Also the Michigan grocery store ownership was changed and assisted by the JDA. The County Health System plans to develop assisted living units in McVile. Elaine's House of Dreams in Lakota received an equipment loan.

#### 2008 Businesses Assisted in Nelson County

Jeff Anderson	Loan to purchase Wagon Wheel Bar & Grill in Michigan
Michigan Job Development Authority	Grant to purchase Michigan Grocery Store
Nelson County Health System	Grant to plan for assisted living units
Elaine's House of Dreams	Loan for computer equipment

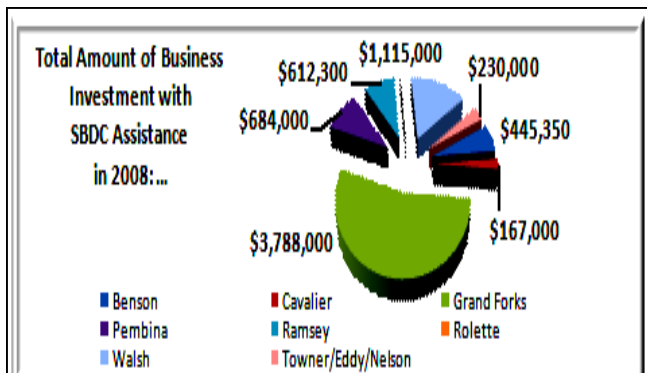
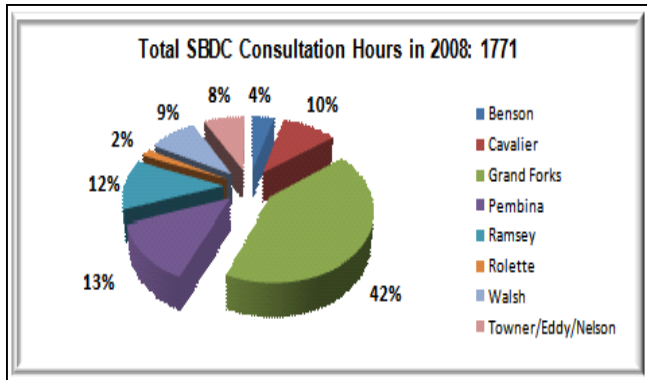
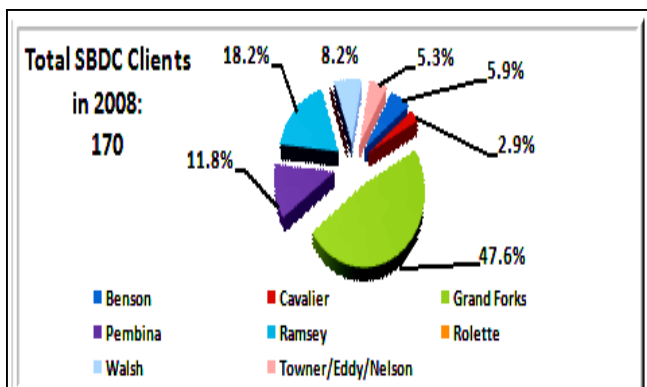
## Small Business Development Center



**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, marketing enhancement. Our clientele spans from mom-and-pop retailers to large manufacturers. The Northeast Center is staffed by Josh Klug, Regional Director; Grand Forks; and Barbara Britsch, Business Consultant, Devils Lake (North Central Planning Council). 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.

### 2008 SBDC Results



## Hazard Mitigation

### Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Two HMGP acquisition projects were completed in 2008. Two homes and garages in Pembina County were purchased and moved to locations outside the floodplain for re-use by area families. One house in Walsh County was purchased and demolished, and the family relocated. Total project costs were \$234,862 in Pembina County and \$117,779 in Walsh County.

### Pre-Disaster Mitigation

Emergency Action Plans for Dams have been completed for Renwick, Olson and Senator Young Dams in Pembina County and have been approved by the State Water Commission.

### Assistance to Firefighters Grants

Grant administration was provided to two fire departments for AFG funding. The Tolna Fire Department's project totaling \$45,570 for personal protective equipment was completed and closed out. The Brocket Fire Department's project in the amount of \$65,940 for communications equipment and turnout gear is in progress.

## Historic Preservation

### Certified Local Governments (CLG)



St. Catherine's Church, Rural Walsh County.

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 North Dakota State Historical Society.

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 Commissions are eligible to compete for a special set-aside of grant funds that originate from the NPS and are managed by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

As a result of project work initiated in 2007, both the Walsh County Historic Preservation Commission and the Pembina County Historic Preservation Commission had properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2008. The Hoff School (rural Walsh County) was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 20, 2008 and the Gunlogson Farmstead Historic Site (located at Icelandic State Park, Cavalier) on September 18, 2008.

Additional work areas for 2008 were the purchase of National Register Plaques and a 2009-2014 Plan of Action.

## Northwood Disaster Recovery

At the request of the ND Department of Commerce, Red River Region Council continues to provide technical assistance to the City of Northwood in the administration of their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Funds were awarded under urgent need to assist low and moderate income individuals and businesses. To date, funding has been 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.



Mobile Home Park, Northwood, ND

## City of Drayton Housing Rehabilitation

The Regional Council assisted the City of Drayton in the securing and administration of grants for housing rehabilitation. Current participants include families and individuals in 15 owner-occupied homes in Drayton. All households must be occupied by low to moderate income individuals. Secured funds to date are as follows:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>Amount</u>
ND Division of Community Services	Community Development Block Grant	\$ 55,000
USDA Rural Development	Housing Preservation Grant	\$ 50,000
Federal Home Loan Bank	Affordable Housing Program	\$160,000
City of Drayton	Administration	\$ 2,500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$267,500</b>

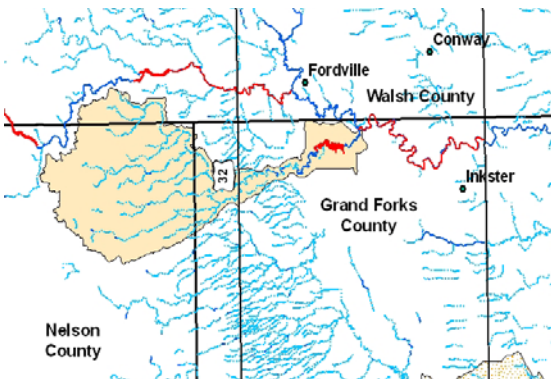
## Environmental Quality Activities

### Red River Riparian Project—Watershed Committees Cooperating Regionally Across County Boundaries

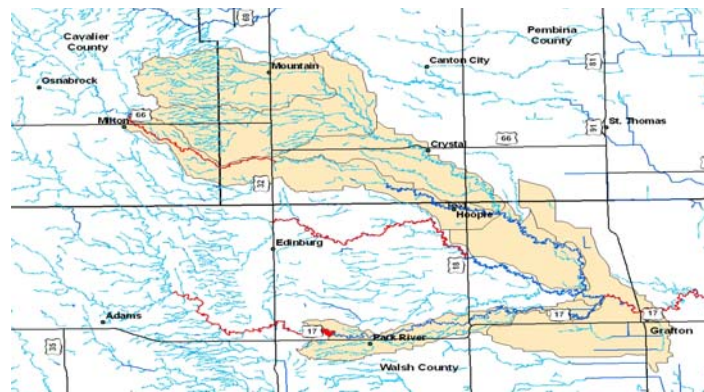


The Little South Pembina and Tongue River Watershed Committees cooperating in Cavalier and Pembina Counties.

2008 saw Watershed Committees become established and make important decisions on guiding the \$1.4 million Red River Riparian Project over the next 5 years. These committees are made up of Soil Conservation District's, Water Resource District's, County Commissioner's, and City Officials. They have actively engaged landowners, homeowners, local, state and federal agencies to plan comprehensive riparian restoration and water management within high priority watersheds and river reaches. Riparian restoration will be targeted where riparian resource concerns and interest in restoration is the highest. Examples of these Watershed Committee successes is their ability to work across county lines as illustrated on the watershed maps below.



The Fordville Watershed Committee with Representation from WRD's and SCD's in Grand Forks, Nelson & Walsh Counties.



The Park River and Cart Creek Watershed Committees cooperating in Cavalier, Pembina and Walsh Counties.

The Red River RC&D Committee and Regional Council would like to thank the Mt. Carmel Reservoir, Tongue River, Cart Creek, Park River, Middle Sheyenne, Fordville Watershed Committees for the strong leadership they have given to the Red River Riparian Project since the project started June 1, 2008.

## 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), Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCS) 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 2008, the RC&D Committee continued to assist residents of the region to enhance the environment and standard of living in local communities. The efforts of the RC&D Committee have encouraged many local projects.

Susan Currie, Red River RC&D Secretary, was recognized as the Outstanding Program Assistant for 2008 by the North Dakota Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils. Sue is a very valuable member of the Red River RC&D team. She has worked with about 500 projects in her eighteen years of assistance to the RC&D Coordinator and the Red River RC&D Council.



Paul Wellman, Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator for the Red River RC&D North Dakota, passed away at the age of 53 on Oct. 13, 2008.

Paul grew up in the Edinburg, ND area of North Dakota. He obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Soil Science from North Dakota State University in 1977. He began his career with the Soil Conservation Service immediately after graduation as a soil scientist in Sturgis, SD. He moved back to North Dakota in the fall of 1977 and worked in the Grand Forks, Lakota, Hillsboro, and Cavalier offices. In 1990 he became the RC&D Coordinator in Grafton serving the Red River RC&D.

Paul will be remembered as a very loving husband and father and a much loved son and brother. Paul was a great co-worker who worked hard for his RC&D area and will be remembered by all whose projects he touched. His guiding hand will be missed by his fellow coordinators and all the council members he worked with.

### 2008 RC&D Projects

Project	Sponsor
Stump Lake Boat Ramp Phase II	Nelson County Park Board
3rd Annual Rendezvous Arts & Heritage Festival	Gorge Arts & Heritage Council
2008 Farm Rescue	Farm Rescue
Icelandic—Walhalla Bike Trail	City of Walhalla Economic Development Office
Red River Tourism Inventory	UND Recreation & Leisure Services Program
2008 Red River Riparian Project –Priority Watershed in NE North Dakota	Regions Water Resource Board & Soil Conservation District Boards, ND Forest Service, NDSU, ND Department of Health
Red River Riparian Kick off; Riparian Range Workshop	Red River Riparian Project, Little South Pembina/Mt. Carmel Watershed Area, Red River Riparian Project
Walsh County Stream Bank Stabilization Workshop, Raney Wetland Project, Tongue River Cutoff Project, and the Stadstad River Restoration Project	Red River Riparian Project
2008 ND Envirothon	Coalition for Conservation & Environmental Education (C2E2) and many others
Pembina County Envirothon Teams	Pembina County Soil Conservation District
ND Rural Living Handbook	Grand Forks Soil Conservation District
2008 Soil Salinity Field Workshop	Grand Forks Soil Conservation District
Walsh County Noxious Weed Project	Walsh County Three River Soil Conservation District
Nature Center & Natural History Exhibits- Icelandic State Park	North Eastern ND Heritage Association
Michigan City Veteran's Memorial Park-Phase II	City of Michigan
Paul Farup American Legion Coliseum Rehab Project	Paul Farup American Legion
Cavalier Swimming Pool Aqua Trek Ramp	Cavalier Recreation Department
Aneta City Park Playground	City of Aneta

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## Board of Directors

- Corene Vaughn, *President*, Pembina County Commissioner
- Mary Houdek, *Treasurer*, Job Service North Dakota
- Dan Stenvold, *Mayor*, City of Park River
- Dr. MC Diop, *Minority Representative*
- Allen Ruzicka, *Walsh County Commissioner*
- Michael Kotchman, *Pembina County Soil Conservation District*
- Clayton Linstad, *Nelson County Soil Conservation District*
- Charles Durrenberger, *Grand Forks Planning Department*
- Richard Johnson, *Mayor*, City of Northwood
- Ardis Olson, *Mayor*, City of Drayton
- Ronald Dahlen, *Nelson County Commissioner*
- Vern Russum, *Walsh County Soil Conservation District*
- Allen Orwick, *Mayor*, City of Michigan
- Andy Adamson, *Local Development Corporation*
- Arvin Kvasager, *Grand Forks County Commissioner*
- Gary Gonitzke, *Eastern Grand Forks County Soil Conservation District*
- Muriel Stadstad, *Eastern Grand Forks County Soil Conservation District*
- **Executive Committee Members**

## Advisory Committee Members

Bob Sobolik, *Member at Large*  
Ray Withers, *Citizens Community Credit Union*  
Floyd Anderson, *Larimore Sunflower Inc.*  
Kurt Eickhof, *Construction Engineers Ltd.*  
Julie Hovde, *Red River Valley Community Action Agency*  
Tim Schroeder, *UND Recreation & Leisure*  
Helen Cozzetto, *Grand Forks*  
Rosemarie Myrdal, *NE North Dakota Heritage Association*  
Jon McMillan, *WC Historic Preservation Commission*