



**Giziibii RC&D Meeting Bi-Monthly Meeting
Meeting Minutes – May 17, 2023**

Time: 1:00 PM
Location: Bemidji Public Library;

REGULAR MEETING

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order by Chair, Michael VanHorn.

Members in attendance:

Beltrami County: Steve Ross

Lake of the Woods County:

Mahnomen County: Mike Geray

Red Lake Nation: Michael VanHorn via Zoom

Staff: Colleen Oestreich

2. **Agenda:** Motion by Steve, second by Mike to approve the agenda. M/C
3. **MINUTES:** Motion by Steve, second by Mike to approve of the March 15, 2023 Bi-monthly minutes. M/C
4. **Financial Report:**
 - a. Payments/Invoices: outstanding invoices include, \$25 for Attorney General annual report, Executive Director invoice \$1,200.80, PO Box rental. Motion by Michael, second by Steve to pay invoices. M/C
 - b. Council members reviewed Statement of Financial Position and the ledger documents. Motion by Steve, second by Mike to accept report as written pending further audit. M/C
 - c. 2022 Audit – Steve explained some of the findings. Council members will receive the findings and recommendations made by CPA, Vicki Ross Rhodes and review at the next meeting.
5. **Executive Director's Report**
 - a. Website updates – Colleen has posted more updates to the website.
 - b. MARC&D & NARC&D Membership notices of \$450 have been received. Colleen will contact MARC&D Executive Director, Paul Sandstrom for an update of information.
6. **Mobile Poultry Processing Project** – Giziibii RC&D has submitted a proposal to NRCS for funding in the amount of \$100,000 for the expanded, Food for Families Project. The mobile poultry processing trailer will be a part of this effort but it will also include hiring an intern, hosting sustainable educational events and other activities that address food insecurity issues in the region. Michael volunteered to advocate for this project with NRCS contacts.

As part of this submission, Giziibii RC&D needed to renew their SAMS information. Colleen recommends to update this information as needed and stay current. Any changes need to be verified and it is time consuming to renew if you let it lapse.

7. **Lady Slippers** – Steve has more follow-up with the landowner, Dean Walz in Mahnomon who purchased the machine. Still wants to coordinate a demo later in the year with him.
8. **Redlake Food Security Project** – Michael provided an overview of the efforts in Redlake. It is an incubation project with infrastructure needs including a packing shed – food coop. They have received \$250,000 from NRCS and have an EQIP application for 25 high tunnels. It is a 26-acre parcel where they have a high tunnel and planted 60 fruit trees this year.
9. **Giziibii RC&D Policies** – Council discussed current fee structure. Colleen will send out current policies and any edits/changes will be discussed at the next Council meeting.
10. **Giziibii RC&D Update Notice** Council discussed reaching out to County Boards, SWCDs and City representatives to provide information on recent activity. Colleen will prepare this update and send out to the membership mailing list.
11. **Next Meeting Date:** Colleen will contact Zach to coordinate a date that works for his schedule.
12. **Adjourn** – Motion by Steve, second by Mike to adjourn. M/C