

Minutes
District 5580 Grants Subcommittee Teleconference Meeting
Thursday, August 20, 2009
7:00 P.M.

Chair, Herb Schmidt, called the meeting to order. New DGS Members, Rick Michaelson, David Gottenborg and Joy Wezelman were welcomed.

Committee Members Present:

Roly Turner, DGE	Thunder Bay (Port Arthur)
PDG Al Watrel, DRFC	Bismarck
Herb Schmidt, DGS Chair	Fargo-Moorhead AM
Suzanne Pehl	Wahpeton
Karl Wahl	Thunder Bay (Fort William)
Steve Arbour	Grand Rapids Centennial
Jon Helstrom	Duluth 25
Joy Wezelman	Bismarck
Rick Michaelson	Detroit Lakes Breakfast
David Gottenborg	Pelican Rapids
Keith Brokke, Advisor	Fargo-Moorhead AM

Others Present:

Diane Collins	District Administrative Secretary
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Committee Members Absent:

Ajoy Chatterjee, DG	Thunder Bay (Fort William)
Tom Riley, DGN	Fargo-Moorhead AM
Mel Tangen	Breckenridge

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Jon Helstrom and seconded by Karl Wahl to approve the Minutes of the May 20, 2009, District Grants Subcommittee Teleconference Meeting. Motion carried.

Dates for 2009-2010 DGS Meetings:

Meeting dates for the remainder of the Rotary year have been set, as follows:

Saturday, November 21, 2009 - 9:00 A.M. CST – Face to Face Meeting – Fargo, ND at the Ramada Inn.

Thursday, January 21, 2010 – 7:00 P.M. CST – Teleconference.

Thursday, May 20, 2010, - 7:00 P.M. CDT – Teleconference.

DGS Members are to contact Chair, Herb Schmidt, to confirm their attendance at the Fargo face-to-face meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

The committee reviewed the Treasurer's Report, a copy of which is attached to these original Minutes and incorporated herein by reference. There is currently a balance of \$11,920.55 in World Community Service (WCS). It is estimated that WCS funds of \$48,000-\$49,000 will be received as clubs pay their District dues, making approximately \$60,000 available eventually. The District Simplified Grant (DSG) fund was zeroed out in 2008-09. Keith Brokke reported that at the May 20, 2009 meeting, DSG funds of \$4,700 were allocated toward Project 09.6.24, but said project will not happen during this Rotary year. FM-AM Rotary is going to withdraw that application and leave those funds available for other clubs. The application will be resubmitted in the 2010-00 Rotary year. FM-AM also applied for and received a \$1,500

grant for a Dictionary Project in Fargo. There should be about \$1,200 coming back to the District from that project, making DSG funds of approximately \$5,900 available to clubs. We have current District Designated Funds (DDF) of \$271,040.25, of which \$187,000 was carried forward from 2008-2009. With the current balance in WCS of slightly under \$12,000, the committee can approve WCS grant applications at this meeting, with funds distributed as they become available.

It was moved by Steve Arbour and seconded by Suzanne Pehl to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Review of Interim Reports:

Interim Report for Project 08.7.20 - Bemidji Rotary Club – Buena Vista Sanitation project in Honduras. Keith reported that all is progressing well on this project and completion is expected this fall. This is a TRF project for DGS informational purposes and requires no committee approval.

Interim Report for Project 09.2.08 – FM-AM Rotary Club – Meenatchiapuram, India School Furnishings. Keith received this report yesterday. The project is near completion and expected to be done within 4 weeks. This is a TRF project for DGS informational purposes and requires no committee approval.

Review of Final Reports:

Final Report for Project 07.3.02 – Duluth-Harbertown Rotary Club – Cantar Gallo, Bolivia Clinic. This is a WCS Project and the Final Report is excellently done. Jon Helstrom reported that when the Bolivian people were in Duluth, Mike was given a plaque to present to the District. This is the 100th clinic that has been constructed and we have been involved in a number of those. **A motion was made by Keith Brokke and seconded by Jon Helstrom to approve Final Report #07.3.02. Motion carried.** As an added note, Keith suggested that DGS prepare an overview of all WCS Projects for the District Conference in Winnipeg to show how many and the magnitude of projects we have been able to do with WCS funds.

Final Report for Project 08.7.19 – District 5580 - Shelter Box Project. As background information, the amount of \$10,000 of WCS funds was offered up to purchase some Shelter Boxes. Accordingly, a grant application was submitted on behalf of all District Clubs, and clubs were asked to pass the hat, with WCS matching up to \$5,000. We collected over \$5,000 and with the WCS match, 10 Shelter Boxes were purchased. The only thing we have as a final report is the letter from Shelter Box acknowledging the purchase, and Keith asked that this be considered as the Final Report. DGE Turner also said that the Shelter Boxes we purchased could be tracked on the company's website, which would also add to substantiating the Final Report. **A motion was made by DGE Turner and seconded by Steve Arbour to approve Final Report 08.7.19. Motion carried.**

Final Report for Project 08.6.14 and 09.1.03 – Grand Rapids Rotary Club and Partners - 2nd Harvest Food Van. This project used DSG funds and involved 2 grants. One was made in the 2008-09 Rotary year, and one was made in 2008-09 Rotary year. Each was for \$10,000 and funds went to purchase a refrigerated truck for the Second Harvest Food Shelf. **A motion was made by Suzanne Pehl and seconded by Rick Michaelson to approve the Final Report for 08.6.14 and 09.1.03. Motion carried.**

Final Report for Project 09.1.04 – Wahpeton Rotary Club – Library/Text Books for Zacualpa area in Guatemala. Suzanne Pehl has worked with Deseree Sempe to see this project through to completion. It was exciting to see the photos and Suzanne feels the books were much needed in the schools. This was a TRF application and notification was received from RI that the Final Report had been accepted. Therefore, this Final Report is for DGS information purposes and requires no motion to approve.

Final Report for Project 09.2.10 - Duluth 25 Rotary Club and Partners – Yanamono Clinic in Peru. This was a project funded by WCS money. Jon Helstrom reported that the clinic was started last September, the fundraising was completed and the building was finished in March of 2009. There were 44 volunteers involved. Larry Zilliot, who is going to be the St. Paul, MN District Governor, and one of the leading members of the Madison, MN Rotary Club took part, and we may be able to involve them in partnering with projects. **A motion was made by Keith Brokke and seconded by Steve Arbour to approve the Final Report for Project 09.1.10. Motion carried.**

Final Report for Project 09.3.18 – Breckenridge Rotary Club – Tacaulapa, Tencoa, Honduras School Addition.

This project was funded using WCS funds. Keith has all receipts and photos, and it appears that this is a nice addition to the school. **It was moved by Keith Brokke and seconded by Joy Wezelman to approve the Final Report for Project 09.3.18. Motion carried.**

Review of New Grant Applications:

Application 10.1.01 – Jamestown Rotary Club - Sindhuli Madi Nepal (DDF):

This project involves training villagers to make soap in an effort to provide more income to their village. The grant requested is for training only, with a total cost of approximately \$23,000 US. A request for \$6,600 DDF is being made, with this amount being matched by the club. The remaining amount of \$9,841 will be coming from TRF. Although the DGS has not seen anything previously on this type of project, it was noted that sponsored teachers in the schools are teaching local women how to do various things that benefit their community villages, as this one would. Questions were raised about how the individuals would get materials, and it was noted that some of the equipment would be donated, with sales of the product used to purchase materials. Support is also being sought from social services and the local development office in that area. Jon Helstrom said that this area of the world is one where acceptance by the people of outside help is astounding. **A motion was made by Steve Arbour and seconded by DGE Turner to approve Grant Application 10.1.01. Motion carried.**

Application 10.1.02 – International Falls Rotary Club -Community Kitchen for Community Center (DSG).

This is a kitchen where noon meals will be supplied for students, and free meals will also be provided. There appears to be substantial community support for this project and it would serve some excellent community purposes. A Rotary Club Member will sit on the Community Kitchen Steering Committee. They are asking for \$5,735 in DSG funds. **A motion was made by Steve Arbour and seconded by Karl Wahl to approve Grant Application 10.1.02. Motion carried.**

Application for 10.1.03 – Duluth-Harbortown Rotary Club - El Rodeo, Bolivia Clinic (WCS).

This project is for the purpose of building a medical clinic in the El Rodeo community of Bolivia. Cost of the project is \$49,180, and the club is requesting WCS funds of \$15,000. This is a project similar to the one described in the Final Report just approved. It is a needed project in this village, and once built, the government supplies the staff. **A motion was made by Jon Helstrom and seconded by DRFC Chair, PDG Watrel, to approve Grant Application 10.1.03. Motion carried.**

Application 10.1.04 – Brainerd Rotary Clubs – Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Education (DSG).

Funds will be used to conduct a seminar to further awareness of FASD. It was noted by Keith Brokke that at the time this application was presented, the Brainerd clubs were informed that there were currently no DSG funds available, but that we would be applying this fall for another \$24,000. Typically, these funds arrive in February-March, and receipt from TRF is contingent upon having all DSG Final Reports submitted for the prior year and 50% of the Final Reports submitted for the current year. Also if approved, these clubs would have first access to the funds based on being the first application for DSG received. However, because we will not receive these funds until February or March, it may be necessary for the club to adjust the time for their seminar, or as an alternative, upfront the necessary funds themselves and DSG would be disbursed upon receipt of the funds by the District. Each of the two Brainerd Clubs is contributing \$3,000 toward the project, with a request for DGS of \$6,000, making a total project cost of \$12,000. Joy Wezelman expressed concern about the issue of these timelines and approving the project, not because of the nature of the project, but because of fairness in approving a project for which

there are currently no funds available and making it more difficult for the clubs involved. Steve Arbour pointed out that this same issue happened with the 2nd Harvest Food Truck, and although it was necessary to wait for the funds, they were able to complete the project successfully. **A motion was made by Keith Brokke and seconded by DRFC Chair, PDG Watrel, to approve Grant Application 10.1.04. Motion carried.**

Application 10.1.05 – Fargo-Moorhead Rotary Clubs – Rajapalayam, India School (WCS).

The Fargo-Moorhead Clubs have done projects in this area for the last 3 years. TRF was used for funding school supplies, but this is a bricks and mortar project. The club will be constructing a 2-room classroom addition to the school that the Rotary Club of Rajapalayam has built. The community is growing and there is a need for additional classrooms. During the period of February 10-24, 2010, Fargo area Rotarians will be taking 14 Rotarians there to work on this project. The cost per person wishing to go is around \$2,000, which is mostly air-fair (\$1,400). Members of the Rajapalayam Rotary Club will host the team and members will stay in Rotarian host homes. One of the doctors (Dr. Gopalahrishnan) from Rajapalayam who was recently in Fargo signed a sister-club agreement in anticipation of partnering on additional projects. They are also working to line up an National Immunization Day (NID) while there. Those interested in going can contact Keith and send a deposit of \$1,500. The total project cost is \$25,062, and the grant request is for \$12,531 WCS. **The Rajapalayam Rotary Club is contributing the required \$1,000 toward the project. The school will belong to and be managed by the community. A motion was made by Suzanne Pehl and seconded by Jon Helstrom to approve Grant Application 10.1.05. Motion carried.**

Other Business:

TRF Grant Applications:

Keith reported that the Executive and Finance Committee held it's meeting on Saturday, August 15, 2009, in Walker. The committee instructed the Grants Subcommittee to take TRF Grant Applications as they come in and forward them to TRF as quickly as possible. This is due to the 70% cutback of available funding, and applications will be reviewed on a first come, first served basis. Therefore, as TRF Applications are received, they will be sent to all DGS members electronically for review. If there are concerns by any of the members on these projects, please get those to Chair, Herb Schmidt, and Advisor, Keith Brokke, immediately so they can be addressed before the applications are sent to TRF. All other applications requesting WCS or DDF funding will be handled through the normal process of the DGS at its scheduled meetings.

District Website:

Doug Murphy is our Webmaster for the Grants Subcommittee and has established a link for the Grants Website on our District Website through Clubrunner. His computer recently crashed and was down for a month so we were unable to update anything. He now has a new computer and has begun work on the website again so everything should be getting updated soon.

DRFC Comments:

DRFC Chair, PDG Watrel stated that due to the state of the economy and budget cuts, it is important that we get out applications in to TRF. He is pleased with the Grants Subcommittee and thinks they are working well.

Agenda Items for November 21:

The matter of a recommendation concerning the matter of making a DDF contribution to Polio Plus will be discussed and will be placed on the Agenda.

DGE Turner would like to see an Agenda item discussing grant awards on a first come, first served basis which may be necessary depending upon available funds and the number of applications received. He asked if the committee would discuss a priority system that would be fair to all the clubs when we get to a point where funds may run out. Joy Wezelman felt this would be an excellent idea and a healthy discussion item. At the November 21 meeting, discussion could involve getting a potential game plan in place.

Chair Schmidt thanked all the DGS members for participating in the Teleconference Meeting, and following that, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by:

Diane Collins
District Administrative Secretary
Rotary District 5580