

**Minutes of District 5580 Grants Subcommittee Meeting
Saturday, November 22, 2008
10:00 A.M.
Community Center – Walker, MN**

DGS Chair, Keith Brokke, called the meeting to order.

Roll call:

Committee Members Present:

Keith Brokke	DGS Chair – FM AM Rotary Club
Suzanne Pehl	Wahpeton Rotary Club
Mel Tangen	Breckenridge Rotary Club
Karl Wahl	Thunder Bay (FW) Rotary Club
Herb Schmidt	FM AM Rotary Club
PDG Claudette Holly	D-5580 Foundation Chair – Walker Rotary Club
PDG Al Watrel	D-5580 Foundation Chair 2009 – Bismarck Rotary Club
Tully Chambers	District Governor – Wahpeton Rotary Club
Ajoy Chatterjee	District Governor-Elect – Thunder Bay (FW) Rotary Club
Roly Turner	District Governor-Nominee – Thunder Bay (PA) Rotary Club

Others in Attendance:

Lourdes Tangen	
Diane Collins	District Administrative Secretary

Committee Members Absent:

Clyde Frank	Dickinson Rotary Club
Janet Green	Detroit Lakes Rotary Club
Jon Helstrom	Duluth 25 Rotary Club
Steve Arbour	Grand Rapids Centennial Rotary Club

Old Business:

07.1.16 (DL Breakfast RC): Keith reported that the question from the October 8, 2008, DGS Meeting concerning payment by TRF for the propane tank had been addressed with Rick and Kathy Michaelson. TRF does not cover the propane tank and Rick Michaelson stated that other funds were used to cover that cost. This will be reflected on the final report for the project.

09.1.05 (Duluth 25) This is an electrification project in Merida, Mexico that was previously reviewed by the Committee, and it was suggested that the request for DDF Funds be made. TRF denied the request so it has now changed again for a WCS request of \$5,000.

New DGS Members:

Chair Brokke announced that 3 new Rotarians will be joining the DGS Committee. They are Steve Arbour from Grand Rapids Centennial Rotary Club, Jon Helstrom from Duluth 25 Rotary Club and Herb Schmidt from the FM AM Rotary Club. Jon Helstrom is a former Chair (2004) of the committee. Members Arbour and Helstrom were unable to attend this meeting, due to family commitments. Herb Schmidt was welcomed and introduced by Keith. Herb is the current President of the FM AM Rotary Club. He is a former research scientist, retired for approximately 6 years. He has two sons, 3 grandsons and his wife, Bonnie, is a teacher. His son was an Ambassadorial Scholar.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Claudette Holly and seconded by Roly Turner to approve the Minutes of the DGS Teleconference Meeting of October 8, 2008. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report shows the following Grant Account Balances:

WCS Fund: \$ 4,228.58
DSG Fund: \$ 350.00
DDF Fund: \$224,333.78

A copy of said report is attached to the original Minutes and incorporated herein by reference.

Chair Brokke stated that Mel Tangen had contacted the President of the club in Santa Barbara, Honduras, regarding Application **08.6.15** (Piedras Negras School), and was informed that another organization had already started the project. The funds have been returned to Treasurer, Bill Gravelle. Another project of the same budget amount will be considered at today's meeting.

A review of the WCS assessments that have been received by the District reflects approximately \$29,930, and we have around 3,350 members so there should be another \$4,000 coming into the WCS fund. Foundation Chair Holly has submitted an Interim Report and a Final Report for last year's project and new DSG funds should be arriving in 2-3 weeks. We have again requested \$24,000.

Chair Brokke reviewed the projects that will be receiving DDF funding that are not yet shown on the Treasurer's Report, and if all are approved, including those presented at today's meeting, we will have spent down that fund to \$170,000. Foundation Chair Holly stated that DGS Chair, Brokke, had done an excellent job in getting clubs to respond to DDF grant applications and the District Governors have also been instrumental in encouraging this process. Keith also noted that on the Activities Report, some funds have not been paid because the clubs have not supplied the required bank statement verifying they have matched their ½ of the funds. Once that is done, Keith will ask Treasurer Gravelle to release the funds.

Keith brought up the matter of the additional funds belonging to District 5580 that are currently held in the District 5580 Memorial Fund (a/k/a Donor Advised Fund, a/k/a Allison Fund). The earnings on this fund of approximately \$8,000.00 were used to fund a Grant Application **09.1.06**, submitted by the Brainerd Rotary Club for drilling new wells at a hospital dormitory in Pignon, Haiti. This fund is held by TRF and comprised of mutual funds. It is actually our own 501(c)(3), and at some point, DG Chambers feels the District should consider building the principal.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Claudette Holly and seconded by Ajoy Chatterjee. Motion carried.

Shelter Box Project:

Chair Brokke reminded the committee that at the last DGS Meeting, clubs would be requested to submit all Shelter Box donations by October 31, 2008, and a communication was sent out regarding this deadline. The amount of \$4,826.00 has been collected to date. *A motion was made by Karl Wahl and seconded by DG Chambers that a separate contribution be made, after the match, in an amount needed to bring the Shelter Box donation up to \$10,000 in order to purchase 10 Shelter Boxes. Motion carried.*

DG Chambers stated that we had originally wanted to use DDF funds for this purpose, and that might be possible in the future after the Future Vision Plan takes effect. Foundation Chair, Holly, noted that DDF cannot be used for Shelter Boxes and the only useable funds were WCS funds. Again, this could change with TRF Future Vision. DG Chambers is specifically seeking for a better way to respond to emergency disasters and is asking District Bylaw Chair, Corey Elmer, to look into this.

Review of Interim and Final Reports:

07.2.02 (Nipigon RC) – Stoves for El Aguacate. The Final Report has been sent to TRF on this project, and TRF will respond with its acceptance. Central Lakes Rotary Club was a partner in this project. The stoves are in place, and DGN Turner explained that more stoves are brought into the community only after people are taught how to use them. A strict maintenance program is also in place. No DGS approval is required, and the above is for informational purposes only.

08.6.13 (Bismarck RC) – Playground Equipment. The park dedication had been planned for this week, and Keith will see it when he goes to Bismarck in a couple of weeks. He understands it to be a beautiful park and he anticipates receiving the Final Report shortly. TRF had no problem with the Interim Report on this project.

Review of New Grant Applications:

09.3.16 – Korean Ambulance Project DDF (Wahpeton RC). An application has been received from Dick Guiselhart and involves the purchase of an ambulance to transport people to a paramedic facility in a remote and impoverished area. The Wahpeton Rotary Club has solicited funding from other clubs who might wish to partner on the project and are requesting \$9,300 in DDF funding. Wahpeton's involvement was a result of Korean contacts made with DG Tully at the International Assembly. Matching funds are needed by the end of December. DGN Turner suggested the idea of writing up something for Assistant District Governors to take to their clubs, asking for \$500 or more toward this project. Also, the committee members in attendance at this meeting could also talk with their own clubs about this. DGE Chatterjee wondered if we would be asking the clubs for too much. It was noted that there are many smaller clubs who can't manage a large project, but do feel good about helping in the way of partnerships with other clubs on a project. This is never required, but the information is out there if they wish to participate on an International level. *A motion was made by DGN Turner and seconded by DGE Chatterjee to approve Grant Application 09.3.16. Motion carried.*

09.3.17 – Nicaragua Mobile Dental Van DDF (FM-AM RC). Chair Brokke stated that Bob Jerger, who is involved with the District Youth Exchange Program, has been involved with his church in building a lot of schools in Nicaragua. At this time, a dental van is needed to travel around to the various communities to take care of families' dental needs. The Grant Application for \$21,700 in DDF has been filed and an NGO in Nicaragua is being contacted to see if they will also sign on with the host club (RC of Managua). One item of concern was being certain that the NGO, identified as Latin American Child Care, not have religious affiliation. In checking this point on line during the meeting, it was determined that the NGO did have some religious affiliation and the committee determined that it would be a better idea to just have the Managua Rotary Club sign on as host club. Bob Jerger felt it would be better to purchase a Toyota van here, equip it and ship it down to Nicaragua. However, the DGS felt that it would be better to purchase the vehicle in that country and not circumvent their economy. It was also noted on the application that the aforementioned NGO would be responsible for maintenance and storage of the vehicle. Presently, only \$5,000 has been raised. DGS determined that additional information needed to be obtained and Keith would need to talk with Bob Jerger about getting the appropriate host club signatures. *A motion was made by Claudette Holly and seconded by Tully Chambers to deny approval of Grant Application 09.3.17 until more information is received. Motion carried.*

09.3.18 – Tacalapa Tenco School WCS (Breckenridge) – This Grant Application is submitted by Mel Tangen. The school has two buildings to accommodate 72-74 students and some have to sit outside for class under a tin roof. The request is to fund another 2-room addition for classrooms, making this a primary and secondary school. The material list and plans are the same as those previously submitted for 08.6.15 (see Page 2 of these Minutes). *A motion was made by Tully Chambers and seconded by Suzanne Pehl to approve Grant Application 09.3.18. Motion carried.*

09.3.19 – Masauso Mwale's Education WCS (Quad Cities). This item was discussed at the November 21, 2008 Foundation Committee Meeting. It was noted that in order for this request to be funded from WCS funds, it would be necessary to amend the entire WCS criteria. The DGS is not set up or equipped to handle post-graduate educational funding. However, it is possible that the TRF New Vision Plan may be sponsoring this type of applications in the future. Chair Brokke will send a letter to Joe Dennie of the Quad Cities Rotary Club and encourage him to resubmit an application once the Future Vision Plan goes into effect, provided it offers this type of funding. Claudette Holly said that while WCS is not completely defined, it is defined by doing Humanitarian Projects, and since this is an educational project, it does not qualify. The intent of WCS Funds was never set up to fund education.

Additional discussion took place. This committee understands the project and what Mr. Mwale's education could accomplish in helping his people by teaching sustainable agriculture in Africa. The committee understands that what Mr. Mwale is trying to do is a good thing, but it does not fall within WCS Criteria, and would be a difficult project to monitor. It would also not be advisable for DGS to establish new criteria until it sees the criteria that TRF New Vision has set in place, or there might be a conflict. Also, there are not sufficient funds in WCS to fund this project. A motion was made by Roly Turner and seconded by Claudette Holly to approve the decision of the Foundation Committee made at its meeting on November 21, 2008, and to deny Grant Application 09.3.19. Further, that DGS encourage Quad Cities Rotary Club to reapply in the event criteria is established by TRF and these types of grants are made available. Motion carried.

Foundation and DGS Chairs for 2009-2010:

Chair Brokke stated that at the end of this Rotary year (June 30, 2009), he would be stepping down as Grants Subcommittee Chair, and PDG Claudette Holly will be stepping down as District Foundation Chair. Keith welcomed PDG Al Watrel who will take over as District Foundation Chair for 2009-10, and Keith has agreed to remain on the Grants Subcommittee as a member for 2 additional years. Keith also stated that Claudette would like to remain on the Grants Subcommittee and her experience and knowledge about the TRF Future Vision Program would be of significant benefit to the Committee, and she has agreed to Chair the DGS if asked. Claudette told the committee that the Pilot Program is going to be challenging at first and she would enjoy the involvement. The appointment of a Subcommittee Chair is up to the District Governor-Elect, Ajoy Chatterjee, and incoming Foundation Chair, PDG Al Watrel. PDG Watrel said he would like to think about whom he would like to serve as Grants Subcommittee Chair.

Ajoy thanked Claudette for her service as Foundation Chair for the past 3 years and DG Tully noted his appreciation to her for bringing the Foundation Committee together. Claudette will be serving as Regional RI Membership Coordinator for Zone 28.

District Website:

Keith asked for the Committee's suggestions on how to improve the DGS Website and encouraged everyone to have a look at it. Doug Murphy has done a good job of getting items posted within 24 hours of receiving them. The site contains applications for 09 and some for 08, along with forms and project reports. It was suggested that possible projects be listed, but noted that a disclaimer such as that found on the RI website would be necessary, and that any projects listed should be researched thoroughly by the clubs.

Keith also distributed some brochures that identified some of the International Projects presently in progress. Doug Murphy made the brochures and the committee was very complimentary about their information and appearance. DGE Chatterjee would like to see other projects included in the brochures as well, and other clubs might want to get some made up.

Funding of Duluth Rotaract Pre-Med Student in Peru:

It was reported that Duluth 25, Thunder Bay Rotarians and other clubs are going back to Peru to rebuild Dr. Smith's clinic there. Jon Helstrom of Duluth 25 was asking if the District could help fund the travel of a Duluth Rotaractor in order to give him some hands-on experience with this project. Chair Brokke stated that the District does not fund money to pay for travel and this would fall to the Rotaract Club to possibly host a fundraising event to help with expenses, along with some support from the Duluth 25 Club. A motion was made by Claudette Holly and seconded by Suzanne Pehl to deny the travel cost of the Pre-Med Student Rotaractor to go to Peru. Motion carried.

PDG Al Watrel presented a power point regarding the Polio Project and the Gates Polio Challenge to Rotary.

DG Tully Chambers presented a power point on the Future Vision Plan that has developed and will be implemented by TRF.

DGS Meetings:

Chair Brokke stated that the DGS has met monthly or bi-monthly, and could probably begin meeting on a quarterly basis in 2009-2010. A motion was made by Al Watrel and seconded by Roly Turner to change the DGS Meetings to quarterly, with any urgent matters handled by special Teleconference Meeting. Motion carried. A letter will be sent to the clubs with the scheduled quarterly meeting dates, e.g. September, November, March and June.

Becoming a Pilot District:

The Committee discussed the idea of becoming one of the 100 Pilot Districts under the TRF Future Vision Plan. It was noted that this would be a work in progress and there will definitely be some frustrations that occur as the procedures and guidelines become defined and set in place. An advantage is that by becoming a Pilot District at this time, we would have some feedback into the shaping of guidelines. It was further noted that the District Foundation Committee favors becoming a Pilot District, and would like the support of the District Grants Subcommittee to this end. A motion was made by DG Tully Chambers and seconded by PDG Al Watrel that the District Grants Subcommittee support the District Foundation Committee's motion to recommend to the Executive and Finance Committee that District 5580 apply to become a Pilot District under TRF Future Vision Plan.

DG Chambers stated that based on the unanimous approval of these two bodies, he will send a communication to the Executive and Finance Committee requesting approval by electronic ballot. Pending approval, we will begin contacting the clubs, as 2/3 must approve before we can make application to TRF.

WCS Assessment Increase:

Chair Brokke reminded the committee of its discussion at the previous meeting about the need to increase the annual WCS Assessment in 2009-2010 from \$10/member to \$15/member. A motion was made by Claudette Holly and seconded by Suzanne Pehl that DGS recommend to Executive and Finance Committee that the 2009-2010 District Budget reflect an increase in the WCS Assessment from \$10/member to \$15/member. Motion carried. The committee was reminded that the 2009-2010 Budget would need to be approved by the Presidents-Elect at the Annual Meeting held at the District Conference in Minot.

Meeting adjourned.

Diane Collins
Administrative Secretary
Rotary District 5580