

Lower James RC&D

FY-2010 Annual Report

1820 N. Kimball Street, Mitchell, SD 57301
PH (605) 996-1031 Fax (605) 996-6930

Website: www.sdrcd.org/LowerJames.aspx



INTRODUCTION



Purpose

The purpose and main goal of the Lower James RC&D Assoc., Inc. is to help local people and organizations be successful in their natural resource and community development efforts. In other words, to assist people complete activities using their ideas, good planning, and their commitment to get things done.

Lower James Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) was established by 30 area local governments and organizations in December of 1974, and comprises seven counties in the heartland of south central South Dakota.

The Council became a non-profit 501(c)(3) association in 1991. Members of the Lower James RC&D Association meet every other month, and function as a Council in adopting and completing Council approved Projects under approved by-laws.

VISION: *“To be a regional grassroots team of local leaders recognized for quality support and services that empower area citizens to be successful and innovative in leadership, to shape the future of their communities”.*

MISSION: *“Economic Development that is Natural Resource and Community Sustaining”.*

The Council works closely with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and has adopted and abides by the non-discrimination statement below.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

2010 STRATEGIC GOALS FOR THE LOWER JAMES RC&D COUNCIL

GOAL 1: SUPPORT TO LOCAL LEADERS AND CITIZENS TO PLAN AND COMPLETE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS THEY HAVE DETERMINED ARE NEEDED TO CREATE SUSTAINABLE LOCAL AND REGIONAL COMMUNITIES.

GOAL 2: INCREASE THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF NEW OR IMPROVED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT METHODS AND TECHNOLOGIES THAT INCREASE NET PROFITS AND ARE NATURAL RESOURCE SUSTAINING.

GOAL 3: CREATE QUALITY JOBS TO STABILIZE POPULATIONS, STRENGTHEN THE LOCAL ECONOMY, AND BROADEN ACCESS FOR CITIZENS TO HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES.

BACKGROUND AND STRUCTURE OF THE COUNCIL

The Lower James RC&D was originally established by 30 area local governments and organizations in December of 1974. These were made up mostly of County Commissioners, Conservation District Board members, and representatives from the major towns in the area.

The governing body of Lower James RC&D is its membership. Today's membership is made up of local government representatives and conservation district representatives.

The current thirty-three (33) Lower James RC&D sponsors are:

Conservation Districts

Aurora
Davison
Hanson
Hutchinson
Jerauld
Sanborn
Yankton

County Governments

Aurora County Commission
Davison County Commission
Hanson County Commission
Hutchinson County Commission
Jerauld County Commission
Sanborn County Commission
Yankton County Commission

Municipalities

City of Artesian
City of Emery
City of Ethan
City of Freeman
City of Letcher
City of Menno
City of Mitchell
City of Mount Vernon
City of Parkston
City of Plankinton
City of Stickney
City of Tripp
City of Wessington Springs
City of White Lake
City of Woonsocket
City of Yankton

James River Water Development District
Lake Hanson Association
Midwest Assistance Program

Representatives also include At-Large
and Alternate Council Members

Lower James RC&D Council Officers

President

Linda Assmus – Aurora Conservation District
PO Box 277
Plankinton, SD 57368
(605) 605-942-7719 Ext.#3
auroracd@goldenwest.net

Vice-President

Ed Magera – At-Large (Tripp, SD)
PO Box 326
Tripp, SD 57376

2nd Vice President

Sherri Hanson – Sanborn Conservation District
203 W. 7th St., Suite 200
Woonsocket, SD 57385

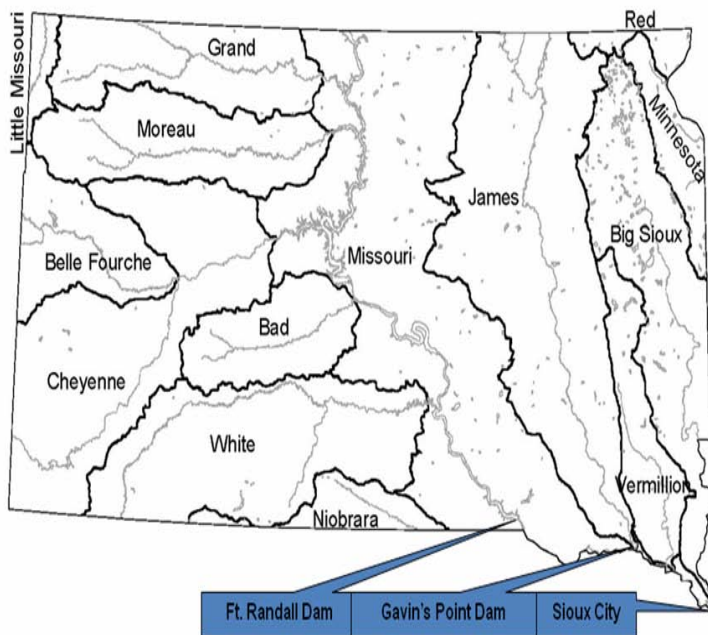
Secretary/Treasurer

Jim Lehi – Davison Conservation District
1820 N. Kimball, Suite B
Mitchell, SD 57301

DECLARATION OF THE AREA OF OPERATION

Location

Most of the Lower James RC&D Area is in the James River Watershed. The RC&D area's and Yankton County's southern border is the Missouri River, and Yankton County includes portions of the Vermillion River Watershed. The James River enters the area in northern Sanborn County and flows through the area, with the mouth of the James River in Yankton County, where it enters the Missouri River. The Missouri River forms the southern border of the RC&D Area, and Yankton County is the border between South Dakota and Nebraska. The Missouri River main stem reservoir, Lewis and Clark Lake, and Gavins Point Dam are on the southern border. Gavins Point Dam is the last main stem dam on the Missouri River, and the river below Gavins Point Dam is designated a National Recreation River.



MAJOR SOUTH DAKOTA WATERSHEDS

Lower James RC&D



Demographics

The seven county Lower James RC&D Area encompasses 2,576,640 acres, and had a 2000 population of 59,635 people. The population of the Lower James RC&D Area grew from 56,404 in 1990 to 59,635 in 2000. This increase in population was the first population increase since the 1930 US Census.

The Cities of Yankton and Mitchell account for 47% of the area's population (28,086), and accounted for 49% (1585) of the area's population increase, 1990 to 2000. The area's farm numbers decreased to 3574 in all seven counties (-2 to -8%) 1990 to 2000, and farm population also decreased to 6987- farm size increased. The rural non-farm population increased to 13,228 (1525 increase), accounting for 47% of the area's population increase, and was associated with the areas surrounding the two major trade centers. The 26 cities under 1,500 population (11,334 total population) in the area gained 121 people since 1990, accounting for 4% of the area's population increase. Fourteen of the small cities had a population increase, and 12 had a population decrease. Population increases in small cities were again associated with close proximity to the two major trade centers of Yankton and Mitchell.

Population projections by the SD State Data Center for the RC&D area are for increases in population in Davison, Hanson, and Yankton Counties (7482 total), and population decreases in Aurora, Jerauld, Sanborn, and Hutchinson Counties (3164 total). These projections again follow the pattern of population growth in and around the major trade centers of Yankton and Mitchell, with population declines in the rural areas over 30 miles from a trade center.

Agriculture and Land Use

Agriculture is the dominant land use. Land in farms, as of the 2010 National Agricultural Statistics Service, totals 2,342,054 acres; cropland totals 1,622,638 acres (69.3%) and rangeland totals 719,416 acres (30.7%).

Most of the land is privately owned. The publicly owned land is in rangeland, wildlife, and recreation uses. Wildlife use often co-exists with the cropland and rangeland. This area is the heart of South Dakota's pheasant range and is in the Missouri flyway of migratory waterfowl. Whitetail and mule deer, grouse, turkey, prairie chicken, and Hungarian partridge are also important game hunting species.

Vegetation and Crops

The crops produced are corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, wheat, oats, and sunflowers, with about one-third of the cropland producing alfalfa, and introduced pasture plants used for both hay and grazing by domestic animals and wildlife. The rangeland supports a mixture of mid-grass types such as western wheatgrass, green needlegrass, needle and thread, big bluestem and little bluestem. The Missouri River breaks are located along the Missouri river, and up some of the larger creeks and rivers - including the James River, Big Sioux and Vermillion Rivers. This area is dominated by woody draws of hardwoods such as oak, ash, hackberry and cottonwood. Cedar trees are also increasing in area. Much of the timber is harvestable/merchantable size, but is not being actively managed in most places. Rangeland also occurs in this area and are dominated by sideoats grama and little bluestem and big bluestem. Where grazing pressure is present in excessive amounts, grass types are mostly blue grama and Kentucky bluegrass, and assorted invading plants - curly cup gum weed, western ragweed, and other less palatable species.



Natural Resources

Water Resources

The Missouri River is the major water resource in the area. There are three mainstem dams and adjacent reservoirs. Lewis & Clark Lake is the lower reservoir on the Missouri system, and is the southern border of Yankton County. Gavins Point Dam and Lewis and Clark Lake at 33,000 surface acres is receiving major impacts from agriculture, tourism, recreation and natural and man caused sources of non-point source pollution and sedimentation. The James and Vermillion Rivers also receive heavy impacts from agricultural non-point sources of pollution.



Smaller lakes of importance are Lake Mitchell and Lake Hanson, Tripp Lake and numerous other smaller lakes. The three main rivers (Missouri, James and Vermillion Rivers) are the major sources of surface water for irrigation, recreation, and wildlife use. Smaller areas are important for recreation, livestock, and wildlife use. There are several Rural or Community Water Districts that bring Missouri River Water to most of the farms, ranches and communities in the Lower James RC&D area. These include the Randall Community Water District located in Lake Andes, the B-Y Water District out of Tabor, SD, the Aurora-Brule RWS Inc. headquartered in Kimball, SD, the Mid-Dakota, Davison and Hanson Rural Water Systems. To serve the expanded needs of farm and ranch operations, plus rural economic development, water is needed on demand for both rural and urban residents. Missouri River water should be adequate to meet this need if the cost of delivery can be justified.

Soils

General Soil Maps show the soil associations in the Lower James RC&D Area and the seven general kinds of landscapes for broad interpretive purposes. (*Source: County Soil Surveys*). There are also detailed soil surveys for each county in the Lower James RC&D area. These are publications of the National Cooperative Soil Survey, a joint effort of many federal, state and local agencies, with leadership by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

A soil association is a landscape that has a distinctive proportional pattern of soils. It normally is named for the major soil in that association. For information on the soils and soils associations, refer to the Soil Survey for each county. Copies are available in the Natural Resources Conservation Service field office and Conservation District office serving the county.

Geology

The Geologic map¹ gives an overview of the geology of the Lower James RC&D Area.

Much of the area east of the Missouri River (Lake Francis Case) is covered with glacially deposited materials. Glacial drift is found throughout, except in stream valleys and where the drift has been removed by erosion.

The glacial drift consists of moderately slow or slowly permeable unstratified, silt, clay, sand, gravel, and boulder till and highly permeable sand and gravel outwash. Several outwash areas are near the surface. Others are buried at depths of more than 100 feet.

Underlying the glacial materials are Cretaceous Age sales, marls, sandstones, siltstones, and limestones of the Pierre, Niobrara and Carlile Formations.

Socioeconomic

Total personal income in the Lower James RC&D area in 2001 was \$1,541,000,000, of which 65% was from earnings and 35% was from rent, dividends, and transfer payments. Income from wages and salary was approximately \$800,000 million, with income from farming at \$72 million and non-farm proprietors earnings of \$119 million. The major industries by earnings were manufacturing, retail trade, farming, construction, and wholesale trade. Total available jobs in 2004 were 30,315, with a total labor force in 2003 of 29,745. This again shows the impact of the major trade centers on commuting to work from areas in and outside of the RC&D Area. The major industries by employment with near or over 3000 employees were: Health/education/social services (6659), Manufacturing (4333), Retail trade (3839), and Agriculture (2969).

The Lower James RC&D area is currently showing positive economic, social, and environmental growth and progress. The trade centers of Yankton and Mitchell are experiencing excellent growth, which is producing growth in the communities in their commuting areas. A declining population trend since the 1930's has been reversed in the past 10 years for the area, and includes population increases in 14 of 26 cities with less than 1500 population. Areas of concern remain the more isolated rural areas where population decreases continue and are projected to continue.

¹*South Dakota Geological Survey, Vermillion, SD; (www.sdgs.usd.edu/)*

TYPES OF ASSISTANCE

GOAL 1: SUPPORT TO LOCAL LEADERS AND CITIZENS TO PLAN AND COMPLETE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS THEY HAVE DETERMINED ARE NEEDED TO CREATE SUSTAINABLE LOCAL AND REGIONAL COMMUNITIES.

- Women in Blue Jeans was provided continued grant writing and planning support.
- Continued to provide financial and technical assistance to the Corps of Discovery Welcome Center.
- Provided assistance to the Farmers Market Moms project effort, which resulted in a Farmers Market Workshop in Wagner, SD.
- Provided on-going administrative assistance to the following Watershed Projects: Lewis and Clark Watershed Implementation, Lower James River, Lower Big Sioux River, Vermillion River Watershed Restoration and the Firesteel Riparian Area Management Project.
- Provided on-going planning assistance to the SD Grasslands Coalition, Tripp Lake Structural Restoration, Missouri River Futures, and the Vermillion Watershed RC&D Applicant Area organizers.

GOAL 2: INCREASE THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF NEW OR IMPROVED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT METHODS AND TECHNOLOGIES THAT INCREASE NET PROFITS AND ARE NATURAL RESOURCE SUSTAINING.

- Two agricultural energy workshops (Brandon and Madison) were organized and conducted with partners, by the Lower James RC&D. 122 people attended these workshops
- Leadership was provided to the SD Ag Energy Committee to plan and accomplish goals outlined by the committee.
- With partners, an ag energy web site was created and is being maintained for up to date information on alternative agricultural energy, including wind and solar.
- Technical planning assistance was provided to the Southeast Dakota Wind LLC.
- Technical planning assistance was provided to the 25 x '25 Energy Alliance.
- Provided grant oversight assistance to Randall RC&D on the Risk Management For Producer Wind Development project.

GOAL 3: CREATE QUALITY JOBS TO STABILIZE POPULATIONS, STRENGTHEN THE LOCAL ECONOMY, AND BROADEN ACCESS FOR CITIZENS TO HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES.

- Provided financial assistance and administrative staff support to the Southeast Enterprise Facilitation Project to help new and expanding businesses become successful.
- The Lower James RC&D Capital Campaign continued with the Councils Endowment fund growing. Interest from this fund invested with the SD Community Foundation will eventually go towards Council Projects.
- The Council supported leadership training efforts of council members through financial support to attend the Western RC&D Association conference, and two SD RC&D Association meetings.
- East River Electric Power Cooperative was supported and assisted by the Council in securing a \$100,000 USDA Rural Development grant to conduct energy audits. One new employee was hired to do energy audits.
- On-farm jobs are important, and the Council was successful in securing two educational grants to assist farmers make the most of their resources. A soil testing grant and a manure testing and application grant were secured from the SD Discovery Center for continued project funds.
- With partners, assisted with writing and securing a Specialty Crop Block Grant and started planning for a Specialty Crop Workshop to be held in Mitchell in November 2010.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS TOWARDS GOALS

Projects in 2010 *indicates completed projects

LJ500HA*	Pierre Creek/Lake Hanson Restoration
LJ521AW*	Classic Farms Anaerobic Digester
LJ524AW*	Vermillion Watershed RC&D Applicant Area
LJ528AW	Missouri River Futures
LJ535AW	Corps of Discovery Center Sustainability
LJ536AW	Hillcrest Hutterian Brethren, Inc. Anaerobic Digester
LJ537AW	SD Grassland Coalition
LJ538AW	Grasslands Critical To Water Quality
LJ539AW	Lakes Poinsett/Albert/St.John/Norden
LJ542AW	Lower James RC&D Community Foundation
LJ544HU	Wolf Creek Stream Segment Restoration
LJ494YA*	Beaver Creek/James River
LJ545C	Missouri River Corridor
LJ546C	Vermillion River Watershed Restoration Project
LJ548C	Lower James River Watershed
LJ549C	Lower Big Sioux River Watershed Project
LJ550DA	Firesteel Riparian Area Management Project
LJ551HU	Enterprise Facilitation Sustainability - 2017
LJ552C	Farm Manure Application Systems Planning
LJ554C*	Women In Blue Jeans - 2009
LJ557C	Lewis and Clark Lake Watershed Restoration II
LJ558HU	Plains Indian Exhibit Preservation
LJ559DA	Women In Blue Jeans - 2010

LJ560HU	Tripp Lake Structural Restoration
LJ561YA	SD Lower Missouri Weed Management Area
LJ562C	South Dakota 25x'25 Energy Alliance
LJ563JE	Wessington Springs Park Improvement
LJ565DA/JE/AU*	Focus 20/20 – Lake Mitchell Development
LJ566C	Missouri River Breaks Forestry
LJ567C	Farm Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Development - II
LJ568HU*	Tripp Ag Energy/Southeast Dakota Wind, LLC
LJ571C	Farmers Market Moms
LJ572AW	Risk Management For Producer Wind Development
LJ573AW	Davison/Hanson Technical Assistance – Conservation



This Agricultural Energy Workshop in Brandon was one of two workshops held with financial assistance by Lower James RC&D, and one of 11 held across SD in FY-2010 in partnership with the six other SD RC&D Councils. Other partners included Conservation Districts, SDSU, Electric Cooperatives and many others. Primary funding for these workshops came from a North Central Risk Management Education Center grant secured by Randall RC&D with assistance from Lower James RC&D. Other financial assistance came from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the SD Association of RC&D Councils, and the 25 x '25 Alliance.



The Madison, SD workshop was also well attended with 66 attendees

Below is an excerpt from the current home page of a web site created as part of the Councils Risk Management for Producer Wind Development Project - LJ572AW, and its Farm Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Development II project, LJ567C.

Welcome

Announcements:

- **SD Wind Energy Association.** The SDWEA Annual Meeting is open to the public and will be held on November 30, 2010 at Mitchell Technical Institute in Mitchell, SD. [Click here for more details and registration.](#) [Nov. 12, 2010]

Who is the SD Ag Energy Committee?

- Download the latest committee meeting [presentation](#) and [notes](#).
- **Energy Information and Resources for Residents of South Dakota.**
- Many web-based resources can be found on our [Links page](#).
- Upcoming workshops can be found on the [Events page](#).
 - Information about [25X'25](#) is also available.
- If you have any questions or comments please let us know on the [Contact page](#).

Web Site Funding provided by:

[North Central Risk Management Education Center](#) under the "Risk Management for Producer Wind Development" grant administered by Randall RC&D.

For a current progress summary of this grant's activities, please visit:

<http://www.agrisk.umn.edu/ProjectSearch/SearchProjects.aspx> and search for Funded, 2009, South Dakota projects.

More project photos and activities in 2010.



The Grasslands Critical to Water Quality Project improves streamside riparian pastures within five miles of priority public lakes. This program is administered by Lower James RC&D, and utilized an NRCS Conservation Innovative Grant and other funds to compensate landowners for not grazing these areas for three years. It is hoped the landowners will see the water quality benefits derived from either not grazing or lightly flash grazing these riparian areas once the program ends.



Feedlot Ag waste runoff sediment basins and the forest riparian buffer both reduce sediment and improve water quality. Lower James RC&D assists these efforts by providing grant writing and administrative assistance, which in turn results in a cooperative, accelerated and targeted effort of NRCS, EPA and State Watershed project dollars being made available for these practices.



A Farmers Market Workshop was held in Wagner, SD through the combined efforts of the Northeast Nebraska, Lower James and Randall RC&D's. A "Family Guide To Finding And Growing Fresh Food" has also been created and is being distributed to hospitals, clinics, Rural Community Assistance Offices, and other appropriate outlets as part of this program. Funding comes through the Northeast Nebraska RC&D, and a grant secured from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service as part of the Farmers' Market Promotion Program.

IMPACT OF THE COUNCIL IN THE AREA OF OPERATION

The Lower James RC&D Council completed five projects in 2010, and had significant activity with 18 other projects towards accomplishing its goals in 2010. The Risk Management for Producer Wind Development Project had major statewide benefits for the people of South Dakota. The web site created will also continue to provide up to date energy information.

The Council provided grant oversight, promotional and other assistance to four large Watershed Project managers in helping them administer multi-million dollar Watershed Implementation Projects. These projects impact the Missouri River, Lake Mitchell, the Lower James and Big Sioux Rivers.

The "Grasslands Critical To Water Quality" along with the "Farm Manure Application Systems Planning" projects also have a dramatic beneficial effect on water quality. Hundreds of farmers and ranchers are being educated on how to take soil samples, manure samples and in addition, how to properly apply the correct amount of fertilizer and get the maximum benefit from it.

Total dollars and in-kind contributions contributed by partnering organization	= \$391,695
USDA-NRCS contributed a common goal value equaling	= \$75,423

The Council has many unfulfilled goals and will continue to implement projects and work with others to accomplish these goals in the future.

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**LOWER JAMES RC&D
FY-2010 FINANCIAL STATEMENT
OCTOBER 1, 2009 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2010**

Cash Balance, October 1, 2009:

\$ 24,550.68

INCOME:

Sponsor Assessments:		
14 Towns at \$55.00	\$ 770.00	
2 Cities at \$100.00	200.00	
7 County Commissions at \$100.00	700.00	
7 Conservation Districts at \$100.00	700.00	
1 Water Dev. District at \$55.00	55.00	
1 Assistance Program at \$55.00	55.00	
1 Lake Assoc. at \$55.00	55.00	
	\$2535.00	→ \$ 2,535.00
SD Assoc. of RC&D Councils/Western RC&D Conf.		\$ 1,120.00
Energy Workshop Project		\$ 2,609.73
ANMT Manure Samples Project		\$ 2,456.00
ANMT Soil Samples Project		\$ 1,078.64
Foundation Donations		\$ 500.00
Jerauld Conservation District		\$ 300.00
Total Income		\$ 10,599.37

EXPENSES:

Council Operations:		
Organizational Dues:		
SD Assoc. of RC&D Cl.	\$ 150.00	
SD Grassland Coalition	20.00	
Western RC&D Assoc.	250.00	
Corps of Discovery Welcome Ctr.	125.00	
Council Correspondence	367.54	
Secretary of State filing fees	30.00	
Insurance	225.00	
SD Assoc. of RC&D Cl. - Website	100.00	
	\$1,267.54	→ \$ 1,267.54
Western RC&D Conf.		\$ 2,299.04
Energy Workshop Project		\$ 2,590.73
ANMT Manure Samples Project		\$ 2,827.00
ANMT Soil Samples Project		\$ 549.45
Grasslands Critical Water Quality Project		\$ 22,615.40
SD Community Foundation		\$ 1,120.00
Council Mini-Grants:		\$ 500.00
Southeast Enterprise Facilitation	- \$500.00	
Total Expenses		\$ 33,769.16

The Council receives substantial benefit from an arrangement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which essentially serves as a governmental partner with the Council in providing services to its constituents. NRCS employs the full-time Coordinator and a part-time Program Support Assistant, who work for the benefit of the Council and its programs. NRCS also provides at no charge to the Council miscellaneous expenses relating to these employees. The estimated value of this support for the year ended September 30, 2010 is \$139,770, which has not been reflected in the Statement of Activities because this activity represents a teaming of efforts rather than a contribution to the organization. Without the benefit of this arrangement with NRCS, the Council would have to assume these costs in order to continue to provide services to the community at the current levels.

Cash Balance September 30, 2010

\$ 1,380.89

SD Community Foundation Balance = \$3,877.00



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