

RICE S.W.C.D.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 19, 2011

PRESENT: Robert Duban, Richard Huston, Dale Neirby, Jim Purfeerst, Gary Wagenbach, Steve Pahs, Tom Coffman, Jeff Koster, Katie Richards, and Debbie Skarupa.

ABSENT: None

Chairman Wagenbach called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS: Chairman Wagenbach welcomed new board members Jim Purfeerst and Dale Neirby. The official Oath of Office was read and signed. They each received a framed Official Certification of Election from Rice County. Website and district PowerPoint will be updated. Board members were asked to call in if they are going to be absent as need three supervisors present to make a quorum.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE REFRESHER: Steve Pahs went over Parliamentary Procedure sheet. Gary Wagenbach mentioned if three board members are together anywhere, they should not talk business as it would violate the Open Meeting Law.

MINUTES: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the December 15, 2010 board meeting minutes. Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst, and Wagenbach. All aye -None opposed - Motion carried.

FINANCIAL: December financial report is not complete because of year-end. See annual dues below for bills payable.

OLD BUSINESS:

OPEN HOUSE: Wally Hildebrandt's Open House is scheduled for January 21, 2011 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at the 4-H building in the Rice County Fairgrounds. Board will bring two dozen cookies. Bob Borchert paid for open house announcement and it's been on KDHL and Agri-News. Bob and Gary will discuss meeting at a restaurant at another time.

NEW BUSINESS:

HIAWATHA VALLEY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT:

Jeff Koster from Hiawatha Valley Resource Conservation & Development was introduced. Jeff handed out new national pollution guidelines. Wally Hildebrandt was on the RC&D Board for 11 to 12 years and president for the last several years. RC&D has one member from each SWCD in the area, one County Commissioner (Rice has two) and one at-large member. Each county usually has three per county. George Poch is filling out Wally's term and Jeff was asking for a board member to represent Rice County. Meetings are the fourth Monday of every other month. Jeff gave an overview of the organization for our new board members. RC&D is currently working on invasive species control using goats in Goodhue County, the MRBI (Mississippi River Basin Initiative), well sealing and grazing workshops. Jim Purfeerst volunteered to attend the next RC&D meeting on January 23. Milt Plaisance or Jake Gillen usually carpools with Richard Langeslag. Tom Coffman also attends. June 18 will have a workshop at Dan Coughlin's in Rice County. RC&D has two NRCS employees, one is part-time and Dorothy Miller from Olmsted does the bookkeeping. Chairman Wagenbach called for a volunteer and Jim Purfeerst volunteered.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: Committee assignments were revised as follows:

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE</u>
Rice County Forestry Committee	Tim Labs, Steve Pahs, Tom Coffman
Hiawatha RC & D	Dick Langeslag, Jim Purfeerst and Tom Coffman
State Revolving Fund Joint Powers Board for the Southeast	Bob Duban and Steve Pahs
BALMM	Dick Huston and Steve Pahs
Operational Handbook Committee	Gary Wagenbach and Steve Pahs
Personnel Committee	Dick Huston & Jim Purfeerst
Water Planning Technical Committee	Tom Coffman, Tim Labs & Steve Pahs
Integrated Roadside Management	Tim Labs
Tillage Committee	T. Coffman, Dick Huston, Bob Duban and J. Purfeerst
Cannon River Watershed Partnership	Gary Wagenbach
Zumbro Watershed Partnership	
Legislative Affairs Committee	Dick Huston and Dale Neirby
USDA Local Work Group	Steve Pahs, Tom Coffman & Dale Neirby
Budget Committee	Robert Duban, Jim Purfeerst, Dale Neirby and Steve

OFFICIAL DEPOSITORY: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dale Neirby to designate 1st United Bank as the official depository for 2011. Ayes: Duban, Huston, Purfeerst, Neirby, and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZE SIGNATURE CARDS FOR CHECKING AND SAVINGS: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dale Neirby to authorize board to sign bank signature cards for the checking and savings accounts at 1st United Bank. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston, and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZE SIGNATURE FOR WCA ESCROW ACCT: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dale Neirby to authorize board and staff to sign bank signature card for the WCA Escrow checking account. Ayes: Duban, Huston Neirby, Purfeerst, and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

MASWCD RESOLUTION RESULTS: Resolution results were mailed out in the packet. Gary Wagenbach described the resolution process and thanked the board for supporting the garlic mustard resolution, which passed. Board members were encouraged to have resolution ideas ready before June. Deb to copy 2010 resolutions for Dale and Jim.

DAY AT THE CAPITOL: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban to authorize staff and supervisors to attend the Legislative Day at the Capitol February 28 - March 1. Steve will set up appointments with legislators. Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst, and Wagenbach. All aye -None opposed - Motion carried.

ANNUAL DUES: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dick Huston to approve the following 2011 dues and donations:

MACDE	\$ 100.00
MASWCD	\$ 2,795.00
CRWP	\$ 50.00
SEMASWCD	\$ 500.00
SE SWCD JPB	\$ 500.00
GOODHUE SWCD	\$ 175.00
NACD	\$ 775.00

BILLS PAYABLE: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Dale Neurby to include a friendly amendment to list bills payable at this time:

Payroll	
Danielle Waldschmidt	\$ 10.00
Quill Corporation	\$ 36.28
Ron F Carlson Enterprises	\$1,176.75
Insty Prints	\$ 20.93
Khimaira – Green Earth	\$ 165.00
John Becker	\$ 832.00
HyVee	\$ 49.99
MCIT Insurance	\$5,150.00
MN BWSR	\$1,683.50

Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neurby, Purfeerst, and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Check to see how MASWCD Dues are calculated for February agenda.

AUTHORIZE GMC 1994 TRUCK SALE: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to authorize the sealed bid process for the sale of the 1994 GMC pickup truck to run from January 19, 2011 to February 16, 2011 at 11:00 PM. Will advertise on statewide mailing, website, Craig's list, Northfield News and Faribault Daily. Bids will be opened at the February 16, 2011 board meeting.

RICE CO. FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR: Board voted to nominate our last three Outstanding Conservationists: the Fred Becker's, the John Hellerud's, and the Chuck Shimota's.

MN COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT: Motion by Dale Neurby, seconded by Dick Huston to authorize Steve Pahs, district manager, to sign the Minnesota Cooperative Purchasing Agreement for the State of Minnesota. Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neurby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried. We had been using Rice County's agreement.

SCOTT WMO CONTRACTS: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dick Huston to approve the support for the following Water Management Organization contract:

WMO 2-11 Jeff Schneller-3611 169 Street Flushing, New York - harvestable filter strip for \$5,600.00 along county ditch in Wheatland Twp Section 28. Scott Water Management Organization will pay for the contract. Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neurby, Purfeerst, and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the support of the following Scott WMO Contract: WMO 1-11 John Skluzacek 7575 Judge Ave Lonsdale Wheatland Sec 28 Rock Inlet \$750.00

Scott Water Management Organization will pay for the contract. Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye -None opposed - Motion carried.

STATE COST SHARE VOUCHER: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dale Neirby to approve the following state cost share voucher:

CS#090117 John Becker 2687 Millersburg Blvd Dundas Bridgewater Sec 17 Side Inlet Repair \$832.00

Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst, and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

COST SHARE SLIPPAGE TO BWSR: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban to return the slippage for the John Becker cost share contract to MN BWSR for \$1683.50. Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst, and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

BIOMASS CROP ASSISTANCE LETTER OF SUPPORT: Koda Energy in Shakopee wants support for a B CAP proposal to establish biomass sources in the area. The grant would provide five-year contracts for people to provide harvestable grasses and 15-year contracts for trees and Koda wants a letter of support from the Rice SWCD. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded Dale Neirby to authorize Steve Pahs to send letter of support. Vote was called for: Dick Huston opposed as he felt turning switch grass into energy is not cost effective. Steve Pahs said the plant in Shakopee is operational but not burning switch grass. LeCenter has a methane digester. Third facility is on Iowa border. Dick Huston said we are still subsidizing ethanol. Tom Coffman said FSA has a Biomass Crop Assistance Program to pay per ton for biomass growers, which is like a 5-year CRP harvestable contract. Bob Duban felt we should go ahead and do the study to see if it is feasible. Letter was passed around to each board member to read. Tom said energy is now a major concern for NRCS. Dick said we have a 100-year supply of natural gas. Chairman Wagenbach called for the vote: Aye: Bob Duban. Naves: Dick Huston, Dale Neirby, and Jim Purfeerst. Motion was defeated.

NRCS 2010 REPORT: The NRCS 2010 Annual Report was mailed. No board action taken.

SUPERVISOR PICTURES: Pictures of the supervisors were taken after the board meeting.

STORMWATER MGMT WORKSHOP: Steve Pahs read the informational brochure. Jim Purfeerst asked if parking lots are suppose to have a catch basin. Gary Wagenbach said rules change north of Faribault and south of Faribault. The City of Minneapolis has water permeable management problems. Richie Brothers has pond on north side of lot to funnel all their water. Dale Neirby is interested in going to the stormwater management meeting.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS: Dick Huston mentioned an Agri-News article to pay to let farmers take land out of CRP and farm it. He and Danielle spoke at a Rice County Lakes Association meeting last night. He received an invitation from Noel Stratmoen to speak to Fox Lake residents also. Dick felt Danielle did a good job on the presentation. Gary Wagenbach said Cannon River Watershed Partnership is ending the 2010 year with a \$9,000 deficit. They have a proposed balanced budget of \$350,000 for 2011. Matt Durand, stormwater management director for Owatonna, gave a presentation at the last CRWP meeting about exploring establishing a Straight River Watershed. Steele SWCD and Rice SWCD are named as possible partners. Citizen's group wants attention to flooding on east side of Owatonna. Watershed districts have taxing authority. Tom Coffman asked if watershed districts have power of land condemnation. Not sure. Steve Pahs said some people are pushing for the evaporation of districts in favor of watershed districts.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. EQIP 2011: Presently we have 13 applications on hand for a mixture of practices – ag waste storage, dead animal compost, NMI, erosion control, waste pit closure, etc. Signup deadline extended to March 4, 2011.
2. CSP 2011: Signup was extended to January 21. Presently have four signups. We recently had a net conference to discuss new changes. All first year payments for ten 2010 contracts were made.
3. RIM/WRP: Flood plain easement program was officially launched January 5 through a statewide teleconference. Signup deadline for the program is March 4.
4. Performance Based Conservation Meeting at CRWP is Thursday, January 20, 2011. I plan on attending.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT by Steve Pahs:

The office has been doing a lot of year-end reporting and planning for the 2011 year this month. Many of our grants require reporting at three or six-month intervals, and we often have to report the projected outcomes of a project, which can be time consuming. I have also kept busy with ditch cleanouts and tree removal on a few systems.

Other activity this month:

- RIM WRP Teleconference
- Tree program sales and misc.
- Held EQIP Local Work Group meeting-no citizen comments were received
- Met with DNR Hydrologist to review overlapping areas of protected waters and county ditches
- BWSR Webinar on Clean Water Fund grants
- Ditch informational meeting held

The next month will continue to have plenty of meetings near and far. I will also be working on more planning for the SWCD, feedlot evaluations, and some ditch work. I am scheduled to give an annual ditch inspector report to the county board on February 22nd.

Steve Pahs said he was asked to serve on the personnel committee for the State Revolving Fund Joint Powers Board to review employees Pete Fryer, Kate Bruss, and Jason Rochester and recommend wage adjustments.

DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT by Tim Labs:

- ✱ Started reporting state cost share projects in the state eLink system
- ✱ Continued processing of RIM and RIM/WRP easements. Attended closing of Bernard Rosckes RIM/WRP easement. New RIM/WRP teleconference training.
- ✱ Processed two Ag BMP loans on conservation tillage equipment and loans. Attended Ag BMP meeting.
- ✱ Reviewed all Rice Co. Planning & Zoning CUP (conditional use permit) applications. Attended monthly plat review meeting.
- ✱ Designed two tree windbreak plans.
- ✱ Wetland Conservation Act Activities:
 - Developed WCA Escrow Agreement for financial assurance on WCA replacement plans.

- Continued processing on the City of Northfield sewer lift station application.
- Year-end WCA reporting in the state eLink system.
- Lots of miscellaneous ongoing WCA activities.

FARM BILL TECHNICIAN’S REPORT by Danielle Waldschmidt:

I have been working with the general CRP contracts, completing field visits, conservation plans and contracts. I met with the landowners to go over paperwork. There is still some interest in the CWF buffer incentive. I have been working to promote the incentive by sending out proposals and contacting landowners about the incentive. I have been working on completing eLINK reporting.

Accomplishments Include:

- Completed proposals for CRP
- Worked with landowners that are interested in CRP
- Completed general CRP field visits, conservation plans, contracts, etc...
- Met with general CRP landowners to review paperwork
- Worked with RIM Buffer participants to complete paperwork
- Met with landowners about filter strips and CWF incentive
- Completed radio interview with KOWZ on CWF incentive
- Spoke about buffers at ditch meeting in Owatonna and Faribault
- Completing eLINK reporting

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST’S REPORT BY KATIE RICHARDS:

I did some training on ArcMap with Christiane from Rochester. Jeff showed me what was needed for plans. I successfully completed the first portion of the Nutrient Management Planning on AgLearn. The second portion will be held at a later date, not yet disclosed. The third part is to follow.

Plans I’ve been working on this month:

- Beckmann, finalized
- Duban, waiting on sample results
- Kelm, updating
- McMillin, updating

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE: News releases.

ADJOURN: Chairman Wagenbach adjourned the meeting at 3:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

Board Supervisor