

RICE S.W.C.D.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 21, 2010

PRESENT: Bob Borchert, Bob Duban, Wally Hildebrandt, Richard Huston, Gary Wagenbach, Steve Pahs, Tom Coffman, Kelly Oliver, Danielle Waldschmidt, and Debbie Skarupa.

ABSENT: None

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

APPROVE AGENDA: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dick Huston to accept the agenda as presented. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dick Huston to approve the March 17, 2010 board meeting minutes. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye -None opposed - Motion carried.

FINANCIAL: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the March Program Summary and Bills Payable subject to audit. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye -None opposed - Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

STEWARDSHIP WEEK: Stewardship Week is the last Sunday in April to the first Sunday in May. Extra inserts are available.

SEMASWCD SPRING MEETING: The Southeast MN Association of Soil and Water Conservation District meeting was held April 1 at the Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch in Stewartville. Board felt it was a worthwhile meeting. Lisa Hinz with the U of Mn did a nice job with her presentation on building good staff and board relationships.

SUPERVISOR ELECTIONS: Wally Hildebrandt and Bob Borchert will not be running again for re-election this November. Filing dates have been moved up to May 18 – June 1. A news release has been in the newspapers and there is something on the website. Discussion followed on possible candidates. Bob Borchert covers the City of Faribault. Wally Hildebrandt's District is Richland, Walcott, Cannon City and Wheeling Townships. Supervisors will talk to possible candidates and recruit.

RAIN BARRELS/NATIVE PLANT SALE: Steve Pahs promoted rain barrel and native prairie plant sales at the Master Gardener's workshop and will promote them again at Earth Day on Saturday in Northfield. Dick Huston took order forms to the Blue Bird Expo in Medford. Orders will be taken through May 1. Compost bins were also discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

NRCS PHOTO CONTEST: Kelly Oliver said NRCS will be having its 75th anniversary this year and she and Tom would like to have a photo contest to celebrate. Photos need to be taken in Rice County, can be old or new, will become the property of NRCS, and should cover conservation practices or wildlife. Entry deadline is July 1 and winners will be displayed at the Rice County Fair. Kelly has a complete list of requirements. Danielle and Steve will promote the photo contest on their radio interviews. Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Dick Huston to donate up to four potted trees from the tree sale as prizes for the NRCS photo contest. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST FOR 2010:

Candidates were discussed. Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Dick Huston to nominate Fred Becker for the 2010 Outstanding Conservationist Award. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT AWARD: Public input options were discussed. Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to nominate Matt and John Carlander for the 2010 Wildlife Enhancement Award. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Staff to revise Forest Stewardship list and revisit at the May board meeting.

CANCEL STATE C-S MARK TRCKA: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the cancellation of the following state cost-share feedlot contract due to poor economic factors and reimburse MN Board of Water and Soil Resources:

CSF# 091331 Mark Trcka-8675 Lark Trail Montgomery-Ag Waste System-\$46,000.00 with \$4,000.00 T & A.

Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

REIMBURSE MARK TRCKA EARNEST MONEY: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to refund the 2nd payment of the \$500.00 earnest money from Mark Trcka. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

ATV AGREEMENT WITH RICE COUNTY: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the ATV Agreement with Rice County and Rice SWCD as written for \$30.00 per hour. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

SE MN WATER RESOURCES CONTRACT: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following SE MN Water Resources Cost Share Contract:

CS SE MN WRB# 2010-2 Richard Hager 2322 270 St E Medford, MN Feedlot Fix \$2000.00

Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

NRCS CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the NRCS Contribution Agreement #68-6322-10-7 for \$5,139.54 for a proposed EQIP

contract. Contract is contingent on EQIP approval. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

MASWCD RESOLUTION PROCESS INFO: An Agri-News editorial, the farm bill and small farmers were discussed. MASWCD mailed out a resolution format in information sheet. Resolutions need to be mailed to MASWCD by the July 21, 2010 deadline.

ZUMBRO VALLEY WATERSHED DUES: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve the \$25.00 annual dues payment for Zumbro Valley Watershed. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

RURAL PRESERVES REQUEST BY D. WALDSCHMIDT: Danielle Waldschmidt has requested permission to write Rural Preserves Conservation Plans for Hennepin County in her off duty time. Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve the request for Danielle Waldschmidt to write Rural Preserves Conservation Plans for Hennepin County in a private capacity. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

ADOPT-A-HWY: Board decided on Wednesday, April 28, to clean ditches on 9th Avenue SW starting at 17th Street. We will meet at the office and carpool to Church of the Latter Day Saints' parking lot.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS: Dick Huston burned some food plots and will be helping Bernie Rosckes and Chris Neisen burn also. Gary Wagenbach provided Garlic Mustard samples to taste. This plant was originally introduced into this country as a salad plant and is now quite invasive. Gary explained more about Garlic Mustard and will check on management strategies for invasives and how they are kept track of. We will put Garlic Mustard and other invasives on a future agenda as a MASWCD resolution possibility. Danielle said additional money has been received to partner with Scott County for WMA. Tom Coffman and Steve Pahs will discuss Garlic Mustard at the next Forestry meeting. Gary showed his camera with GPS and compass built in and mentioned Earth Day. Wally Hildebrandt, Jeff Koester and John Nicholson will be attending Earth Day in the Quad City. Bob Borchert will be attending NRCS Technical Committee meeting on CRP as a general signup is probably coming this summer. There is a push to have conservation watershed based instead of county based. Watershed districts can get money because they have taxation authority.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. EARTH DAY. NRCS Public Affairs Specialist, Julie MacSwain, was on KDHL AM MN program yesterday talking about conservation programs and accomplishments as they relate to Earth Day.
2. EQIP 2010. In Rice, we have 21 contracts recently approved for \$243,500 of conservation work. Seeing an increased interest in facilities for composting dead animals.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Tree Day was last Friday and we sold 26,000 trees. Steve suggested donating extra trees at Earth Day on Saturday in Northfield. Lots of ditch work has been done on County Ditch #9 and some landowners are upset that trees have not been taken out.

DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT:

- ☼ Read four Observation Wells
- ☼ RIM, RIM/WRP, CREP easement issues
- ☼ Sat in on a RIM/WRP teleconference on proposed new signup period.
- ☼ Attended the CRWP Cannon River Summit meeting in Faribault
- ☼ Lots of questions answered on the new Rural Preserves Tax Program for rural 2B lands.
- ☼ Annual tree bagging and handout.
- ☼ Attended monthly plat review meeting at the Planning & Zoning office. Reviewed several other CUP applications.
- ☼ WCA Activities:
 - Processed and approved a “no loss” application for the City of Faribault on the Western Avenue road reconstruction.
 - Many other miscellaneous wetland activities including filling violations, wetland banking issues and monitoring report review.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST REPORT:

- Attended manure management on current issues faced by small feedlots.
- Attended NPDES meeting for large animal operations over 1,000 A.U., all will need a field specific nutrient plan to receive their permits.
- Survey and design Monroe/Hildebrandt water way.
- Staked basin on Petricka/Bauer farm.
- Fix tire on no till drill.

Nutrient Plans Started, Revised, or Completed Last Month:

- Steve Jerdee- Freeborn
- Doug Bosma- Freeborn
- Scott Thompson- Freeborn
- Gary Lehnertz- Wabasha
- Alan Malecha- Rice
- Mark Estrem- Rice
- Shane Wagner- Steele
- Lars Polson- Wabasha
- Bob Heers- Steele
- Dan Miller- Rice
- Paul Liebenstein- Rice
- Denise Diveto- Rice
- Steve Johnson- Rice

February Ditch Services:

- Checking CD9 for debris blocking. Contacted Joe Simon to remove blockage in 3 spots.
- Moved old sprayer to county lot.

FARM BILL TECHNICIAN’S REPORT:

There is currently a SAFE CRP signup for pheasant habitat. There has been some interest in the SAFE program in the tri-county area. I have identified locations for CRP and have sent out several proposals for CRP. I have been working with these landowners to answer any questions and have been contacting others for follow up. I have been working on completing mid-contract management modifications.

I am working on completing the requirements for the CWMA. I organized a volunteer day to remove buckthorn. I’m also working with the County to complete the removal activities. Right now, the County STS is working on completing some of the buckthorn removal in the Cannon River Wilderness Area. We have received guidance for completing work plans for the new Clean Water Legacy grants. I will continue to work with Scott County to complete those requirements.

Accomplishments Include:

- Completed proposals for CRP
- Worked with landowners that are interested in CRP
- Organized CWMA Volunteer Buckthorn Removal Day
- Attended Farmbill Assistance training in Willmar
- Participated in Working Lands Initiative (WLI) teleconference
- Met with Scott County regarding new Cooperative Weed Management Area grant
- Attended Trimble training for new GPS units
- Participated in Elink web training
- Participated in RIM/WRP teleconference
- Attended an Ag and Water Quality Summit held by the Izaak Walton League
- Manned SWCD booth at the Agri-News Farm Show
- Met with Pete Fryer to look at shoreline projects using Native buffer money

OTHER: On Thursday Danielle will be on KDHL radio and will mention supervisor elections, trees, rain garden plants, and rain barrels. Steve will be at Earth Day in Northfield. Buckthorn Removal Day is Saturday from 8:30 to noon at the Cannon River Wilderness Area west off Highway #3. Stewardship week is April 25 through May 2.

ADJOURN: Chairman Robert Borchert adjourned the meeting at 2:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

Robert Duban – Board Secretary