

RICE S.W.C.D.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 19, 2010

PRESENT: Bob Borchert, Bob Duban, Wally Hildebrandt, Richard Huston, Steve Pahs, Tom Coffman, and Debbie Skarupa. Gary Wagenbach arrived at 2:15 PM.

ABSENT: None

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

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

MINUTES: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve the April 21, 2010 board meeting minutes. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All aye -None opposed - Motion carried.

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

Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Dick Huston to approve the bills payable subject to audit. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

FOREST STEWARDSHIP AWARD: Item was tabled at the April board meeting. Discussion followed. Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban to nominate Don and Curtis Piper for the Forest Stewardship Award. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Steve Pahs will mail Fred Becker an official letter signed by the chairperson about receiving the Outstanding Conservationist Award for 2010.

RAIN BARRELS/NATIVE PLANT SALE:

Steve will pick up 21 kits with four each of 12 different species of rain garden and butterfly garden 2" plugs. Eighteen rain barrels have been sold but are on back order.

SUPERVISOR ELECTIONS: Wally Hildebrandt and Bob Borchert will not be running again for re-election this November. Filing dates are May 18 – June 1. Steve Pahs has spoke to Jim Purfeerst. Dick Huston said Scott Donkers and Dale Neirby both said they would run.

ADOPT-A-HWY: Bob Borchert, Dick Huston, Danielle and Debbie cleaned the ditches on 9th Ave SW south of 17th Street SW. There was less trash than last year and it went well.

SIGN STATUS: Steve Pahs talked to Dennis Luebbe and he wants us to stake the location and he will install the Rice SWCD sign. Ditch and road right-of-ways were discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

BWSR LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: BWSR Legislative Update sheets were mailed out. Expect five to eight billion dollar deficit next year. The drainage bill was discussed.

ENVIROTHON SCORES: The Envirothon was held May 5 at Chester Woods in Eyota with 14 teams from eight schools competing. Rushford-Peterson took 1st and 2nd place with Medford taking third. Rushford-Peterson won at the State Envirothon and will compete in Fresno, California for the national contest.

RICE COUNTY STATISTICS: Tom discussed a sheet containing Rice County statistics and said RIM and CRP acres are down with corn and bean acres increasing. Tom Coffman would like more Continuous Conservation Reserve Program promotion from FSA.

CWMA GRANT REVISIONS: Danielle W – No action was taken.

FY 2011 FARM BILL TECHNICIAN GRANT: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the 2011 Farm Bill Technician Grant dollars at 70% with Rice, Steele and Waseca paying 10% each. Discussion followed. CRP maintenance was discussed. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

BWSR 2010 CLEAN WATER FUND GRANT: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dick Huston to approve the BWSR 2010 Clean Water Assistance Grant Agreement for \$150,000. Steele, Goodhue, Waseca, Rice, and LeSueur Counties will be involved with Rice SWCD receiving 5% for administering the grant. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

BWSR 2010 GF COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT GRANT: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Dick Huston to approve the BWSR 2010 General Fund Cooperative Weed Management Grant Agreement for \$10,000.00. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

STATE C-S CONTRACTS: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve the following state cost share contract:

CS# 091127 LouAnn Wendland-3155 80th St.-Northfield-Sediment Control Basin-\$1435.20-Web 27

Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Steve Pahs is the designated Conservation District Technical Representative, no other funds are being applied to this 2009 FY practice and 65% is the approved cost share amount.

Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve the following state cost-share contract:

CS#091111 Mark and Alan Malecha 30282 Isle Ave – Northfield- Web 11-Sed Basin-\$3056.30.

Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Larry Pelant is the owner and Malecha's are the renters. Steve Pahs is the designated Conservation District Technical Representative, no other funds are being applied to this 2009/2010 FY practice and 65% is the approved cost share amount.

COST SHARE CONTRACT EXTENSIONS: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following state cost share contract extension:

CS#090704 Kevin Hildebrandt – 404 Forest St – Kenyon – Richland #4 – 1625.00-Grassed Waterway

Ayes: Borchert, Duban, and Huston. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Wally Hildebrandt abstained from voting due to conflict of interest. Steve Pahs is the designated Conservation District Technical representative, no other funds are being applied to this 2009 FY practice and 65% is the approved cost share amount.

Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the state cost share extension for:

CS#090117 -John Becker – 2687 Millersburg Blvd-Dundas-Bri#17-W/W and structure repair - \$2515.50

Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Steve Pahs is the designated Conservation District Technical Representative, no other funds are being applied to this 2009 FY practice and 65% is the approved cost share amount.

Discussion followed on roller application, compaction, rainfall events and water runoff.

CANCEL FEEDLOT C-S RANDY BAUER: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban to cancel the Randy Bauer Feedlot Cost-share contract. \$11,235.00 project and \$1,123.00 in T & A will be reimbursed to MN BWSR for:

CSF#070236-Kathy & Randy Bauer-6034 Kenyon Blvd-Faribault-Cannon City 36 – Ag Waste-\$12,358.00

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

RANDY & KATHY BAUER EARNEST MONEY: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dick Huston to approve the reimbursement of the \$500.00 earnest money to Randy and Kathy Bauer. The project was completed with NRCS dollars and not state cost-share dollars. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

C.R.W.P. ANNUAL DUES: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dick Huston to approve payment of \$50.00 to Cannon River Watershed Partnership for annual dues. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

CRWP CONTRACT FOR SERVICES: Steve Pahs read an agreement with Cannon River Watershed Partnership to assess areas needing buffer strips in LeSueur County and Waseca County. CRWP will do the work. Rice SWCD will do in-kind match, not dollars. Sand Creek Watershed

covers a portion of Wheatland, Webster and Erin. Each county could get \$2700.00 each - totaling \$5400.00. Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the Contract for Services with Cannon River Watershed Partnership. Work will not be started until the grant dollars have been received. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried. These dollars will come out of the Clean Water Fund Grant.

WETLAND RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve the Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP) application in the Sand Creek Watershed submitted by Scott County. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

SEMASWCD (AREA 7) POSTER CONTEST: SEMASWCD (Area 7) is still doing the poster contest for fifth and sixth graders. Fillmore, Dodge and Steele also intend to participate. Bob Borchert authored a resolution to continue the poster contest at the state level in 2008, but it was defeated last year. State Education Committee does not promote it. The Cannon River STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) was the only school in Rice County that turned in posters.

Gary Wagenbach arrived at 2:15 PM.

Steve Pahs brought in NACD "Healthy Habitat" booklets which we purchase with money donated by the Tri-Lakes Sportsman's Club and give to 2nd and 5th grade students in Rice County. Teacher participation was discussed. Tom felt the boys might participate more if there was less emphasis on the art work for the poster contest. SEMASWCD could consider changing the poster contest rules at their next meeting.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS: Dick Huston wrote a letter to the editor concerning water in the April 29 Faribault Daily News. Cannon River STEM School was the only Faribault school at the Mankato science fair contest that Dick helped judge a few weeks ago. Danielle updated the District PowerPoint and Dick will present to the Rice County Lakes Association and the Tri-lakes Sportsman's Club. Steve and Tom suggested adding soils and watersheds. Gary Wagenbach said CRWP's budget is tight and the 20th Anniversary fund raising so far has received \$6,000 out of a \$20,000 goal. Next event is July 12 from 6:00-8:00 PM at Alexander Park Shelter #4 in Faribault. Wally Hildebrandt helped plant garden at Olmsted SWCD and spoke on numerous ways to give garden produce to food shelves. Bob Duban spoke on the "Lake Doctor" and Circle Lake. Tax assessments were discussed. Bob said up until two years ago, CER came into play. State Revenue Department threw CER ratings out. Now under Green Acres all land in Rice County will be based on \$4800 per acre across the board – good and poor land. Slew/waste ground is \$1600 per acre. Now hilly land in Forest Township is valued the same as good farmland in Richland Township. Landowners enrolled in Green Acres now have until August 16, 2010 to withdraw their class 2b lands without paying back deferred taxes (previous deadline was May 1, 2010). Bob Duban will draft a MASWCD resolution on land valuation / tax assessment for the June 16 board meeting. The Farmer magazine had an article on drainage near Willmar showing storm water runoff, not farm runoff, was the cause of high nitrogen levels.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. On May 13, we had a two and one-half hour visit from our new State Conservationist, Don Baloun. Don is a very down to earth and genuine person. Seems to be very supportive of SWCD's and concerned with maintaining good relationships. He's also supportive of purchasing new technology.

2. The second CSP signup is underway through June 11. A land eligibility and applicant checklist handout was provided to each board member.
3. We've begun advertising our 75th Anniversary Photo Contest. Kelly put together a flyer to post throughout the county. A copy of flyer was provided to all board members.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:

The end of April came with about 1000 trees still not sold. We ended up donating many of them to the Arbor Day tree giveaway and I handed out about 75 at the Earth Day event in Northfield. Sales for the rain barrels and native plants were not bad given the relatively short timeframe to sell, but I think we could do better next year. With the shortage of technical staff, I have been doing a lot of fieldwork this past month. I've also been trying to inspect many of the ditch systems before the crops come up. Classroom visits have also been happening, although we haven't done as many as last year.

Other activity this month:

- Gave a lecture on environmental politics at St. Olaf College
- Was on KYMN radio to promote the native plants and barrels
- Put together a work plan for the BWSR CWL buffer program
- Attended a hearing on a partial abandonment for CD 20
- Participating in meetings for the Working Lands Initiative
- NRCS State Conservationist Don Baloun to visit May 13th
- Completed annual MCIT Risk Assessment

The next few weeks we will be doing some construction of basins and wrapping up a couple feedlot projects. Adam and I will be spraying some of the ditches and planning for some of the erosion and maintenance needs. I will also be looking at the current budget and start planning for the 2011 budget.

DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Five Observation Well Readings taken and reported.
- Continued RIM and CREP easement processing.
- Evaluated and scored proposed RIM/WRP applications.
- Took numerous calls on questions with the Rural Preserve Property Tax program that will replace Green Acres on the Class 2B lands. Completing a list of landowners that have requested a Conservation Plan to meet the requirement of the program.
- WCA Activities:
 - Looked at several sites in which landowners want to excavate a pond in existing wetland.
 - Started reviewing a wetland replacement application on the Faribault Airport proposed expansion project.
 - Reviewed a wetland delineation on a site at the junction of Highway #21 and Park Avenue in Faribault.
 - Attended the monthly plat review meeting at Planning and Zoning.
 - Attended a one-day training session on wetland hydrology.
 - Reviewed a site at the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Faribault for wetland impacts.
 - Had a pre-application meeting with the City of Northfield on a trail project along the Cannon River.

- Lots of miscellaneous WCA activities.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST REPORT:

- Moved no till drill to Jeff Spitzak, Jim Purfeerst, Chris Sullivan, and Jerry Sevcik's.
- Worked on Hildebrandt/Monroe waterway design.
- Attended CRWP meeting in Faribault.
- Survey and design basin for Wendland feedlot project.
- Hoover, Doehling, and Ceplecha feedlot evaluations.
- Dennis Samuelson (Goodhue) spreader calibration.
- Surveyed sediment basins and tile with Coffman on Huber's project.
- Helped unload, sort, and distribute trees.
- Meeting with Beth Kallestad, Dan Vermilyea, and Wade Schulz on manure management issues in the area. Beth is looking for funding to carry out projects.
- Helped with Steele County's tree distribution.

Nutrient Plans Started, Revised, or Completed Last Month:

- Steve Johnson- Rice
- Bob Heers- Steele
- Lars Polson- Wabasha
- Dennis Samuelson- Goodhue
- Kevin Pumper- Rice
- Bill McMillin- Wabasha
- Terry Schwichtenberg- Rice
- Dale Doehling- Rice
- Paul Liebenstein- Rice
- Lawrence Chappius- Rice
- Peter Ceplecha- Rice

Ditch Services:

- Flagged ditch buffers on JD 6.
- Attended JD 6 meeting on replacing culvert crossing on Steele County side.
- Worked on mapping out ditches to be aerial sprayed this year.
- Reviewing ditches for spraying needs.
- Met with John to go over aerial spraying maps with him.
- Meeting on CD 9 going over issues with contractor and landowners. Met with new contractor to finish job and clean up site.

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 and completing plans.

I am working on completing the requirements for the CWMA. A volunteer day was held to remove buckthorn. Eight people helped remove buckthorn on a rainy day. I'm also working with the County to complete the removal activities. Right now, the County Sentence-To-Serve 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
- Completed 2nd and 5th grade classroom presentations in Lonsdale
- Spoke on AM MN with Jerry Groskreutz
- Completed 5th grade education on soil conservation for Sakatah Days
- Assisted with Tree Days
- Met about completing Greening your Garden workshop

OTHER: Gary Wagenbach brought in a sample of Garlic Mustard. It is on the noxious weeds list for the state. It's very invasive and takes over the forest understory. Gary will check MASWCD standing resolutions and work on a resolution. Could invite Rice County Weed Inspector Trent McCorkle to a meeting. Bob Borchert reminded board to save June 30 as a tentative date for the Resolutions Meeting at the Legion in Dodge Center.

ADJOURN: Chairman Robert Borchert adjourned the meeting at 3:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

Robert Duban – Board Secretary