

RICE S.W.C.D.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 21, 2011 – 1:30 PM

PRESENT: Dick Huston, Dale Neirby, Jim Purfeerst, Gary Wagenbach, Steve Pahs, Tom Coffman and Debbie Skarupa

ABSENT: Robert Duban

Chairman Gary Wagenbach called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM.

MINUTES: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Dale Neirby to approve the August 17, 2011 board meeting minutes. Ayes: Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the August financial report and bills payable subject to audit. Ayes: Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Different funding sources were discussed. Budget year-to-date figures to be put on October agenda.

OLD BUSINESS:

SWCD GOVERNANCE 101: Dick Huston and Dale Neirby attended the two day SWCD Governance 101 training held by MASWCD at Alexandria September 12 and 13. Dick and Dale gave a brief overview on the session. Jim and Dale will review and formulate some ideas.

SEMASWCD FALL MEETING: The fall joint meeting with supervisors and employees was held September 20 at the Eagles Club in Rochester with Steve, Danielle and Debbie in attendance. No supervisors attended. Steve gave a brief overview of the meeting.

RICE COUNTY BUDGET MEETING: The budget meeting with the Rice County Commissioners was held August 23. Steve Pahs gave the 2012 budget presentation with a two percent increase. Bob Duban attended also. County will act on in December. Other alliances with Rice County were discussed.

DENTAL PLAN OPTIONS: Dick Huston and Jim Purfeerst will do more research on a dental plan for employees. Item to be put on October agenda.

RIM 25TH ANNIVERSARY: Tim Labs, Danielle, Katie, Kelly, Tom, Gary Wagenbach and two of his students attended the RIM 25th Anniversary Celebration today in Owatonna. NRCS State Conservationist Don Baloun, former Ag Commissioner Jim Nickols, John Jaschke, and Representative Hanson were just some of the people who spoke on the vision and working partnerships that made RIM a success.

FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASES MEETING: Steve Pahs attended a six hour meeting regarding a plan of action for an animal disease disaster in Rice County. Dale Neirby suggested doing a one to two hour meeting a year from now to cover responses to ag related disasters.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE BWSR ACADEMY: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Dale Neurby to approve staff registration to attend the BWSR Academy at Breezy Point October 25 – 27. Ayes: Huston, Neurby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

FALSE PROMISE OF BIOFUELS: Gary Wagenbach spoke on the article “The False Promise of Biofuels” from the Scientific American. Costs have been high and several projects have been beached. Production driving up food prices is debatable.

BWSR NATIVE SHORELINE BUFFER CONTRACT CANCELLATION: Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Dale Neurby to cancel the following native buffer shoreline contract and return grant slippage to BWSR:

NB101233- Paul Kelm-4025 Wells Lake Ct.-Faribault-Wells Sec 33 – Shoreline Buffer - \$1727.25 with grant slippage going back to BWSR.

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

NATIVE BUFFER GRANT SLIPPAGE: Motion by Jim Purfeerst, second by Dale Neurby to approve \$517.54 slippage paid back to BWSR for the 2008 BWSR Native Buffer Grant.

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

WEBSITE REVISIONS: Tabled until the October Meeting.

HARRIS BAUER “AFTER” TOUR: Scheduled for after the October board meeting.

ADOPT-A-HWY: Staff and supervisors will meet at the Latter Day Saint’s Church on 9th Avenue SW at 4:10 PM Tuesday, September 27. Dick Huston suggested going out to eat as a group afterwards.

WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT AWARD: Board reviewed possible nominations and past winners. Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to nominate Nancy and William Marth for the 2011 Wildlife Enhancement Award. Plaque to be presented at a noon luncheon at Basher’s on November 16. Ayes: Huston, Neurby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Dick Huston would like Forest Stewardship put on the March 2012 agenda.

STATE FLOOD RELIEF COST SHARE PAYMENTS: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Dale Neurby to approve the following 2011 Flood Relief State Cost Share Payment:

FR110909H William Hein 3733 220 St. E. Faribault Walcott Section 9 Flood Damage Repair \$4,025.00 and \$2540.25 in slippage returned back into fund.

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

STATE COST SHARE FLOOD RELIEF CONTRACT AMENDMENT: Motion by Dale Neurby, seconded by Dick Huston to approve an amendment of \$1,800.00 in additional funds to Robert Olson, 2815 Village Drive Faribault 2011 Flood Relief State Cost Share Contract

#FR110909O. Ayes: Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

STATE COST SHARE FLOOD RELIEF CONTRACT VOUCHER: Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Dick Huston to approve the following 2011 State Cost Share Flood Relief Voucher Payment:

Contract#110909O-Robert Olson-2815 Village Faribault Walcott Section 9 – Flood Damage Repair - \$4300.00.

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

APPROVE SE MN WRB COST SHARE CONTRACT: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the following SE MN WRB Contract:

Contract #WRB012011-Mark Simon – 12200 45 St. W. – New Prague, MN 56071 – Wheatland Sec 7 – Milk House Waste Treatment – Bark Bed System - \$7000.00.

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

AG BMP LOAN APPLICATION: Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Dick Huston to note that the following Ag Best Management Practices loan application has been approved by Tim Labs and forwarded to Community Resource Bank in Northfield:

Paul Duban – 13417 Bagley Ave – Faribault – Ag Waste Management System – BMP portion is \$100,000.00.

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

AUDIT 2010 LETTER: A letter was received from Jim Maiser saying the audit has been completed. Item will be put on October agenda.

MASWCD RESOLUTION BALLOT: Board received copies of the resolutions today and item will be put on the October agenda.

BWSR 2012 AGREEMENTS: BWSR 2012 agreements have not been received yet.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS: Dick Huston was in Bangladesh India and reported on the clean water, septic, and plastic bottle problems they have. Jim Purfeerst attended the Hiawatha Valley RC&D meeting on August 22 and spoke on a goat project underway to control Buckthorn and invasive species. Gary Wagenbach discussed Cannon River Watershed Partnership's budget and employee requested hour reductions.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. **RIM/WRP FLOOD PLAIN EASEMENTS:** Four out of five applications are pre-approved with necessary paperwork returned to St. Paul. Closing anticipated within one-two years.
2. **CONSTRUCTION:** One ag waste storage pit project is underway. The Harris Bauer design is done. We will inform you when construction begins. Two other EQIP projects are underway in small grain fields.

3. **CONSOLIDATION:** Consolidation of offices is being talked about in Washington. At our last DC teleconference, Don Baloun said to expect changes in fiscal year 12.

4. **OUTREACH:** DC's from Rice, Dakota & Goodhue, along with NRCS State Outreach Coordinator Julie MacSwain met with Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquin who heads up the Latino Enterprise Center in Northfield. Reginaldo is all about putting people on the land to raise food in a sustainable way. Our intent is to inform him of USDA programs available to small and beginning farmers.

5. **USDA FOOD DRIVE:** USDA Food Drive was completed in August. The nationwide goal was 500,000 pounds. Actual achieved was 1.7 million pounds. Our service center raised 2,845 pounds!

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT by Steve Pahs:

Clean Water Fund grant applications: I applied for a CWF grant to fund about \$40,000 worth of conservation work on the Nugent farm which is in the Circle Lake Watershed. Also applied for a CWF grant to do GIS and terrain analysis work in Rice and Steele County at a 0.5 FTE rate. This would pay for half of Danielle's time for the next two years. The 3rd application submitted was for an extension of the nutrient management positions for another two years. We expect to learn which applications were selected in December.

Ditch inspection: I've been very busy lining up cleanouts on two systems and working with the DNR to get their approval on them as they potentially affect two lakes. We are making progress with the CD 15 wetland restoration site as well and hope to have a firm plan in the next month. I also attended a drainage inspector's meeting in Willmar on the 12th.

There have been a lot of requests for erosion control practices lately, and we have several pending state cost-share applications. As of today, we have not yet received our grant agreement. We did receive the Farm Bill Technician grant agreement last week and signed it. We can now work on this grant once again, although it is only for a 0.5 FTE.

We are also close to starting the new Prairie Pothole Wetland work agreement with NRCS, and should be starting this work within the month. This will be a significant change to Tim's workload, so I'll need to set up a framework to manage the grant requirements and track dollars spent.

In the coming month I anticipate a large amount of field work in addition to the day to day activities in the office.

DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT by Tim Labs:

- ✿ Four Observation well readings taken and entered in computer program.
- ✿ Continued RIM/WRP easement processing
- ✿ Completed annual reviews of selected RIM, CREP, and RIM/WRP easements
- ✿ Attended a county Ditch 15/CREP Wetland Meeting at the courthouse.
- ✿ Listened to a Swamp buster teleconference call.
- ✿ Reviewed all county CUP applications for wetland impacts
- ✿ Construction staking on a CREP wetland restoration easement
- ✿ Processed one new Ag BMP application on an ag waste system.
- ✿ Wetland Conservation Act Activities:
 - Technical Evaluation Panel Meeting and approval of the Rice Co. McCullough Park wetland replacement application.

- Attended a WCA road replacement meeting in Owatonna
- Checked and wrote up Restoration Orders on three new wetland violation sites.
- Reviewed additional wetland delineations on County Roads One and 11.
- Lots of miscellaneous WCA activities and concerns

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST’S REPORT by Katie Richards:

I have been filling out MN-CPA-046s for the CNMP 590s for the producers I have been working with in Steele and Wabasha counties. I have been surveying and assisting Kelly in Erin Township. Wade Schultz (feedlot officer) has informed me of a producer that will be contacting me about a manure management plan. Melissa DeVetter (Dodge CFO) has also informed me of a producer that is in violation of proper manure handling that will be contacting me about a manure management plan. As of 9/14/11, I have not heard from either one yet. Tom, Kelly and I are still waiting on a producer to get into contact with us on his EQIP CNMP. I will be working on a news release for this fall for manure application guidelines, restrictions and setbacks. My laptop has been moving really slow lately and I have spent a couple days with the IT person going through and fixing and deleting files and folders.

CNMPs:

- Wagner – Steele County
- Heers – Steele County
- Spindler – Steele County
- McMillian – Wabasha
- Sexton – Wabasha
- Polson – Wabasha

MMP:

- Bisek – Rice

Upcoming events:

- Nutrient & Pest Management TSP training in St. Peter 9/20/11
- RIM event in Owatonna 9/21/11

FARM BILL TECHNICIAN REPORT By Danielle Waldschmidt: I have been working on completing CRP modifications, CRP reenrollments and new CRP enrollments. I have been working with those landowners to complete their conservation planning. There are also many continuous practices that are re-enrolling. I’m working with those landowners to complete their conservation planning. I’m working on completing a CWF grant application to complete terrain analysis in Rice and Steele Counties. I’ve helped Steve with an application for completing erosion and sediment control work in the watershed of Circle Lake. CRWP organized a workshop on buffers and asked me to speak about the different programs and assistance available from the SWCD office. Despite invitations being sent out to landowners and other advertisement, no one attended the event.

Accomplishments Include:

- Completed CRP plans, met with landowners to go over plans
- Completed proposals for CRP
- Worked with landowners that are interested in CRP
- Completed CRP modifications
- Participated in BWSR-CWF Training

- Participated in Buzz about Buffers workshop
- Met with CRWP and Circle Lake Association about completing Circle Lake improvement projects with grant applications

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE: News articles.

ADJOURN: Chairman Wagenbach adjourned the meeting at 3:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

Dale Neirby – Board Secretary