

RICE S.W.C.D.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 19, 2011 – 1:30 PM

PRESENT: Robert Duban, Dick Huston, Dale Neirby, Jim Purfeerst, Gary Wagenbach, Steve Pahs, Tom Coffman, DNR Forester Jim Wilson and Debbie Skarupa

ABSENT: None

Chairman Gary Wagenbach called the meeting to order at 1:33 PM.

MINUTES: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the September 21, 2011 board meeting minutes. Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the September financial report and bills payable subject to audit. Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

ADOPT-A-HWY: Jim Purfeerst, Dick Huston, Steve Pahs and Debbie Skarupa cleaned the ditch along 9th Avenue SW in about an hour. Ditch seemed cleaner than usual.

AUDIT 2010: Auditor should be mailing out final report soon.

2011 BUDGET COMPARISONS: Steve discussed year-to-date revenue and expenses. He projects an \$18,000 deficit at year-end.

DENTAL PLAN OPTIONS: Steve Pahs met with County Administrator Gary Weiers about what the county offers for medical and dental insurance. Rice SWCD could opt into the Rice County medical and dental plans.

NEW BUSINESS

DNR FORESTER REPORT: DNR Forester Jim Wilson discussed position changes at the MN Department of Natural Resources. Management plans for private lands will be written by more private contractors. Goat grazing on 20 acres by Cannon Falls was also discussed. Fencing is the biggest challenge. Lessard grants and Sauber Woods were also talked about. Board thanked Jim Wilson for his report.

MASWCD CONVENTION: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban to approve staff and supervisors to attend the annual MASWCD convention in Bloomington. All five supervisors plan on attending. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach.

WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT AWARD: Award luncheon is set for November 16 at noon at Bashers with Don (William) and Nancy Marth as this year's recipients.

2011 MASWCD RESOLUTIONS: Board returned resolution ballots to be entered on master ballot and mailed to MASWCD.

FREEBORN SWCD SERVICES AGREEMENT: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dale Neirby to approve a services agreement with Freeborn SWCD for Danielle to write WRP plans and be reimbursed for 50 to 100 hours at \$31.83 per hour. Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

BWSR 2012 AGREEMENTS: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the BWSR 2012 grant agreement for \$45,583.00. Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

CWF VEGETATIVE BUFFER AMENDMENT: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Dale Neirby to approve the BWSR Clean Water Fund Vegetative Buffer amendment to extend the deadline to July 31, 2012. Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

STATE COST-SHARE RATES: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dick Huston to approve a 65% cost share rate for the 2012 state cost share funds. Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

STATE COST SHARE APPLICATION CONTRACTS: The BWSR 2012 grant dollars are later than normal because of the state shutdown in July. The following cost share grants will be approved prior to receiving the 2012 grant approval/funds so the work can get started. Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following 2011-2012 cost share contract application:

CS110233 – **Mike Barta** – 24455 Dahle Ave – Faribault- CC Sec.33 – Sed. Basin \$2730.00

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

Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following 2012 cost share contract:

CS121025 – **James Cory** – Hoysler & Assoc. – 11910 Minnetonka Mills Blvd – Minnetonka 55343 – Warsaw Section 25 – Side Inlet Structure - \$1300.00.

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

Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following 2012 state cost share contract:

CS120331 – **Ivan Turek** – 12803 150 St W – Montgomery 56069 Erin 31 Sed. Basin - \$1179.75

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

HARRIS BAUER “AFTER” TOUR: Harris Bauer tour will be rescheduled until after the November 16 board meeting, if project is completed and weather permitting.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS: Dick Huston spoke on clean water issues worldwide. Africa has the land to produce food, but water is the issue. Gary Wagenbach said October is the month that the world population goes to seven billion. Gary is donating a copy of the DVD *Green Fire* about Aldo Leopold and his conservation efforts. Rice SWCD also has a *Black Blizzard* DVD on the dust bowl era. Texas is currently having dust storms. Tom said the Worst Hard Time by Tim Eagan is a good book about dust bowl history. Jim Purfeerst said there is less soil loss in his area due to conservation practices. Tom said tile drainage in itself will reduce soil erosion and runoff. Bob Duban asked if Rice County grant approval is final. Steve said he thought so.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. Field work is in full swing. Busy surveying and designing sediment basins. If things go well, should be 40-50 sediment basins installed.
2. NRCS Budget: We are operating under a Continuing Resolution. Budget cuts are likely, some talk of office closings. Area six office will be closed October 21. Waseca, Blue Earth and Faribault Counties will be added to Area 7. New Area Conservationist, Kasey Taylor, will be here at our November meeting to discuss further.
3. Swampbuster Issues: There have been a lot of bulletins, teleconferences, training, etc. on Swampbuster and the 1026 form generated by FSA. Most recent change is the 1994 wetland mapping convention is out and a new procedure to use five normal years of slide data from the 1980's for preparing off-site wetland determinations.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT by Steve Pahs: No written report this month. Steve busy with ditch related duties. Benefits for two systems are being re-determined. Can see a lot of sediment in the ditches with the dry weather.

DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT by Tim Labs: No report this month.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST'S REPORT by Katie Richards:

I have been to a farm in Wabasha to do a CNMP update and 046 forms. After that farm visit, I had a meeting with the DC there and we discussed some of the plans in his county and what he was looking for. I have been trying to get in touch with a few producers for their CNMP update and certification, but I still have not heard back from them. For the Wabasha producer, I also printed larger maps after we struggled reading map numbers and following lines. Those will be mailed out to him soon.

Currently working on a MMP with a Dodge County producer who was in violation and there was a neighbor complaint placed. Still waiting for Wade have his producer contact me or for me to get the contact information from him. I completed a MMP for Bisek for Wade.

On AgLearn I did my ISA training that is due by the end of January. I have assisted Kelly towards the end of September with some basins and waterways. The TSP training for nutrient management answered a lot of questions I didn't necessarily realize that I had. The RIM event in Owatonna was very informative and I look forward to attending any future RIM events.

CNMPs:

- McMillian – Wabasha

- Sexton – Wabasha
- Polson – Wabasha

MMP:

- Bisek – Rice
- Alberts – Dodge

Upcoming events:

- BWSR Academy 10/25-10/26

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. I am working with Carleton College and the DNR to organize a workshop on invasive species.

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
- Attended WREP Panel meeting
- Attended SEMASWCD's meeting in Rochester
- Attended RIM 25 Year celebration
- Spoke at Environmental Science Orientation about SWCD and my job

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE: Steve spoke on ditch determinations. Jim Purfeerst encouraged everyone to attend Isaacson's Tillage Tour in November. News articles.

ADJOURN: Chairman Wagenbach adjourned the meeting at 3:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

Dale Neirby – Board Secretary