

**RICE S.W.C.D.**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 25, 2010 (Rescheduled twice)**

**PRESENT:** Bob Borchert, Bob Duban, Richard Huston, Wally Hildebrandt, Steve Pahs, Tom Coffman, Ben Hellerstein from Carleton College, Dale Neirby, Katie Richards, and Debbie Skarupa.

**ABSENT:** Gary Wagenbach

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

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

**MINUTES:** Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dick Huston to approve the September 15, 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 September Program Record subject to audit. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All aye -None opposed - Motion carried.

Motion by Bob Duban, 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:**

**FARM BILL GRANT:** Steve Pahs said we are currently operating without a contract for the Farm Bill Grant, but it will be coming soon.

**ORGANIC CONVERSION POLICY CARLETON COLLEGE:** Ben Hellerstein from Carleton College was present and asked for a letter of support for a policy of five year's tax abatement for landowners to switch from conventional to organic farming. Tax abatements would be a maximum of \$50,000 per year with \$10,000 per person maximum. Rice SWCD supports organic, but cannot endorse or support a special interest group. NRCS has the EQIP program, which provides three year's of incentives. Board took no action and thanked Ben for coming.

**ENTERING HIAWATHA RC&D SIGN:** Wally will check on costs and item was tabled until the next board meeting.

**VEHICLE COMMITTEE:** Surplus Service vehicles are high mileage. Steve will contact Gary Weiers about buying a used county vehicle. Will revisit when state contracts opens for 2011 cars.

**FALL SWCD TOUR:** Fall Bus Tour on October 19 viewed flood damage and a high tunnel at Bill Hein's, the Klapperich sediment basins project, Schneider project, county ditches, and a wetland in Walcott Township. State Representative Patti Fritz, Fran Windschitl, Jake Gillen, Jeff Dokken, Beth Kallestad, Janet Kubat-Willette from AgriNews, and others were in attendance. Rice County has 76 miles of ditches. Board felt the tour went well.

**FALL SEMASWCD MEETING:** SEMASWCD Fall Meeting was held on September 16<sup>th</sup> at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch in Stewartville. Garlic Mustard Resolution wording was changed by MASWCD Resolution Committee. Ed McNamara will replace Bob Borchert as area director. Bob Duban was elected as a board member.

**SUPERVISOR RADIO INTERVIEW:** Jerry Groskreutz from KDHL Radio interviewed supervisor candidates Jim Purfeerst, Dale Neirby and Nancy Gruchow on AM Minnesota. Danielle Waldschmidt also addressed the public.

**ADOPT-A-HWY:** Clean up was cancelled for today after the board meeting.

**TAXABLE CLOTHING POLICY:** Discussion followed. Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Dick Huston that the Rice SWCD shall provide uniforms as the Personnel Committee deems appropriate and such uniforms shall remain the property of the Rice SWCD. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Jackets and shirts or caps will not need to be added to employee wages or W-2's this way. See previous month's minutes for more information.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT POSITION STATUS:** Personnel Committee interviewed two applicants for the Nutrient Management Specialist position. Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Dick Huston to accept the Personnel Committee recommendation to hire Kathrine Richards for \$15.58 per hour subject to a NRCS background check and six month probation. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Katie is from Ellendale with a farm background.

**RICE COUNTY BUDGET ALLOCATION:** The Rice Co. Board acted on outside agency requests and gave Rice SWCD a 2% cut which is approximately \$3,600 less than last year.

**MASWCD RESOLUTION BALLOT:** Debbie will mail in master ballot after receiving final votes over the phone. Ballot is due at MASWCD by November 1.

**MASWCD ANNUAL CONVENTION:** Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban to authorize supervisors and staff to attend the MASWCD convention. Rice SWCD will pay for convention expenses. Mr. & Mrs. Fred Becker have been mailed Outstanding Conservationist information and plan on attending. Bob Borchert said board is not doing a basket this year, so board should bring auction donation and slips to convention.

Tom Coffman came in at 1:50 PM.

**SUPERVISOR END OF TERMS/WALLY HILDEBRANDT'S OPEN HOUSE:** Briefly discussed. Wally suggested the 4-H building as a place for Open House as parking is better. Maybe Open House 2:00 – 4:00 PM. Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban to provide a plaque for every outgoing supervisor and employee who leaves upon completion of two terms or leaves employment in good standing. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**WILDLIFE AWARDS LUNCHEON:** Awards luncheon for Matt and John Carlander will be November 17 at 11:30 (before the board meeting.) Curtis Piper and Don & Diane Piper will also be recognized for forest stewardship. One plaque will be purchased for Carlander's and one for the Piper's.

**JPB FEEDLOT FUNDING:** Steve Pahs said the Joint Powers Board decided to hire a new technician and engineer with the additional funding and they'll be housed in Dodge and Wabasha SWCD's.

**TECHNCIAL APPROVAL AUTHORITY:** Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to request technical approval authority for Danielle Waldschmidt so she can write conservation plans. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**NACD ANNUAL CONVENTION:** Supervisors may attend the NACD Annual Convention on January 30 – February 2 in Nashville at their own expense.

**RICE CO VEGET. BUFFER GRANT APPLICATION:** Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve the following:

Rice County Vegetative Buffer Grant VBR2010-2 John Becker-2687 Millersburg Blvd E – Bridgewater Section 5,6 - \$1600.00 – \$80/Acre x 2 acres x 10 years.

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

Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve the following:

Rice Co. Vegetative Buffer Grant VBR 2010-1 John Becker-2687 Millersburg Blvd E – Bridgewater Twp Section 17, - 6.7 Ac x \$80/Ac x 10 years - \$5360.00

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

**STATE COST SHARE APPLICATION:** Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following state cost share contract application:

CS20100814-Dave Topp-1010 11<sup>th</sup> Ave NE-Faribault-Shv Twp Sec 14 – Five Sediment Basins - \$8043.10.

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

**STEELE CO. VEGETATIVE BUFFER APPLICATIONS:**

Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Dick Huston to approve the following Steele County Vegetative Buffer Contracts:

VBS2010-6 Rod Wagner-8136 SE 18 St-Claremont-HavanaSec14- 5.3ac x \$60/ac x 10yrs-\$3,180.00  
VBS2010-8 James Klecker-3071 SE 108 St-Owatonna-Summit Sec 9- 7.2ac x \$60/ac x 10yrs-4320.00  
VBS2010-9 James Klecker-3071 SE 108 St-Owatonna-BloomPrairie Sec5- 6.1ac x \$60/ac x 10 yrs-3660.  
VBS2010-10 James Klecker-3071 SE 108 St-Owatonna-B.Prairie- Sec 1-9.9 ac x \$60/ac x 10 yr-5940.00  
VBS2010-11 James Klecker-3071 SE 108 St-Owatonna-Summit-Sec2 – 3.7 ac x \$60/ac x 10 yr-2,220.00  
VBS2010-12 James Klecker-3071 SE 108 St-Owatonna-Somerset-Sec31- 1 ac x \$60/ac x 10 yr-600.00  
VBS2010-13 James Klecker-3071 SE 108 St-Owatonna-Aurora-Sec31- 2.2 ac x \$60/ac x 10 yr – 1,320.00  
VBS2010-14 Zak Delphine-235 22 St SE#115-Owatonna-Summit Sec5-.4acx\$60/ac x 10 yr-\$240.00

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

**SUPERVISOR REPORTS:**

Dick Huston said ag received the top two fines in the state. Of the top 300, ten were related to agriculture. MPCA polices feedlots. Composting dead livestock is working well. Bob Duban asked for a letter to request funds for education classroom materials from Tri-Lakes Sportsmen’s Club before their November

meeting. Dick Huston and his daughter worked with organizations in Myanmar (Burma) and he will be giving presentations at lake associations and other clubs again. Bob Borchert encouraged everyone to attend the convention as a great way to interact with other supervisors and agencies.

**D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:**

1. Fall workload: Construction is in full swing. Also, we will begin site visits on future projects when time allows.
2. Average Based Costing (ABC): NRCS is undergoing an extensive study on where our efforts are expended. This is an estimated 60-hour project coming at a time of the year when we are extremely busy in the field. Fortunately, the previous deadline of October 31 has been set back indefinitely.
3. Drainage Water Management Committee: I've been appointed to represent field personnel on a DWM Committee to address water quality issues in the Mississippi River Basin. Charge of committee is to put together a strategic plan on promotion of DWM to present to NRCS Chief David White.

**DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT by Steve Pahs:**

We've been asked to document flood damage for flood recovery. State has approved some RIM money for easements. A lot of ditch work is being requested now for repair and clean outs. Trying to allocate vegetative buffers in Sand Creek watershed ASAP. Rice County Commissioners have approved redetermination of benefits for Ditch #20 and Ditch #4. Redetermination hasn't been done for 20 years. County does high resolution Lidar flights every two years.

**DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT by Tim Labs:**

- ✱ Observation well readings taken
- ✱ State Cost Share Closeouts and eLink reporting completed.
- ✱ Started State Cost Share annual state review of cost shared projects.
- ✱ Completed two Ag BMP Loan Applications for one feedlot project and one conservation tillage equipment loan.
- ✱ Attended monthly Plan Review Meeting at Planning and Zoning
- ✱ Continued CREP and RIM/WRP easement processing and completed cost share vouchers.
- ✱ Wetland Conservation Act:
  - Field reviewed several wetland delineations and Co. Rd. 26 for the Rice Co. Highway Dept.
  - Continued processing a wetland banking application at the Circle Lake Development.
  - Processed a wetland exemption application for Sage Electrochromics and inspection of a wetland replacement on site.
  - Processed a wetland replacement application for the Rice Co. Highway Dept. on the 140<sup>th</sup> Street bridge project.
  - Processed and approved a wetland replacement application for the Lyndale Commons project in Faribault
  - Attended a Technical Evaluation Panel meeting in Northfield to review a wetland replacement and banking project at Spring Creek Park.
  - Numerous other wetland issues were addressed.

**FARM BILL TECHNICIAN’S REPORT by Danielle Waldschmidt:**

There have been several new signups for the CWF Buffer incentive and CRP. I have been working with those landowners to complete plans. I have been working on completing mid-contract management modifications. I am continuing to contact potential landowners for the CWF Buffer incentive.

A buckthorn and plant identification workshop was held at Caron Park for the RSCWMA. Scott County is organizing a buckthorn workshop this fall.

Accomplishments Include:

- Completed proposals for CRP
- Worked with landowners that are interested in CRP
- Organized and held Caron Park Fall Workshop
- Spoke on AM Minnesota with the supervisor candidates
- Met with Beth Kallestad about implementing the CWF Buffer program
- Attended Rice County Forestry Committee Meeting at Sauber Woods
- Spoke to environmental science students
- Attended employee/supervisor training in Stewartville

**OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE:**

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to adjourn. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Time: 2:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

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Robert Duban – Board Secretary