

RICE S.W.C.D.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 22, 2011 – 1:30 PM

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

ABSENT: Dale Neirby

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

MINUTES: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the November 16, 2011 board meeting minutes. Ayes: Duban, Huston, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT AWARD LUNCHEON: The Wildlife Enhancement Award luncheon for Don (Wm) and Nancy Marth has held today at Noon at Bashers Grill in Faribault. Jerry Groskreutz from KDHL Radio also attended and recognized the Marth's for their conservation efforts.

MASWCD CONVENTION: All the supervisors attended the convention December 4-6 in Bloomington. Supervisors felt the sessions were well organized and were glad the Tuesday night sessions were dropped. Bob and Debbie Kuball attended and received the 2011 Outstanding Conservationist Award. Convention sessions were discussed.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Due to scheduling difficulties, the meeting will be rescheduled.

NEW BUSINESS

2012 BUDGET: Steve Pahs reviewed revenue and expenses for 2012. Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the 2012 budget as of December 21, 2011. Ayes: Duban, Huston, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Dakota SWCD survey was discussed. Steve to ask Dakota SWCD about their survey and who mailing was sent to. Dakota SWCD is not selling trees this year.

STATE COST SHARE AMENDMENT: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve an amendment to add \$721.00 in tile to CS#120331 - Ivan Turek – 12803 150 St. W. Montgomery – Erin 31. Ayes: Duban, Huston, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

STATE COST SHARE VOUCHER: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the following 2012 state cost share voucher:

CS#120331 - Ivan Turek – 12803 150 St – Montgomery – Sediment Basin - Erin Sec 31 - \$1648.40.

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

VEGETATIVE BUFFER CONTRACT VOUCHER: Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Dick Huston to approve the following 2010 Clean Water Fund Rice Vegetative Buffer voucher:

VBR-2010-4 Mike Lenaghan-21851 Cone Ave – Fb.Wal Sec 3,4–4.2 ac x \$60 x 10 yrs - \$2520.00

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

VEGETATIVE BUFFER CONTRACT APPLICATION: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following 2010 Clean Water Fund Goodhue Vegetative Buffer contract:

VBG-2010-9-James Tracy-3600 Goodhue Ave-Dennison-Nfld Sec 12-\$80/Ac x 6.1 ac = \$4880.00

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

COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA CONTRACT APPLICATIONS:

Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dick Huston to approve the Elko/New Market Cooperative Weed Management Area contract application CWMA#3 for invasive species/weed management control for \$1000.00 contingent on receiving the completed application.

CWMA#3 – City of Elko New Market-601 Main St-Scott Sec 20-Weed Control-\$1,000.00

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

Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dick Huston to approve the City of Prior Lake Cooperative Weed Management Area contract application CWMA#2 for invasive species/weed management control for \$3,000.00 contingent on receiving the completed application.

CWMA#2 - City of Prior Lake-4646 Dakota St SE-City Sec 35-Weed Control-\$3,000.00

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

COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA DISBURSEMENTS:

Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Dick Huston to approve the Cooperative Weed Management Area disbursement to Scott SWCD for hours worked totaling \$750.00. Rice SWCD hours for \$750.00 will also be taken off the CWMA grant.

RICE COUNTY DITCH INSPECTION GRANT AGREEMENT:

Grant agreement, ditch services and costs were discussed. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the 2012 – 2014 Ditch Inspection Agreement with Rice County. Ayes: Duban, Huston, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING:

Discussion followed on topics to include at a strategic planning meeting to be held in the first few months of 2012. Possible topics: Water Plan and how to slow down water, staff duties, and long term vision. Suggested places to hold the strategic planning meeting were the Chamber office, Big Woods State Park, River Bend Nature Center, motels, Government Services Building, Carleton Arboretum. Supervisors will email Steve available dates. Mike Donnelly, the new extension educator, may be willing to moderate the meeting.

CONSERVATION TILLAGE CONFERENCE: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban to approve a \$60 partial incentive payment to allocate \$600.00 (10 x \$60) pay for up to half the price of registration for a maximum of ten people to attend the Conservation Tillage Conference in Rochester February 7 and 8. Dick Huston added a friendly amendment to include Steve Pahl's registration. Ayes: Duban, Huston, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Steve will publicize on KDHL Radio.

STREAM BANK RESTORATION PROJECTS: Gary Wagenbach discussed an excellent stream bank restoration session he attended at St. Olaf College. Creek banks on Michael Osterholm's property in NE Iowa were reshaped and slopes decreased and lengthened then stabilized with native grasses planted instead of trees. Great improvements were seen. Gary has pdf format of the presentation.

HIAWATHA VALLEY RC&D MEMBER STATUS: George Poch was wondering the status of RC&D members from Rice County. Email to be forwarded to Rice Co. Commissioner Milt Plaisance. RC&D history and projects were discussed.

PAY EQUITY REPORT: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the Pay Equity Implementation Report completed by Steve. Ayes: Duban, Huston, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS: An article about increased tiling increasing water flow into rivers, causing more flooding and soil erosion was discussed. Tom mentioned that it is important to recognize that downstream hydrological impacts from farmland drainage vary based on landscape. Rice County has two major land resource areas whereby western Rice County is characterized by pothole topography and eastern Rice County is non-depressional. Damming ditches, wetlands, bank trenches, and well head protection were also discussed. How to slow water down and keep it longer in the upper part of a watershed to be added to the Strategic Planning Agenda. Jim may be able to set up a tour of the local waste water treatment plant.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. Field Work: We've had an excellent fall for construction of structural conservation practices. We have two jobs yet to complete; construction is underway on one and expected to be completed Tuesday after Christmas. Next month I'll have a summary of accomplishments.
2. NRCS 2011 Accomplishment Report in MN was released last week. I asked Deb to mail or email you the report. Look it over and holler if you have any questions.

3. Conservation Stewardship Program: Payments for 2011 have been processed for 11 of the 13 contracts in Rice County. Two will take payments in 2012. New signup is going on until January 13.

4. Minnesota Extension Service has recently hired a County Agent to replace Brad Carlson. Mike Donnelly stopped in to introduce himself recently.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT by Steve Pahs:

The past two months have been very busy. My ditch inspection duties have kept me going almost full-time. I initiated several ditch cleanouts and handled a large volume of calls related to recent ditch assessments. With the low water levels, I have been able to identify problem areas in ditches that are normally difficult to see. This additional workload has been a blessing for the extra revenue it brings the district, but it also has taken away from some of my other responsibilities in the short term. Overall though, it has been good for us and also allowed us to make more contacts with landowners regarding conservation needs. The other area I've been busy with has been construction of several state cost-share projects. Without an SWCD technician to do this workload, I have taken on the survey, design, and construction inspection of all state funded projects this fall. This is something we should discuss at an upcoming strategic planning session, and may be an opportunity to train Danielle to pick up some of the workload.

We recently got word that our Nutrient Management CWF request will be approved, which extends the funding for two more years. The application was ranked #1 statewide. We also were approved for more CWMA funds. A third application for conservation work in the Circle Lake area was not funded. We will now seek EQIP funds instead for the site.

Other activity this past month:

- NRCS Wetland training session in St. Peter
- MASWCD State Convention in Bloomington
- Manure spreader calibration for Randy Bauer
- Feedlot evaluation for Pete Hope
- Presenting to Northfield HS students on December 20th

Looking ahead, I will be wrapping up fall construction projects and focusing more on the year end reporting requirements. I will also be working on the annual plan, prep for strategic planning, website overhaul discussions, prep for classroom presentations, and holding some drainage ditch meetings. We will also be trying to wrap up an agreement on a wetland restoration in the CD 15 area.

DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT by Tim Labs:

- Five Observation Well Readings taken and reported
- Continued RIM/WRP easement processing
- Several questions addressed on easement terms on a couple of RIM easements that are up for sale.
- Assisted Danielle one day looking at CRP wetland re-enrollment applications
- Wetland Conservation Act Activities:
 - Final certification on a wetland delineation done on a new site proposed for the Motokazie Park.
 - On site reviews on several wetland violations and potential violation sites. Wrote up Restoration Orders on the violations. Still more violations pending.

- On site reviews on numerous sites that the landowners wanted to do wetland excavations on. Most did not require a permit as the excavated soil was proposed to be removed from the wetland. With the dry fall, considerably more requests than normal.
- Reviewing conditions in the new contribution agreement with NRCS to perform swampbuster wetland determination activities.

Activities in the next month:

- Ongoing WCA activities
- NRCS Swampbuster wetland work
- State eLink cost share and WCA reporting

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST’S REPORT by Katie Richards:

The manure management for Alberts Dairy was finalized in this month. Maps were needed, I finalized application records and set up a plan for their manure applications. The plan was the most desired portion of this plan since it was an application complaint.

Currently, I am waiting for Wagner’s soil samples to certify for 2011, as they should have been done for the certification for 2010. I am in contact with Noel (Steele DC) on getting this information in a timely manner. Polson’s paperwork was sent in for signatures for certification. I am getting together what is needed for the 2012 year. Bauer has been certified for his nutrient management. Spindler calls in about every two weeks with an update or a question.

I attended the Value of Manure Workshop in Faribault. There were about five producers, one teacher-student pair and an applicator. The applicator was more of a wastewater/septic applicator. He found the Excel form beneficial to his application business. One producer that I spoke with was a bit disappointed as he didn’t understand the form and how to fill it out.

I plan on continuing with the certification for the 2011 CNMPs and complete them in the next week. In the future, I will be making contact with those producers that have previously done work with Adam inviting them back.

CNMPs:

- Polson – Wabasha
- Matthees – Goodhue
- Bauer – Rice
- Spindler – Steele

MMP:

- Alberts – Rice

Upcoming events:

- January: What’s Manure Worth? – Beth will be putting it on, Dan (Steele CFO) and myself assisting.
- February: Nutrient Management Conference in Morton

FARM BILL TECHNICIAN REPORT by Danielle Waldschmidt:

This has been a busy fall, completing buckthorn control work in the Cannon River Wilderness Area, working on completing CRP reenrollments and completing WRP monitoring in Freeborn County. I have been also working on completing CRP modifications, CRP reenrollments and new CRP enrollments. I have been working with those landowners to complete their conservation planning.

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
- Completed buckthorn control work in the Cannon River Wilderness Area
- Completed WRP Monitoring in Freeborn County
- Attended RIM Buffer training
- Attended a meeting with Zumbro Watershed to discuss the GIS mapping

Upcoming:

For the next month I will be working on completing CRP reenrollments. I will be working to promote the WREP program in the Sand Creek Watershed. I will explore the options of applying for RIM buffer funds. I have conservation practice mapping in GIS to complete in the Zumbro Watershed.

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE: Poster contest thank you was received from Cannon River STEM School. Streambank and drainage articles were included in board packet.

ADJOURN: Chairman Wagenbach adjourned the meeting at 4:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

Board Supervisor