

RICE S.W.C.D.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 18, 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 1:30 PM.

MINUTES: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the April 20, 2011 board meeting minutes. Ayes: Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Dale Neirby to accept the April financial report and bills payable subject to audit. Ayes: Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Steve may do a preliminary budget next month.

OLD BUSINESS:

WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT: The WCA program status will be discussed at the June board meeting.

INTEREST RATES/INVESTMENT CD: The current 24 month CD at State Bank at 2.5% interest will mature on May 24, 2011. The Board of Water & Soil Resource's Investment guideline sheet was discussed. Interest rates are low. Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to renew the CD at State Bank for 39 months at 1.65% with a one-time trade-a-rate option. Ayes: Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

DAN COUGHLIN GRAZING DAY: There will be a Grazing Day Workshop at the Dan Coughlin Farm in Lonsdale on June 11 from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Dan is donating the hamburger. Tom asked for additional names for brochure mailing. Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Dale Neirby to donate \$100.00 toward sponsorship. Ayes: Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

ADOPT-A-HWY: Our portion of 9th Ave SW was cleaned on April 29 by Dick, Gary, Danielle, Katie, Steve and Debbie.

NEW BUSINESS:

WEBSITE UPGRADE: Danielle has an interest in revising the website and has made a list of possible changes. Add to July or August agenda.

PERSONNEL POLICY HANDBOOK REVISIONS: Gary Wagenbach has read the personnel policy. Steve to send Personnel Policy to Dale Neirby and Jim Purfeerst.

FARM BILL GRANT APPLICATION: The BWSR gives us 70% of this grant which has been in effect for several years. The balance comes from Rice & Steele district funds (25%) and 5%

from local organizations. Discussion followed. Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Dale Neirby to approve the Phase XI Farm Bill Grant application. Ayes: Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE REVIEW: Meeting was closed and board discussed personnel issues. The meeting was called back to order at 2:15 PM. Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Dick Huston to add three months to the six month probationary period (9 months) for Kathrine Richards to July 25 and to approve the step increase as of April 25. Ayes: Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

STATE C-S VOUCHER TIM LITTLE: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the following state cost share contract voucher:

C-S#091021-Tim Little-11811 Canby Ave-Faribault-1 sediment basin-\$1638.00 (part from 2010 and part from 2011 funds)- Bridgewater Section 8

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

STATE C-S CONTRACT APPLICATION: Motion by Dick Huston seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the following state cost share contract:

CS# 110814B-David Topp – 1010 11 Ave NE-Faribault-SHV Sec14-Sediment Basin - \$1729.65

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

VEGETATIVE BUFFER STATE C-S CONTRACT APPLICATION: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the following Rice SWCD vegetative buffer contract:

VBR2010-5 Rice Co. Steam Engine- riparian veget. buffer - .7 acres x \$80/ac - \$560.00

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

VEGETATIVE BUFFER AMENDMENT: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the following Goodhue Vegetative Buffer Amendment adding 1.6 acres to the previous 6.8 acres totaling 8.4 acres at \$80/acre for ten years:

VBG2010-3 Chris Hokanson-36257 124 Ave Way-Goodhue-Belle Creek Sec18&20-Vegetative Riparian Buffer to the new total 8.4 acres. Ayes: Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

VEGETATIVE BUFFER VOUCHER: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the following vegetative buffer payment for:

VBG2010-3 Chris Hokanson-36257 124 Ave Way-Goodhue-Belle Creek Sec 18 & 20 – Vegetative Riparian Buffer 8.4 acres at \$80 per acre for ten years totaling \$6,720.00.

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

RESOLUTION DEADLINE: MASWCD resolution deadline is July 21. Rice SWCD does not intend to draft a resolution this year.

UPSTREAM/DOWNSTREAM FRIENDSHIP TOURS: Gary Wagenbach discussed the handout. He and Steve Pahs felt Beth Kallestad is a natural for partnership in this area. If Beth is interested, maybe we could frame the \$10,000 funding for areas to get landowners to talk to each other.

POSTERS SEMASWCD POSTER CONTEST: Three posters were received from the Cannon River STEM School and will be taken to the SEMASWCD Resolutions Meeting on June 14. SEMASWCD has budgeted prize money for posters, videos, and murals.

SEMASWCD RESOLUTIONS MEETING: The SEMASWCD Resolutions Meeting will be held June 14 at the Rochester Eagles Club – 917 15 Ave SE – from 9:00 AM to Noon. Dick Huston and Gary Wagenbach plan on attending.

OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST: Board reviewed the list of conservation award candidates. Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to select Bob Kuball as the 2011 Outstanding Conservationist from Rice County. Ayes: Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. Steve will forward pictures to MASWCD and send Bob a letter.

DECEMBER 31, 2010 AUDIT ESTIMATES: Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Dick Huston to approve CPA Jim Maiser to audit the financial records for the year ending December 31, 2010 for \$2,400.00. Ayes: Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach.

ENVIROTHON 2011: The 2011 Envirothon was held at Chester Park in Rochester on May 5. Zumbrota-Mazepa, Goodhue, and Medford came in first, second and third respectively. Discussion followed about encouraging participation.

MOTIVATING CRP ENROLLMENT IN RICE COUNTY: Discussion was held on a Carleton College study regarding what motivates Rice County landowners in enroll in the Conservation Reserve Program. Motivation has changed since the 1980's. Ten years ago rent was \$100 per acre – now it's \$200 - \$300.

RICE CO EXTENSION BRAD CARLSON TRANSFER: The Rice County Extension Office will be having a send off get together for Brad Carlson on May 27 from 3:30 to 5:30 PM. Brad will be working out of the Mankato area.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS: Dick Huston had an Advanced Placement Shattuck St. Mary's class to his house to learn about easements and prairie restorations. Gary Wagenbach said Cannon River Watershed Partnership has done a good job fund raising and connecting with people in the community. Danielle and Gary gave a presentation on invasive species to the Prairie Partners Wild Ones Chapter at Greenvale Elementary School last week. Danielle will give a wetland plant species presentation also. Tom Coffman said dandelions are a problem on no-till.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. Spring Workload:
Practice construction has been limited due to the spring wetness. Most application work this year will occur summer and fall.
2. Sod/Swampbuster Requests (ie, AD1026 forms from FSA):

Requests for tiling and bringing new land into production are up.

3. Earth Day:

Wally Hildebrand and I attended the Earth Day Event at Cascade Meadows in Rochester on April 21, 2011.

4. Hiawatha Valley RC&D:

With the elimination of NRCS staff support to Hiawatha Valley RC&D, Jeff Koster has been re-assigned to coordinate the Mississippi River Basin Initiative and Joanie Kanable is providing clerical support to the Dodge Center field office.

5. CSP:

Still a potential to get three contracts approved.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT by Steve Pahs: Not received.

DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT by Tim Labs:

- ❖ Four Observation Well Readings taken.
- ❖ Continued processing RIM/WRP easements along with site visits.
- ❖ Misc. tree program activities – Holden Farms odor control tree plan.
- ❖ Site visits on possible flood cost share areas.
- ❖ Wetland Conservation Act Activities:
 - Approval of the Cannon River bike trail wetland replacement plan in Northfield.
 - Approval of the Spring Creek wetland banking application in Northfield.
 - Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) meeting in Lonsdale to view the proposed Kalina Park Site wetland impacts.
 - Viewed a wetland delineation site for General Properties in Lonsdale.
 - Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) meeting to discuss the Hwy 3 & 21 bike trail project in Faribault. MnDot is the local government unit for approval as the impacts are in the highway right-of-way.
 - Viewed several county CUP applications for wetland impacts.
 - Wetland delineation check with DNR Trails on a trail bridge replacement by Shager Park.
 - Lots of miscellaneous wetland issues.

FARM BILL TECHNICIAN'S REPORT by Danielle Waldschmidt:

I have been working on completing CRP modifications, CRP reenrollments and new CRP enrollments. Landowners will soon be beginning to install their filter strips through the CWF and Scott County money. I have been working with those landowners to make sure that everything is ready for spring planting. Reliance Bank in Faribault is installing a raingarden this spring. I've been helping them with the planning.

Accomplishments Include:

- Completed proposals for CRP
- Worked with landowners that are interested in CRP
- Completed CRP modifications
- Spoke at the Cedar Lake Club meeting and Shields Lake Club meeting about the SWCD and current SWCD events
- Provided weed wrenches and buckthorn identification for buckthorn removal event in Northfield
- Assisted with tree planting at St. Isadora's
- Assisted with tree program

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST’S REPORT By Katie Richards:

I am still working and corresponding with other offices for their needs for MMPs, NMPs and CNMPs; as this will be an ongoing occurrence. Kelly has been training me on survey technique and note taking. Boese’s MMP for expansion is completed. The CNMP for Hanson Bros. is started for the first year portion of the contract. I did a manure spreader calibration for Schwichtenberg Dairy. I volunteered for ditch clean up. I assisted with tree drop off and pick up.

Plans I’ve been working on this month:

- *Boese – Rice MMP
- *Hanson Bros. – Rice CNMP
- *Tuma – Rice MMP

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE: News articles.

ADJOURN: Chairman Wagenbach adjourned the meeting. Board, Steve and Tom carpooled to the Harris Bauer Flood Relief Cost Share project for a “before” tour.

Respectfully submitted by:

Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

Dale Neirby – Board Secretary