

RICE S.W.C.D.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 20, 2011 – 1:30 PM

PRESENT: Robert Duban, Dick Huston, Dale Neirby, Jim Purfeerst, Steve Pahs, Tom Coffman, and Debbie Skarupa.

ABSENT: None

Chairman Gary Wagenbach called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

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

FINANCIAL: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to accept the March financial report and bills payable subject to audit. Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Discussion followed on the Wetland Conservation Act. Item to be discussed in May. Gary said Danielle has opinions on the website and asked that the website be put on the May agenda. Also, he saw information on a Personnel Policy and Operations Handbook training webinar and wondering if that should be on the agenda another month.

OLD BUSINESS:

INTEREST RATES/INVESTMENT IDEAS: Gary said interest rates are low now. Dick Huston mentioned treasury bonds and Super Value bonds are higher rates. Deb will check with BWSR to get investment guidelines and will put on the May agenda.

SEMASWCD SPRING MEETING: The (Area 7) SEMASWCD Supervisor Spring Meeting was held March 29 at Ironwood Springs in Stewartville. Danielle W. drove Bob Duban, Dale Neirby, and Dick Huston. Jerry Groskreutz and Janet Kubat gave a good presentation on “Giving Good Radio Interviews.” Dick Huston will do an interview on KDHL about prairies on May 5 at 9:30 AM.

DAN COUGHLIN FIELD DAY: The Dan Coughlin Grazing Field Day has been rescheduled to June 11. Jeff Koster, RC&D, was organizing, but that position is up in the air so possibly John Zinn will organize. Cascade Meadows is having an Earth Day event.

TREE SALE: Tree seedling pick up day was April 15. Only had about ten orders left to pick up at the end of the day, but didn't sell many excess trees so Steve reduced to half price to sell them by the end of April. Next year may cancel more before March 1 or only take orders until February 28.

TRUCK ACCESSORIES STATUS: Steve said topper is installed and looks good.

NEW BUSINESS:

RURAL PRESERVES REPEALED: The Rural Preserves has been repealed. The provision requiring a conservation plan or covenants has been pulled out so SWCD's are not needed. The Tax Assessor's office will administer it entirely.

FINANCIAL AUDIT BIDS: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dale Neurby to authorize solicitation of bids for the December 31, 2010 financial audit. Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neurby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

STATE C-S CONTRACT DAVE TOPP: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban, to approve the following state cost share contract:

CS#110814 - Dave Topp 1010 11th Ave NE Faribault - SHV Sec 14 – Waterway - \$2830.10

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

STATE C-S CONTRACT EXTENSION AMENDMENT: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Dale Neurby to approve a time extension amendment to a new start date of November 1, 2012 and a completion date of December 31, 2012 for the following cost share contract:

CS#091111-Mark and Allen Malecha-30282 Isle Ave-Nfld-WEB Sec 11 – sediment basin - \$3056.30

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

APPROVE RICE VEGETATIVE BUFFER CONTRACT APPLICATION:

Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the following vegetative buffer contract for Rice SWCD:

VBR 20104 –Mike Lenahgan- 21851 Cone Ave – Faribault-Walcott Sec 3,4-Veget Buffer-4.2 ac x \$60=2520.00

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

APPROVE GOODHUE VEGETATIVE BUFFER APPLICATIONS:

Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following vegetative buffer contract for Goodhue SWCD:

VBG 2010-8 – Bill Budensiek-150656 Sherwood Trail-Zumbrota-Minneola Sec22 .63 x \$80=\$504.00

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

APPROVE STEELE VEGETATIVE BUFFER APPLICATIONS:

Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Dale Neurby to approve the following vegetative buffer contracts for Steele SWCD:

VBS 2010-17 James Cashman-117 Hawthorne Rd-Hopkins-Clinton Falls-Sec33- 1.4 ac x \$60=\$840.00

VBS 2010-18 Robert Heers-5929 NE 36 St-Owatonna-Merton Sec 30-6.2 ac x \$60 = \$3,720.00

VBS 2010-19 Georgette Maas-3563 NW 76 St Medford- Sec 7 – 3.3 ac x \$60=\$1980.00

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

ADOPT-A-HWY: Group will meet at office at 4:00 to carpool or at the Latter Day Saints Church on Friday, April 29.

MASWCD RESOLUTION PROCESS: Gary Wagenbach explained the MASWCD resolution process as framing a problem and proposing a solution in resolution format. Resolutions then go to the area supervisor meeting and if passed by two-thirds vote go to the state committee for word adjustment then on to the state convention for a 51% vote to pass. MASWCD resolution deadline is July 21. Discussion was held. Deb will add Jim, Dick and Dale to NACD Newsletter mailing list.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS: Bob Duban discussed Green Acres and how land values are not the same for good flat farmland as hilly, rocky farmland. He felt valuations based on CER (crop equivalency rating) are fairer. Compliance checks were discussed. Jim Purfeerst went to RC&D meeting on March 21. Discussion followed on RC&D Budget. Dale Neirby attended a Native Plant Species workshop that Danielle presented at the government services building. Dick Huston talked about buffer strips helping with antibiotics from animals and his prairie burn. Gary Wagenbach suggested agenda item of How to Sell Buffers and said CRWP was selected by MPCA to get full watershed assessment. Gary will be a panelist at Carleton College on April 21 – Green Fire film. Bob Duban asked if a study has been done about antibiotics in municipal system’s discharge. Jim Purfeerst will bring in results of City of Faribault’s sledge spread on his fields. Print Carleton College report on website for board next month.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. EQIP: Kelly and I have been busy with putting together contracts for EQIP applications. We have 18 completed as of today for a total encumbrance of \$449,432. Two more are approved for funding that will be contracted soon.
2. CSP: MN NRCS is asking for additional CSP allotment. Presently, we have four applicants – none were approved on the first go around. I’m hoping to get two or three pre-approved if additional funding comes through.
3. RIM/WRP Floodplain Easements: We have four out of the five applications preapproved. Paperwork will begin on the one to two year process to complete a permanent easement.
4. Earth Day event tomorrow at Cascade Meadows.

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT by Steve Pahs:

Work this month has been a mix of office and the field. Tree sales are about normal and we should be in a good position to sell most of what is left. The no-till drill has begun its season, and some small repairs were needed right away. I have also spent some time with the ditch viewers to assist them with the redetermination of benefits on CD 4 and 20. The truck accessories we ordered have not all arrived yet, but should be here very soon. Classroom visits have been going well for the most part, and there are still some left to do at the end of April. I also took one week off at the beginning of April for spring break.

Other activity this month:

- Public hearing on CD 4 and 20
- Submitted payment requests for Farm bill and feedlot grants

I have not had the time to set up a personnel meeting for reviewing Katie Richards, so I will bring that item to the board for the May meeting. Work in the next month will center on some waterway and basin designs, ditch inspection. There are also some events coming up that I will be at to represent the district and promote our programs.

DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGER’S REPORT by Tim Labs:

- ❖ Four Observation Well Readings taken.
- ❖ Attended the monthly Planning and Zoning Meeting on new Conditional Use Permit (CUP) applications. Received several phone calls on wetland issues with Motokazie and Holden Farms hog expansion.
- ❖ Tree bagging and handout
- ❖ Continued RIM/WRP easement processing issues.

❖ Wetland Conservation Act Activities:

- Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) meeting held on the proposed North Cannon River Trail Project in Northfield.
- Reviewed several wetland delineation reports on Rice County bridge and culvert replacement projects. BWSR is responsible for replacing the wetland impacts on these projects.
- Processed the approval of the Spring Creek wetland bank in Northfield for the city.
- Lots of miscellaneous: wetland issues with tiling, flooding, driveways, potential violations etc.

FARM BILL TECHNICIAN'S REPORT by Danielle Waldschmidt:

Right now, I've been working on promoting the General CRP sign-up that ends April 15th. I have send out press releases, spoke on KDHL and attended local meetings to promote the sign-up. There is still some interest in the CWF buffer incentive. I have been working to promote the incentive by sending out proposals and contacting landowners about the incentive. I have been working with landowners interested in Continuous CRP. We are partnered with Cannon River Watershed Partnership to have a booth at the Northfield Home and Garden Show. Our booth contained information on the CRP general sign-up, the CWMA, native plant sale and basic information on the SWCD. I also spoke about Backyard Conservation.

Accomplishments Include:

- Completed proposals for CRP
- Worked with landowners that are interested in CRP
- Completed CRP modifications
- Spoke at the Roberds Lake Club meeting about CRP and current SWCD events
- Spoke at the Faribault Ducks Unlimited Banquet about CRP General Sign-up
- Spoke at Tri-Lakes Sportsman's Meeting about CRP General Sign-up
- Promoted CRP General Sign-up on AM MN with Jerry Groskreutz
- Attended SEMASWCD Annual Meeting in Stewartville
- Organized booth with Cannon River Watershed Partnership for the Northfield Home and Garden Show
- Presented about Backyard Conservation at the Northfield Home and Garden Show
- Completed 2nd and 5th grade educational visits on forestry
- Attended Watershed Summit
- Attended Webinar on Ecological Ranking
- Held workshop on Native Plants

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. I helped Steve with some classroom visits and did a couple on my own with the supervision of Steve. I have completed a couple classes on AgLearn working towards by certification. Wade has informed me sometime early May there is a manure workshop that we will be attending when details are finalized. I have come up with a plan update packet to assist in a quicker updating process to make these plans a little more manageable for some growers. Also, I helped with the tree distribution.

Plans I've been working on this month:

*Jeno – Rice MMP

*Spindler – Steele CNMP

*Tuma – Rice NMP

*Huseth – Goodhue CNMP

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE: News articles.

ADJOURN: Chairman Wagenbach adjourned the meeting at 3:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

Dale Neirby – Board Secretary