



Rice Soil and Water Conservation District

1810 30th Street NW, ❖ Faribault, MN 55021
Website: www.riceswcd.org

Phone: (507)332-5408
Fax: (507)332-9892

Rice SWCD – Board Meeting Minutes April 15, 2009 – 1:00 PM

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

PRESENT: Bob Borchert, Bob Duban, Wally Hildebrandt, Gary Wagenbach, Tom Coffman, Steve Pahs, Danielle Waldschmidt and Debbie Skarupa.

ABSENT: Dick Huston

DC REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. Lucas Altwegg has started part-time employment with the NRCS last Thursday, April 9. He will be working in both Rice and Goodhue County.
2. RIM-WRP Signup is starting next Monday, April 20, 2009 through June 5, 2009. Teleconference tomorrow on new provisions.
3. No news on new EQIP sign-up yet. Field work has begun.

F.O.I.A. MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING: Tom Coffman said the Memo of Understanding has not been completed and there is nothing new at this time.

MINUTES: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the March 18, 2009 board meeting minutes. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed – Motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT/BILLS PAYABLE: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the March program report subject to revisions and March bills subject to audit. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

FIRE SAFE: No action has been taken at this time regarding the purchase of a fire and waterproof safe.

CONTRACTOR'S MEETING: Joint Contractor's Meeting with Dodge, Steele, and Rice Counties was held March 25 with ten to eleven contractors and employees in attendance. Tom Coffman would like to see more participation. Other options, drainage, and WCA were discussed.

AREA 7 MASWCD MEETING: The Area 7 MASWCD Meeting was held April 14 at the People's Co-op in Rochester with good attendance. Board felt Robert Borchert did an excellent job of presiding over the meeting. Air Tour liability insurance, tree, no-till drill and Envirothon insurance were discussed. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to provide notification to M.C.I.T. to insure the Rice SWCD trees on hand, before they are picked up. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Wagenbach. All aye – None opposed – Motion carried. Steve will revise the no-till drill agreement and ask the county attorney to review it.

RAINGARDEN WORKSHOP: Danielle held a workshop on April 7th with Rice County and the Rice Co. Master Gardeners. Meeting went well with 29 in attendance including the Lonsdale Garden Club. There is \$5,000 total available from the Mn Waters Grant for material costs with a match for labor for 10 plans at \$500.00 each.

NEW BUSINESS:

SOIL STEWARDSHIP INSERTS: Inserts were passed out to supervisors.

STATE COST-SHARE CONTRACT: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Borchert to approve the following state cost-share contract:

CS#091021 Rodney LeVake – 4400 240th St. W. – Faribault – Warsaw Twp – Sec 21 – two sediment basins – \$2,683.52. Steve Pahs is the designated Conservation District Technical Representative. No other funds are being applied to this 2009 FY practice, and 65% is the approved cost-share amount with approximately \$268.35 in T&A.

Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

RICE SWCD POWERPOINT: Danielle and Dick Huston made a PowerPoint presentation on the Rice SWCD and Dick has been using it when speaking to service clubs. Steve will use it for a St. Olaf College class also.

OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST FOR 2009: Item was tabled until the May meeting.

WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT AWARD: Item was tabled until the May meeting.

MASWCD CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS: MASWCD guideline sheet was included in the packet. Resolutions are due to MASWCD July 21st. Bob Borchert said the Area 7 Resolution Meeting will short, covering only resolutions and the poster, video and mural judging.

DITCH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 2008: Steve Pahs went before the Rice County Commissioners on March 24th speaking on the work done so far. They were favorable to the work completed so far and will discuss the increase from \$5,000 per project to \$10,000. Gary Wagenbach asked about the ditch records being put on the website. Ditch history is in case files at the Government Services Building. Inventory of every ditch will need to be done in the future to identify the needs.

2008 BUDGET REPORT AND 2009 POTENTIAL CUTS: All outside agencies received a 2.5% cut which will be reflected in the next quarterly payment. Fund balance was discussed. Steve Pahs may apply for \$2,000.00 in MACDE grant dollars to go to Washington, D.C. Strategic Planning Meeting was discussed.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Bob Duban and Wally Hildebrandt were added to the Budget Committee.

WOMEN'S AG DAY: The NRCS Area 7 Civil Rights Committee is planning a Women's Ag Day at Quarry Hill Nature Center in Rochester on August 5. NRCS Technician, Kelly Oliver, is on the committee and gave the board and update. Topics will include Raingardens, Invasive Species, and Farm Management. NRCS is looking for support in handling the dollars, cash for meals, prizes, etc. Wally Hildebrandt offered to donate bird or bat houses and suggested Kelly contact Keith Radel regarding blue bird houses. Rice County fledged more blue birds than any other county in Minnesota last year. Bob Duban will contact Keith Radel about displays. Put on next month's agenda so Kelly knows what the support will be by the end of May.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS: Wally Hildebrandt said Wabasha and Dodge will use Gardening 101 PowerPoint. He's adding plans for raised gardens. Leslie Kennedy will send May and June CRWP information to Wally Hildebrandt, who is substituting for Gary Wagenbach. Gary Wagenbach said CRWP has a new website and Beth Kallestad is their new executive director. Nalani McCutchin is founder of new charter school in Faribault specializing in science, math and technical engineering. Bob Borchert said NACD mentioned Rice SWCD's educational efforts in their last newsletter. Pauline Schreiber's article on Steve Pahs speaking to a classroom about soil conservation was well done and it's good to acknowledge projector and material donators. Dick Huston will get posts and install signs in May. Bob Borchert will look for a location for second sign.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT by Steve Pahs:

Spring is here! Tree sales have been steady and field work is underway. Most of the staff has been doing lots of trips to area schools. The total should be well over 1400 students this year. Ditch activity has been steady as well with the cleanout of CD 32. I gave a report to the Rice County Commissioners on March 24th and discussed the need to raise the \$5,000 limit per ditch for doing projects each year. We are still working towards a farmable grass program and hope to have it in place soon.

Other activities this past month:

- Contractor workshop held in Owatonna
- Working Lands Initiative meeting in Jordan
- Met with contractor on Eastview Addition development
- Surveyed the Jim Dietz feedlot
- Completed annual MCIT risk assessment
- Started delivering the drill again

The rest of April looks to be very busy. Our tree day will be held on Tuesday, April 21st. A final meeting of the Northfield Advisory Group will be held to wrap up comments on the city's new development code. There are also several conservation projects that will be under construction soon.

DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT by Tim Labs:

- Five Observation Well Readings taken.
- Continued CREP Easement Processing.
- Attended monthly Plat Review Meeting at Planning and Zoning.
- Met with Planning & Zoning staff to discuss Ag BMP Loan Program and county's program for low interest loans.
- Wetland Conservation Act:
 - Attended advanced WCA training session in Mankato.

- Attended court on the M. Ahlman case. Case was re-instated for a jury trial in May. Pre-settlement conference to be set up.
- Met on site with the Richfield Post 435 Gun Club in Section 1 of Webster Township to view area for an enlarged earth bullet backstop and wetland impacts.
- Held a Technical Evaluation Panel meeting with BWSR staff to discuss a possible wetland banking proposal for Tom Mariska in Section 20 of Morristown Township.
- Looked at a possible wetland violation site with City of Faribault staff along Western Avenue.
- Reviewed a wetland delineation report for Northern Natural Gas on a pipeline expansion project in northern Rice County.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT REPORT by Adam Arndt:

- Attended Crop’s River Friendly luncheon, set up a display and answered questions.
- Traveled to Goodhue to meet with Jon Huseth.
- Attended contractors meeting in Owatonna.
- Held a ‘Value of Manure’ workshop at the Owatonna College Center.
- Surveyed waterway with Kelly Oliver.
- Educational class visits.
- Moved and set up no till drill for pasture seeding.

Nutrient Plans Started, Completed, and Revised Last Month:

- Dan Hein (Rice)
- Randy Bauer (Rice)
- Jon Huseth (Goodhue)
- Pat Smith (Steele)
- Mark Mundt (Steele)
- Martin Werner (Rice)
- Gary Lehnertz (Wabasha)
- Larry Richie (Rice)

March Ditch Services:

- Surveying and checking CD32 clean out.
- Surveying new culvert replacement on CD32.

STORMWATER TECHNICIAN’S REPORT by Danielle Waldschmidt:

I have begun to complete inspections on sites that have started construction. I am working on doing to education elected officials and cities. I am speaking to Bridgewater Township regarding the JPA program and NPDES requirements. I attended an enforcement forum for a construction site with severe violations from the NPDES requirements. I am continuing to put together a plan for the MN Waters grant. The raingarden workshop was held on April 7. Twenty nine people signed up for the course. With the help of the Master Gardeners we were able to work on plans for those people. I am making contacts with open lot participants to find those interested in technical assistance to correct feedlot pollution problems and be compliant with Open Lot Agreement requirements. I have completed presentations to 2nd and 5th graders to 16 classes.

Accomplishments Include:

- Updated and organized case files for the stormwater program
- Conducted construction site inspections
- Worked with Contractors/Owners/Site Contacts to get their construction site activities in compliance with the NPDES/SDS
- Attended MPCA enforcement forum

- Worked on plans to correct Jim Dietz's feedlot
- Contacted open lot agreement participants on correcting feedlot issues
- Completed 2nd and 5th grade presentations on soils and soil conservation

JPB ACTIVITY REPORT: None available this month.

OTHER CORRESPONDENCE: Ernie Vikla may get federal dollars for 10K generator installations. Grid can't handle power distribution from giant wind turbines, and 10K is the largest you can put up because of local regulations.

Gary Wagenbach left at 3:05 PM.

ADJOURN. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to adjourn. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Time: 3:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Debbie Skarupa – Secretary

Wally Hildebrandt - Board Secretary