

**RICE S.W.C.D.**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 17, 2011 – 1:30 PM**

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

**ABSENT:** Dick Huston and Gary Wagenbach.

Acting Chairman Robert Duban called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

**MINUTES:** Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the July 20, 2011 board meeting minutes. Ayes: Neirby, Duban and Purfeerst. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL:** Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Dale Neirby to accept the July financial report and bills payable subject to audit. Ayes: Neirby, Duban and Purfeerst. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**SEMASWCD FALL MEETING:** The fall joint meeting with supervisors and employees will be held September 20 at the Eagles Club in Rochester from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Supervisors will let Debbie know if they will be attending. An agenda and cost of registration have not been received yet.

**RICE COUNTY BUDGET MEETING:** An article about budgeting was in today's newspaper. Rice SWCD brings increased dollars into the county. The budget meeting with the Rice County Commissioners will be August 23 at 8:30 AM. Bob Duban encouraged the board to attend.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**STEELE CO. VEGETATIVE BUFFER PAYMENT** –Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the following Steele County 2010 vegetative buffer voucher:

VBS2010-14 – Delphine Zak – 235 22 St SE Apt 115-Owatonna- Summit Section 5 - .4 ac  
@\$60/ac x ten years -\$240.00

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

**BWSR NATIVE SHORELINE BUFFER CONTRACT PAYMENTS:** Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the following native buffer shoreline voucher payments:

NB100334 - Roger Stoick-14496 Irwin Ct-Montgomery-Erin Sec 34 – Shoreline Buffer -  
\$2450.74 with \$185.41 slippage going back to BWSR.

Ayes: Duban, Neirby and Purfeerst. All aye, none opposed. Motion carried.  
Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the following native buffer shoreline grant voucher payments:

NB101207 – Curtiss Rayman-6710 French Lake Trail-Faribault - Wells Sec 7 – Shoreline Buffer - \$1141.50.

Ayes: Duban, Neirby and Purfeerst. All aye, none opposed. Motion carried.

**NATIVE BUFFER SLIPPAGE - ROGER STOICK:** Motion by Jim Purfeerst, second by Dale Neirby to approve slippage paid back to BWSR for the following contract:

NB100334-Roger Stoick-14496 Irwin Ct – Montgomery – Erin Section 34 - \$185.41 slippage to BWSR. Ayes: Duban, Neirby and Purfeerst. All aye, none opposed. Motion carried.

**NRCS PRAIRIE POTHOLE WETLAND INIATIATIVE CONTRIBUTION**

**AGREEMENT:** NRCS does approximately 50 – 100 wetland determinations a year and NRCS State Conservationist Don Baloun would like to see districts deal with the determinations instead of NRCS. Tim Labs handles the Wetland Conservation Act issues for Rice County and will do the wetland determinations for one year with this agreement. Motion by Dale Neirby, second by Jim Purfeerst to adopt the Prairie Pothole Wetland Incentive Contribution Agreement with NRCS for one year. Ayes: Duban, Neirby and Purfeerst. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**AREA 7 COUNTY ALLOCATION SHEET:** Board reviewed a listing of what the southeast Minnesota districts received from their counties over the past three years.

**SE MN WRB FEEDLOT FOUR AGREEMENT:** Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Dale Neirby to adopt the second half agreement of the SE MN Water Resources Board Feedlot IV Grant. Steve explained the 319 grant is used for 50% cost share on feedlot improvements and technical assistance such as milk house waste systems. Ayes: Duban, Neirby and Purfeerst. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**DENTAL INSURANCE OPTIONS:** District employees do not have dental insurance through the district and Steve explained the handout options of MetLife and Delta Dental, which need four or five out of five to participate. Cost to cover all employees would be a total of \$1710 per year and Steve felt it would be a nice benefit to offer staff. Personnel committee to review and then discuss at the September board meeting.

**HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWALS:** The Personnel Committee met and reviewed the current health insurance that renews September 1<sup>st</sup>. It was decided to continue with the current policy.

**SOIL QUALITY WORKSHOP:** A Soil Quality Workshop will be held in Waseca on September 13 from 8:00 to 4:30 PM. Registration deadline is August 26.

**BUZZ ABOUT BUFFERS WORKSHOP:** The Cannon River Watershed Partnership will be hosting a “Buzz About Buffers” Workshop at the Rice County 4-H Building from 10:00 to 12:00 on August 30. Steve and Danielle will attend.

**SWCD GOVERANCE 101:** A SWCD Governance 101 workshop will be held at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria on September 12 and 13 sponsored by the MASWCD. Steve encouraged the new supervisors to attend. Brochures were mailed and registration deadline is September 6. Steve and Dale Neirby plan on attending.

**SUPERVISOR REPORTS:** Jim Purfeerst said he will attend the RC&D Meeting next week. George Poch is sending out agenda information now. Dale asked to receive information on the RIM 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary that was postponed in Steele County due to the state government shutdown.

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

1. Summer construction activities are underway. One waste storage pit closure was completed. One terrace job and one sediment basin and waterway project were recently completed. Staking has begun on the Harris Bauer project. We hope to get several other projects underway soon.
2. EQIP 2011. We recently received \$58,000 to fund two more EQIP applications. Both are erosion control sediment basin projects.
3. WRP Monitoring. Six WRP easements in Rice County will be field checked by Laurie Svien this month.

**DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT by Steve Pahs:** Attended Joint Powers Board meeting with Bob Duban on July 27. We will be applying for another round of Clean Water Fund grant dollars. May expand into small portions of LeSueur and Waseca counties that are in the Cannon River Watershed per Cannon River Watershed Partnership's request. District is charging for nutrient management plans now. Circle Lake Association wants to do projects to help clean up the lake and their Ditch 32 testing is showing phosphorus. CWF wants to focus on smaller areas to see measurable results. Danielle has had training on ground truthing. Circle Lake watershed was discussed. Would Tri-Lake's Sportsman's Club or Circle Lake Association pick up a landowner's share of a larger cost share project? Steve is working on a stream bank stabilization project on the end of County Ditch 32A.

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

- ☼ Four Observation well readings taken and reported
- ☼ Reviewed all new county CUP applications and attended the month Plat Review Meeting.
- ☼ Continued RIM/WRP easement processing
- ☼ Continued RIM, CREP and RIM/WRP yearly status reviews.
- ☼ Construction staking at a CREP wetland restoration site.
- ☼ Wetland Conservation Act Activities:
  - Attended WCA hydric soil training and wetland plant ID training
  - Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) meeting on the ALDI warehouse wetland mitigation plan.
  - Wetland delineation reviews on CSAH #1 and #11 for additional wetlands.
  - Working on several wetland violation sites with restoration orders and monitoring
  - Lots of miscellaneous WCA activities

**NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST'S REPORT by Katie Richards:**

I have been filling out MN-CPA-046 for the CNMP 590s for the producers I have been working with in Rice and Steele counties. I have continued surveying and assisting Kelly with Klapperich and Drewitz projects. Wade Schultz (feedlot officer) had me convert solid manure into a liquid base for Duban's pit for a better estimate of capacity and land availability. There has been some complications with the sensitive features information being input into the planner program. I have

had to redo a couple of the CNMP files within the program to allow the features to be displayed. By working with Jeff King on the plans, I have gotten closer to being certified but I am still waiting on the training from NRCS to fully certify plans. I have made previous contacts with producers but I didn't document them. I will be working on a news release for this fall for manure application guidelines.

CNMPs:

- Wagner – Steele County
- Heers – Steele County
- Duban – Rice County
- Spindler – Steele County
- Hanson – Rice County

MMP:

- Duban – Rice County

Contacts:

- Returned a call to Matt Korman for a NMP, left a message, no call returned

**FARM BILL TECHNICIAN REPORT By Danielle Waldschmidt:**

I have been working on completing CRP modifications, CRP reenrollments and new CRP enrollments. Nine of 12 General CRP contracts were accepted in Rice County from the sign-up that occurred this spring. I have been working with those landowners to complete their conservation planning. There are also many continuous practices that are re-enrolling. I'm working with those landowners to complete their conservation planning.

Accomplishments Include:

- Completed proposals for CRP
- Worked with landowners that are interested in CRP
- Completed CRP modifications
- Attended SEMACDE GIS training on terrain analysis
- Set up the fair booth on filter strips, CWMA, weeds and conservation tillage
- Attended Southeast Minnesota Vegetation Identification Training

**OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE:** News articles.

**ADJOURN:** Acting Chairman Duban adjourned the meeting at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

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Board Member