

RICE S.W.C.D.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 16, 2011

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

ABSENT: Dick Huston

Chairman Wagenbach called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

MINUTES: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the January 19, 2011 board meeting minutes with Day at the Capitol date change. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst, and Wagenbach. All aye -None opposed - Motion carried.

FINANCIAL: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to accept the December financial report and bills payable subject to audit. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach.

OLD BUSINESS:

SEALED TRUCK BIDS: Four sealed bids for the 1994 GMC blue pickup were opened by Chairman Wagenbach. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dale Neirby to accept the high bid of \$2,317.00 from Don LaCanne. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

WALLY HILDEBRANDT'S OPEN HOUSE: An Open House was held January 21 at the 4-H building for Wally Hildebrandt's retirement after 51 years as a Rice SWCD supervisor. Event was well planned and well attended. Kelly Oliver did a nice job making Wally a photo album of the day.

REVISED COMMITTEE LISTING: A revised list of committee members was reviewed. Jim Purfeerst attended the January Resource Conservation and Development meeting at Cascade Meadows in Rochester and will continue as RC&D representative. Jim went over the RC&D annual report and explained some of their projects.

2011 SUPERVISOR POSITIONS: Board received a list of 2011 supervisor and staff positions, phone numbers, addresses, etc.

MASWCD DUES CALCULATIONS: A handout from MASWCD on how MASWCD annual dues are calculated was reviewed by the board.

NEW BUSINESS:

BOARD MEETING TIME: Dick Huston has requested the board meeting time be changed to 1:30 or 2:00 PM so he can attend the Rotary Club meetings that start at noon. Discussion followed. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to change the board meeting time to a 1:30 start time. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

4-H AWARDS: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dale Neirby to sponsor four 4-H champion awards at \$7.00 each and three reserve champion awards at \$6.00 each. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

VEGETATIVE BUFFER CONTRACT: Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Dale Neirby to approve the following BWSR vegetative buffer contract:

VBR-2010-03 Robert Duban 12084 Bagley Ave Dundas Forest Section 23 \$80/ac x 5.6 ac x 10 yrs-\$4,480.00 Riparian Vegetated Buffer.

Ayes: Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Bob Duban abstained from voting. Bob Duban explained the buffer by county ditch #30. Board feels this Clean Water Fund buffer program with funding coming from the 3/8% sales tax increase is a good program for clean water and sediment control.

MINNESOTA WATERS ANNUAL DUES: Minnesota Waters is asking for \$50 in annual dues. Gary Wagenbach has attended one of their conventions and they have given us money for rain garden projects in the past. Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve paying membership dues of \$50 for 2011 to Minnesota Waters. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

SE JPB TECH SUPPORT: Steve Pahs explained the SE Joint Powers Board created about 15 years ago to get state funding for engineering assistance for the 10 or 11 counties in SE Minnesota. Bob Borchert had been on the committee and now Bob Duban is on this committee. State Revolving Funds are used at low interest rates. Steve is serving on their Personnel Committee and said staff received step increases and a 1% cost of living increase. Dodge and Wabasha will each house a technician with additional funding. Backlog for projects is about a year and engineering assessments take time. Tom mentioned \$500 in earnest money is required and returned to the landowner when the project is completed. If the project is cancelled then the earnest money is kept.

MASWCD LEGISLATIVE REPORT - DAY AT THE CAPITOL: Board received a legislative report from the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Day at the Capitol was discussed. Dale Neirby and Danielle will attend the legislative briefing in the evening. Steve, Dick, Dale, and Danielle will attend the Day at the Capitol on the next day.

NRCS MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING: The Memo of Understanding with NRCS is approved yearly by the board. Tom Coffman explained the addition of the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) policy to protect landowners' sensitive information like farm numbers and social security numbers. NRCS can tell the board who has EQIP, but SWCD can't release information to the public. Act may have stemmed from the Environmental Work Group listing subsidies on the website a few years ago. Some farm information can be requested from the NRCS St. Paul Office and it may or may not be released. District contracts are public information.

ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dale Neirby to approve the Annual Plan of Work for 2011. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Steve felt Annual Plan of Work could be revisited at a Strategic Planning Meeting. Report is due to the Board of Soil and Water Resources by March 15.

ANNUAL REPORT: Financial section was discussed. Gary Wagenbach will look into interest rates and other investment opportunities. Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the 2010 Annual Report. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

STEWARDSHIP MATERIALS: Soil Stewardship Week is the last week in April to the first week in May and supervisors pass materials out to their churches. Steve is ordering educational materials from NACD for 2nd and 5th graders. Inserts will be ordered instead of litanies. Tri-Lakes Sportsman's Club has donated funds for these items.

NORTHFIELD HOME & GARDEN SHOW: Northfield is having a Home and Garden Show on March 26 and Danielle would like to split the cost of a booth with Cannon River Watershed Partnership to promote rain garden plants. Motion by Dale Neurby, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the \$100 payment for a booth at the Northfield Home & Garden Show. Ayes: Duban, Neurby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS: Bob Duban said spring meeting will be at Ironwood Springs on March 29 from 9:00 – 3:00 PM. Senator Klobuchar and Representative Tim Walz have been invited. Janet Kubat-Willette from Agri-News and Jerry Groskreutz may do a session on “How to Conduct a Good Interview” in the afternoon. Jim Purfeerst suggested Paula Moore, editor of The Farmer Magazine, as another possibility. June Resolution meeting may be at the Cascade Meadows in Rochester with a tour in the afternoon. Dale Neurby said a U of M session on where bacteria comes from in our soil and water was rescheduled for April 7. He attended a BALMM (Basin Alliance for the Lower Mississippi in MN) meeting and will continue to go to meetings. Gary Wagenbach will bring up supervisors meeting for dinner at another time. Gary offered to make business cards for the other supervisors. Gary and Danielle will speak to a new group called Prairie Partners on May 12 and Gary will speak at the Northfield Garden Club in September. Gary will show maps of his trip to Tanzania after the board meeting. Dale Neurby spoke on chronic wasting disease in the deer population SW of Pine Island.

D.C. REPORT BY Tom Coffman:

1. Continuing Resolution on FY 2011 budget expires March 4. There have been rumors of a government shutdown if a budget can't be agreed upon.
2. Conservation Stewardship Program signup ended January 21. We have four signups in Rice.
3. We are mailing out a contractor's newsletter this week and plan to hold an open house for contractors here on March 15.
4. EQIP signup continues until March 4. Presently we have around 20 signups.
5. NRCS Chief David White recently gave a speech to NACD at their annual convention. If interested, you can watch it at <http://vimeo.com/19841138>.
6. CRWP has recently decided to not proceed with Performance Based Conservation Initiative for sediment and phosphorus.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT by Steve Pahs:

Activity this month has been very much focused on reporting requirements and plan writing for 2011. In between all of that has been a mix of feedlot work and meetings. Tree sales are picking up, and we are right on track with previous years, except we don't have any large sales this year, so I expect numbers will be down.

Other activity this month:

- Feedlot evaluation for Lauren Shell and numerous revisions
- MCIT Webinar on Risk Management
- CRWP meeting on Performance Based Incentive concept
- Personnel meeting for SRF JPB-Rochester
- JPB annual meeting-Rochester
- One water concept meeting by CRWP
- Panel member for Troubled Waters Presentation at St. Olaf

- Nutrient management conference-Rochester

Upcoming work will focus on more tree sales, nutrient management work, preparation for spring field work, and much more.

Steve also mentioned that the new pick up will be arriving next week and the 2010 ditch report will be given to county commissioners on March 15. He sat on a panel discussion of the “Troubled Waters” documentary at St. Olaf College. Sixty people were in attendance.

DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGER’S REPORT by Tim Labs:

- ✿ Attended a planning meeting on a possible large wetland restoration with multiple landowners on the west side of French Lake. Priority restoration for improved water quality in French Lake.
- ✿ Bill Hein RIM/WRP application processing.
- ✿ Completed state eLink reporting of state cost share contracts and Wetland Conservation Act activities.
- ✿ Completed 2011 Ag BMP Loan Program application and Annual Report
- ✿ Reviewed Planning and Zoning CUP applications for concerns and impacts.
- ✿ Completed a couple of tree planting plans.
- ✿ Lots of miscellaneous Wetland Conservation Act activities:
 - Aldi warehouse mitigation
 - Shaw property – Motokazi delineation
 - Northfield sewer lift station impact approval
 - Rice Co. bridge replacement wetland application
 - Rice County Road #1 wetland delineation report.

FARM BILL TECHNICIAN’S REPORT by Danielle Waldschmidt:

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 CRP.

Accomplishments Include:

- Completed proposals for CRP
- Worked with landowners that are interested in CRP
- Worked with RIM Buffer participants to complete paperwork
- Met with landowners about filter strips and CWF incentive
- Completed eLINK reporting for CWF and CWMA grants
- Attended Farm Bill Assistant Training in Mankato
- Spoke at COLA meeting
- Attended SEMACDE Directors meeting
- Attended CRWP One Water – A Management Strategy for the Cannon River Watershed
- Attended planning meeting for Agri-News Farm Show Booth

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST’S REPORT BY Katie Richards:

I’ve been working with area offices to determine their plan needs. I attended two of the three SE Minnesota Feedlot meetings: evening in Blooming Prairie and the afternoon in Zumbrota. I learned a lot of interesting facts, gave out a few business cards, and made contacts with growers and office staff. Also, I am looking forward to the Nutrient Management Conference on the 15th.

Plans I've been working on this month:

- *Matthees, finalized CNMP - Goodhue
- *McMillin, finalized CNMP - Wabasha
- *Sexton, finalized CNMP - Wabasha
- *Derham, MMP - Rice
- *Shell, MMP - Rice
- *Litzau, MMP - Rice
- *Spindler, CNMP in progress - Steele
- *Jensen, MMP for building permit - Freeborn

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE: News releases.

ADJOURN: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dale Neirby to adjourn. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

Dale Neirby - Board Secretary