



Rice Soil and Water Conservation District

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Rice SWCD – Board Meeting Minutes February 18, 2009 – 1:00 PM

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

PRESENT: Bob Borchert, Bob Duban, Wally Hildebrandt, Dick Huston, Gary Wagenbach, Steve Pahs, Kelly Oliver, Danielle Waldschmidt and Debbie Skarupa. Tim Labs came in for the Native Buffer Grant provisions discussion.

ABSENT: Tom Coffman

MINUTES: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Bob Borchert to approve the January 21, 2009 board meeting minutes with two corrections. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed – Motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT/BILLS PAYABLE/M.P.C.A.: Steve said M.P.C.A. has changed their way of billing and no longer pays for the majority of the stormwater technician's work during the seasonal slow time. Danielle is currently doing feedlot related work and will do water sampling through CRWP this spring. Wally asked if she could cover more than one county. Discussion followed. Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the December Program Summary and bills payable subject to audit. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

2009 RICE COUNTY BUDGET CUTS: A letter has not been received yet from Rice County regarding 5% budget cuts.

MASWCD DAY AT THE CAPITOL: Steve passed out a schedule for the Day at the Capitol on February 23 and 24. Bob Borchert and Danielle Waldschmidt will go on February 23 and Steve, Adam, Danielle, Bob Borchert, Bob Duban and Wally Hildebrandt will go on February 24th.

RICE SWCD SIGNAGE: Leaving Rice SWCD signs are in the office and Steve asked the Board to look at them today. Signs are blended green plastic with white lettering and will not rust.

FIRE SAFE/PROJECTOR: Currently, SWCD uses Rural Development's fireproof file cabinet for important papers. Steve passed out information on several options. Prefer something waterproof and fireproof. A projector could be utilized a fair amount of the time and was also discussed. Dick Huston offered to ask several bankers for donations. Bob Borchert will check with Affinity Plus. Wally suggested calling Surplus Services. Item was tabled until March.

OFFICE LEASE STATUS: Rural Development will be doing a lease extension until a firm date for moving out has been set.

AG & ENVIRONMENT TOWN HALL FORUM: Monday's meeting was on Controlled Drainage and Sediment on the MN River. Brad Carlson has organized the meetings which have been well done and well received.

4-H AWARDS RICE COUNTY: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve a \$46.00 donation for Rice County 4-H awards. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING: Gary Wagenbach explained how CRWP did their Strategic Planning Meeting moderated by Pat Allen. Meeting to be discussed again after the 2008 Farm Bill programs have been finalized and staff has more time. Grant dollars are changing and 3/8% sales tax funds may not be available until June of 2010.

GARY WAGENBACH – BURMA: Gary Wagenbach has been offered a position to develop a science curriculum for a private Burmese/Indian elementary school in Burma, which is also called Myanmar. He will be absent for a few months, then back for a few months, then gone for a few months, etc. In 2002, Gary resigned and Keith Schrader was appointed and filled in for six months and then Keith resigned when Gary came back. Bob Borchert said not being here is not considered a vacancy. Board consensus is for Gary to continue on being a board supervisor throughout the assignment absence.

NATIVE PRAIRIE SEED SPECIES: Kelly Oliver, NRCS technician, spoke on native seed selections out of Plant Materials and good seed characteristics. Minnesota statute passed last year requires local seed sources within 25 miles be used for Minnesota grant contracts. DNR tests were discussed.

NATIVE BUFFER GRANT POLICY: Good response has been received from the news release. Discussion followed. Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to state that, "Eligible native buffer cost-share areas are areas located along a water body, wetland, ditch, or creek." Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Maybe Danielle could do lakescaping during the winter months. Dick Huston suggested Condon's by LaCanne's on Roberds Lake Blvd. may be willing to do a demonstration plot.

WORKING LANDS INITIATIVE UPDATE: Group is now official and covers all but the very southern portion of Rice County. Districts' prefer farmable buffers on water courses because you can harvest hay. Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Duban to commit \$1,500.00 to the Biomass Technician position. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING: A summary of present agreements had been mailed out. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to reaffirm the Memo of Understanding and Agreements for 2009 between NRCS and Rice SWCD. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

MASWCD BOUNDARY REVISIONS: FYI only. Eleven TSA's were cut to eight and realigned to coincide borders. Area 7 and Area 9 did not change.

SUPERVISOR COMPENSATION: Bob Borchert wants to decrease supervisor compensation. Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to reduce supervisor compensation to \$45.00 and \$60.00 per meeting retroactive to January 1, 2009. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

REVISED COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: Tabled until March 18th.

SE SWCD TECH. SUPPORT JPB: Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve the Sub-recipient contract between the SE SWCD Technical Support JPB and the Rice SWCD – CWL Nutrient Management for \$75,000 from January 1, 2009 to September 1, 2011. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

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

CS#080830 Dave Judd – 21991 Lind Trail-Waterville-Shieldsville Twp Sec 30 – Farmstead Windbreak - \$734.50.

Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Tom Coffman is the Conservation District Technical Representative.

CONTRACTOR'S MEETING: Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Bob Duban to approve \$100 for food for the March 25th joint contractor's meeting in Steele County with Steele and Dodge SWCD. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Extra funds will be returned.

SEMACDE ANNUAL MEETING: Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve staff registration of \$14 for annual spring SEMACDE meeting. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

AREA 7 MASWCD ANNUAL SPRING MEETING: Area 7 MASWCD Director Bob Borchert stated the Area 7 MASWCD spring training meeting will be held April 15th at **People's Coop** for \$15.00 per person. Staff and supervisors were encouraged to attend.

ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the Annual Plan of Work. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

ANNUAL REPORT: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the Annual Report subject to revisions. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

AUDITOR OF THE YEAR: Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to send Fran Windschitl a letter of congratulations signed by Chairman Dick Huston. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENTS: Steve Pahs suggested increasing ad space cost from \$50 to \$75 per newsletter issue. Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Duban to increase advertisement rate for Rice SWCD newsletter to \$75.00 per issue. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

NACD 509 CAPITOL COURT CAMPAIGN: Steve Pahs mentioned that NACD is seeking donations to help pay for NACD's Washington DC office building renovations.

STEWARDSHIP INSERTS: Numbers of Stewardship Week inserts requested are Bob B – 200, Dick - 100, Wally - 200; Gary - 150; and Bob D – 600.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS: Wally Hildebrandt spoke on changing the RC&D's by-laws. Bob Borchert encouraged staff and supervisors to attend the Area 7 MASWCD spring meeting with training on April 14th. Gary Wagenbach said Roger Wilkowske is doing a good job with CRWP and the River Friendly Program. Dick Huston encouraged everyone to attend the March 14th Pheasants Forever Banquet at the Faribault Eagles Club. Bob Duban asked Tim Labs about current wetland violations.

DC REPORT by Tom Coffman:

Kelly Oliver sat in for Tom Coffman and said round one of the financial audit is finished, with round two starting up soon. There will be extra cost-share dollars for three groups: Beginning Farmers, Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Limited Resources Farmers.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT: Since the last board meeting in January, I have been working on a wide variety of things. The status on the building lease is that USDA is requiring an extension of the current lease, which expires at the end of February. With Rural Development still uncertain on when they are leaving, we plan to operate under an extension until their status is known. The SE Tech. Support JPB board meeting was held January 29th. The staff was given wage increases, new officers were elected, and updates to the workload were discussed. I am working with Danielle on the feedlot management program to train her for assisting landowners with feedlot fixes. I have also been contacting lots of teachers to set up classroom visits. The annual plan and report have also been taking a significant amount of time. Tree sales are running behind last year's numbers, although we are ahead in terms of total orders. All staff are in the process of getting identification cards through USDA. The cards will be needed to log into the computer system later this year.

The MPCA Stormwater Program has hit a snag in terms of payment for services. There is a new person in charge of reviewing the bills. This person is focusing on the agreement to very fine detail, and has refused payment for much of the work Danielle has done recently. This situation is not going to change, so we will need to find new duties for her that provide a revenue stream. For now, that is feedlots.

Other activities this past month:

- Met with Charles Wagner and JPB staff to review feedlot plans

- Site visit to B & C Ellindson re: native grasses
- Working Lands Initiative meeting in Jordan
- Met with CRWP staff re: Heath Creek and Spring Cr.
- Feedlot visits at D. Dienst and H. Bauer
- Ag. And the Environment meetings being held in Northfield

Upcoming workload includes doing the school visits, preparing for the tree sale, and the day at the capitol.

DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Completed reporting of State Cost Share Projects and Wetland Conservation Act accomplishments in the eLink system.
- Completed the 2009 Ag BMP low interest low program application
- Attended a teleconference on the Living Snowfence proposal between USDA and the Minnesota Dept of Transportation using the CRP program.
- Completed five (5) farmstead windbreak tree planting plans.
- Continued CREP easement processing
- Attended monthly Planning and Zoning Plat Review Meeting.
- Wetland Conservation Act Activities:
 - Onsite review of a wetland area proposed to be excavated on the Ken Wisdorf property in Section 20 of Erin Twp.
 - Viewed a wetland/ditch cleanout in the City of Lonsdale
 - Discussion with Marty Ahlman on ways to mitigate a wetland excavation violation.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT REPORT:

- Worked on CWMA Grant. Tracking down where grant dollars are and researched Nicole's buckthorn project.
- E-Link reporting for NM Grant.
- Came up with nitrogen and phosphorous reductions for the nutrient plans that I have written for Grant reporting.
- CTIC teleconference about the Nutrient Coalition.
- Attended CTIC Nutrient Coalition meeting in Owatonna.
- Created invites and a list of local farmers to invite to 'What is Manure Worth' workshops in Steele co. and Rice co.
- Spreader calibration for Dale Spindler.

Nutrient Plans in Progress, Completed, or Revised Last Month:

- Scott Thompson (Freeborn)
- Gary Lehnertz (Wabasha)
- Martin Werner (Rice)
- Tom Sammon (Rice)
- Steve Matthees (Goodhue)
- Steve Boyum (Goodhue)
- Jeff Kirchner (Steele)
- Scott Clementson (Goodhue)

- Pat Smith (Steele)
- Jim Ditterich (Wabasha)
- Darryl Flom (Goodhue)
- Jon Schmidt (Steele)
- Dale Spindler (Steele)
- Darrell Zolnowsky (Rice)

January Ditch Services:

- Checked CD 9 for beaver dam removal.
- Discussed ditch issues with Steve and Fran.
- Checking CD 32 for work being done. Tree removal was to have been started, no activity seen.

STORMWATER TECHNICIAN’S REPORT:

Most of the construction activity is completed for the season. I am working on providing education to elected officials and cities. I spoke to several LGU’s about their needs for education on NPDES requirements. Every LGU has different thoughts on what education is needed. I met with the City of Dundas staff to go over the JPA program, erosion and sediment control BMP’s and NPDES requirements. I passed out an informational handout for the city council and I will be present at an upcoming board meeting to answer any questions on the NPDES requirements. I have a similar overview of the program scheduled with the Rice County Planning and Zoning staff. I am also working with Jay Michels and CRWP to provide a contractors workshop. I am continuing to put together a plan for the MN Waters grant. I have started to go over the feedlot information. I have made contact with several individuals on the list of priority concerns.

Accomplishments Include:

- Updated and organized case files for the stormwater program
- Meet with City of Dundas staff to discuss JPA program, erosion and sediment control BMP’s and NPDES requirements
- Completed MN Waters work plan
- Visited Harris Bauer feedlot
- Contacted open lot agreement participants on correcting feedlot issues
- Scheduled elementary school education visits about soil conservation

JPB ACTIVITY REPORT: Not received.

ADJOURN: Motion by Bob Duban, second by Gary Wagenbach to adjourn. Time: 3:10 PM. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Debbie Skarupa – Secretary

Wally Hildebrandt - Board Secretary