



## Rice Soil and Water Conservation District

1810 30<sup>th</sup> Street NW, ❖ Faribault, MN 55021  
Website: [www.riceswcd.org](http://www.riceswcd.org)

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

### RICE SWCD – BOARD MEETING MINUTES JULY 15, 2009

Chairman Huston called the meeting to order at 1:08 PM.

**PRESENT:** Bob Duban, Wally Hildebrandt, Dick Huston, Gary Wagenbach, Steve Pahs, Tom Coffman, Kelly Oliver and Debbie Skarupa.

**ABSENT:** Bob Borchert

**MINUTES:** Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the June 17, 2009 board meeting minutes revising that Bob Duban was absent. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Ayes: Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT:** Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the June Financial statement and bills payable subject to audit. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Ayes: Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP:** A workshop was held at the Conservation Building at the fairgrounds on June 27 helping people make their own rain barrels. Seventy-nine rain barrels were donated by Faribault Foods and Steve Pahs, Adam Arndt, Danielle Waldschmidt, Lucas Altwegg, Bob Borchert and Gary Wagenbach attended stations showing people how to construct about 55 barrels. Wally Hildebrandt said Rochester Public Utilities recently sold 700 to 800 rain barrels. Bob Duban mentioned that results show warm soft water, like rain water, used to mix spray can cut chemical usage in half.

**RESOLUTIONS MEETING:** Wally Hildebrandt and Bob Borchert attended the MASWCD Area 7 Resolutions Meeting at People's Coop in Rochester on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Resolutions that were brought up last year and failed are not to be revisited the following year. Area 7 had six resolutions.

**NRCS WOMEN'S AG DAY:** NRCS Technician, Kelly Oliver, spoke on the NRCS Women's Ag Day being held on September 2, 2009 at Quarry Hill in Rochester from 8:30 to 1:00 PM for a cost of \$10.00. She encouraged board members to pass along brochures to interested women. Gary Wagenbach asked that the PDF file be emailed to supervisors and put on the SWCD website. Thank you to Dick Huston who donated items and Wally Hildebrandt who will make two birdhouses.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**2010 BUDGET UPDATE:** Steve Pahs mentioned the budget request sent to Rice County has a \$60,000 deficit. Discussion followed.

**STORMWATER TECHNICIAN STATUS:** The MPCA Stormwater Grant expired on June 30, 2009 with no further funding available in the foreseeable future. Steve Pahs will meet with MPCA next week. Ideas for retaining a good employee were discussed. We could possibly share with neighboring counties, CRWP, cities or form JPB. Could fees put in escrow by developers that are held until a project is finished correctly be used towards the stormwater tech position? Ramsey Washington takes dollars from bond money for violations. CRWP may be able to share a 319 grant. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to work with the budget and approve funding for Danielle Waldschmidt's position until December 31, 2009. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Ayes: Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach.

**NATIVE GRASS BUFFER CONTRACT:** An application has not been received.

**RAIN BARREL DONATIONS:** Wally Hildebrandt would like a rain barrel for a RC&D silent auction in Cloquet. Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Duban to donate one rain barrel to RC&D and one rain barrel to NRCS for the Women's Ag Day in September. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Ayes: Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach.

**MN WATERS RAIN GARDEN CONTRACT PAYMENT:** Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the following MN Waters Rain Garden voucher payment:

Northfield United Methodist Church – 1401 Maple St. S. Northfield - \$460.47 – Rain Garden

All aye – None opposed – Motion carried. Ayes: Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach.

**MN WATERS RAIN GARDEN APPLICATIONS:** Wally suggested asking George Polk's niece who works at the company behind Farmer's Seed to make a sign for us for the rain garden. Gary Wagenbach stated native plants are better perceived if there is a mowed edge or border around them. Road ditches were discussed. Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the following MN Waters Rain Garden applicants:

Lucas Altwegg	565 Summit Ave.	Dundas	\$500.00	
Mika Turner	307 Woodley St. W.	Northfield	\$500.00	
Marcia Walters*	2650 89 <sup>th</sup> Ct. W.	Northfield	\$151.00	*Final four are a group
Miki Thieves (Janet)*	2570 89 <sup>th</sup> Ct. W.	Northfield	\$151.00	project that will receive
Karen Madera*	2695 89 <sup>th</sup> Ct. W.	Northfield	\$151.00	slippage from earlier
Kathy Ness*	2574 89 <sup>th</sup> Ct. W.	Northfield	\$151.00	contracts up to \$500 ea.

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

**POSSIBLE JPB WITH SWCD'S IN CANNON RIVER WATERSHED:** Steve Pahs met with other district managers and CRWP to discuss forming a Joint Powers Board to apply for grants on a watershed basis. May need liability insurance for legal ramifications or requirements. Discussion followed. Supervisors would like more information at the next meeting. Ask Bob Borchert about JPB involvement.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORTS:** Gary Wagenbach said CRWP is doing some public water digitals on a county by county basis that will be on the CRWP website for future utilization. Recent

Bridgewater Township Meeting included a request signed by two landowners in Rice Creek and Health Creek Watershed requesting approximately 400 acre annexation to the City of Northfield. A 2002 Northfield ordinance establishing a 400 foot buffer around Rice Creek did not pass. Hugh Valient is involved in a possible land purchase to protect that waterway. Weed mowing in county ditches was discussed along with ditch buffers for protected waters and Rice Creek. Hiawatha Valley RC&D is having the summer meeting in Cloquet. Wally Hildebrandt said others like the PowerPoint idea for presenting information to county commissioners. Bob Duban said others appreciated Tri-Lake Sportsman's Club's participation. Carbon credits and Cap and Trade were discussed. Bob Duban encouraged everyone to visit the Rice County Fair.

#### **D.C. REPORT BY TOM COFFMAN:**

1. EQIP 09 contract approvals have been completed for 14 contracts totaling \$440,000. Seventeen other applications are not funded as yet. I converted two for buckthorn control work over to WHIP, three cancelled, leaving 12 pending for approximately \$200,000 plus. Minnesota has requested \$9 million more from Washington.
2. One WHIP contract approved for approximately \$2200.
3. One and only WRP/RIM application was also accepted.
4. People's Garden web link at [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov) has several press releases from Secretary Vilsack's office on gardening.
5. Conservation Compliance Reviews were completed. One farm was granted a variance, the rest were in compliance.

#### **DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:**

As we head into mid-summer, the focus lately has been on mid-year reports and preparation for the next year's budget. In addition, we are looking for opportunities to advance the goals of the district and at the same time find new tasks for our staff. The SWCD is officially done now with the MPCA storm water program, which means Danielle will no longer be conducting inspections on construction sites. For now, her main workload will be on feedlot runoff sites. She will update the feedlot evaluation data and work with those landowners who want assistance with a pollution reduction project. On the horizon are possible opportunities to promote conservation buffers and also to work across county lines with neighboring districts. The immediate concern however is that we may likely not have the grant resources or workload to keep the position funded for several months. The board should consider what the best course of action is on the position in the next month.

The Rain Barrel workshop turned out to be a huge success! I obtained 79 barrels from Faribault Foods and thought we would be doing well if half of them were sold. As of now, nearly all of them are spoken for and at the workshop we made 54 barrels. Enthusiasm among the participants was high and the day went off without a hitch. Part of the success is due to the Faribault Daily News putting a story about the workshop in the paper, and another big part was putting rain barrels on display around the county. We are taking names at the Rice County Fair and hope to do another workshop yet this year. Thank you to all who volunteered your time and energy.

Other activities this past two months:

- Attended a Working Lands Initiative meeting in Jordan

- Held a meeting with all SWCD managers in the Cannon River watershed to discuss a possible joint powers agreement for the purpose of securing future grants on a watershed basis. Plan is to bring concept back to local boards for their thoughts.
- Met with Mark and Allen Malecha to review erosion on a rented farm. They plan to apply for State C-S for a waterway and sediment basin.
- Took about three days off during the first week of July.

The next month I will be preparing my budget presentation for the County Commissioners, continuing to seek opportunities for Danielle, attending a SE MN SRF JPB meeting, a FEMA flood map meeting, and working on several ongoing projects.

FEMA flood map meeting is July 29 at Rice Co. Government Services Building. Health Insurance is up for renewal with a 15% increase. Rain Barrel Workshop at fairgrounds was very successful and a sign-up sheet will be at the fair booth for another workshop if things work out. Budget meeting with Rice County Commissioners is August 18 at 9:10 AM. Paul Day was chosen for the 2009 Ag Hall of Fame at the breakfast this morning. Wally Hildebrandt was also nominated. Steve encouraged all the Board to attend next year. Will schedule "Entering Rice SWCD" sign installation.

#### **DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- Five Observation Well Readings taken.
- Attended a Plat Review Meeting at Planning and Zoning
- Finished 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> year status reviews of state cost share contracts.
- Various CREP easement processing issues
- Wetland staking in the J. Jirik RIM/WRP easement
- Processed a couple of Ag BMP loan applications
- Attended BWSR Hydric Soils Training in Rochester
- Wetland Conservation Act:
  - On site reviews of four sites for wetland excavation requests
  - Attended a Technical Evaluation Panel meeting on the Spring Creek Park Wetland banking site in the City of Northfield.
  - On site review of a wetland filling complaint area.
  - Review of City of Faribault King Mill Dam site project application.

#### **NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST'S REPORT:**

- Traveled to Wabasha County to start NM plans for Tom Leisen, Wes Moechnig, and Dallas Luhmann. Also discussed feedlot fixes with Leisen and Jim Straskowski. Ran MinnFarm evaluation as well.
- Washed 80 rain barrels.
- Constructed 15-20 rain barrels throughout the month.
- Moved and set no till drill six times throughout the month.
- Attended board meeting.
- Traveled to Dodge Center to discuss Oeltjenbruns NM plan with Jeff King.
- Traveled to Goodhue to start NM plan for Chris O'Reilly.
- Attended MinnFarm training in Farmington.
- Traveled to Steele County, helped lay erosion matting on a wetland spillway. Surveying a waterway with Jim Smith.
- Worked at the rain barrel workshop all day Saturday helping participants make the barrels.
- Did preliminary survey for three basins on Petricka's.

- Traveled to Freeborn County to start NM plan for Doug Bosma.

**Nutrient Plans Started, Revised, or Completed Last Month:**

- Curt Oeltjenbruns (Dodge)
- Byron O’Connor (Rice)
- Joe Petricka (Rice)
- Tom Leisen (Wabasha)
- Wes Moechnig (Wabasha)
- Dallas Luhmann (Wabasha)
- Chris O’Reilly (Goodhue)
- Mike Lohman (Goodhue)
- Bill McMillin (Wabasha)
- Allan Meyer (Rice)
- Doug Bosma (Freeborn)

**June Ditch Service:**

- Fielded phone calls and complaints about ditches.

**DISTRICT TECHNICIAN’S REPORT:**

The JPA program ended June 30<sup>th</sup>. Before the program ended I completed inspections and worked with owners/contractors with questions on site inspections. I have also worked on the final report and final billing. I have worked with those interested in completing a raingarden on plans (location, plants, depth, etc.). Homeowners have been submitting plans for the available MN Waters raingarden money. I have been working with open lot participants to find those interested in technical assistance to correct feedlot pollution problems and be compliant with Open Lot Agreement requirements.

**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
- Reviewed SWPPP’s for compliance with CSW
- Completed weekly water testing at four sites for the Cannon River Watershed Partnership
- Visited Allen Freidges and Mark Sommers feedlots
- Assisted with the rain barrel workshop
- Attended MinnFARM training in Farmington, MN

**OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE:** Newspaper and NRCS Newsletter Articles.

**ADJOURN:** Chairman Huston adjourned the meeting at 2:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Debbie Skarupa  
Rice SWCD Admin. Assist.

Gary Wagenbach  
Rice SWCD Boardmember