

RICE S.W.C.D.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 20, 2011 – 1:30 PM

PRESENT: Dick Huston, Dale Neirby, Robert Duban, Gary Wagenbach, Steve Pahs, Tim Labs, and Tom Coffman.

ABSENT: Jim Purfeerst

Chairman Gary Wagenbach called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM.

MINUTES: Motion by Robert Duban, seconded by Dick Huston to approve the June 15, 2011 board meeting minutes. Ayes: Huston, Neirby, Duban and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Dale Neirby to accept the revised May and the June financial report and bills payable subject to audit. Ayes: Huston, Neirby, Duban and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

REVIEW KATIE RICHARDS PROBATION STATUS: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Robert Duban to remove probation status from Katie Richards. All aye, none opposed. Motion carried.

WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT FEES FOR GOVERNMENTAL UNITS: Board reviewed current fees for services provided to administer the WCA program. Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Robert Duban to charge WCA fees to all parties, both public and private except for projects from Rice County Government to be effective August 1, 2011. All aye, none opposed. Motion carried.

WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT FEE ADJUSTMENTS: Board discussed current fee schedule which has not been adjusted for several years. Motion by Dick Huston, second by Robert Duban to increase WCA fees as follows: Exemption Determinations, No-Loss Determinations, Delineation Review/Approval - \$300. Replacement plan and/or review \$500 for less than 0.5 acres, \$750 for greater than 0.5 acres. Banking plan and/or review - \$750. Increases are effective August 1. All aye, none opposed. Motion carried.

STATE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN: No action or comments.

RICE SWCD BUDGET: Steve Pahs reviewed changes in the budget sent to Rice County administration for consideration. There will be additional updates prior to meeting with the county commissioners on August 23rd, so a new budget will be brought forth to the board at the August meeting.

TREE SALE PROGRAM EVALUATION: Reviewed the 2011 tree sale and discussed quantities and numbers of trees sold. Rice SWCD sells only trees native to Minnesota (except Black Hills Spruce) and does not sell invasive species.

LEGISLATIVE LETTER: Gary Wagenbach sent a letter to our state senators and representatives to inform them of how proposed budget cuts will affect the SWCD.

RICE COUNTY FAIR: Several supervisors and staff attended the Ag Hall of Fame Breakfast to honor former supervisor Wally Hildebrandt. Steve Pahs announced Bob Kuball as the recipient of the Outstanding Conservationist Award. Steve suggested that we present the award to our Outstanding Conservationist at this event next year.

NEW BUSINESS

SEMASWCD Fall Meeting: The fall meeting will take place September 20th at the Eagles Club in Rochester from 9-3. More details to come.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN FEES: In order to meet a 25% match requirement for the CWF funds that support the NMP position, we need to charge a fee to come up with the match. Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Dale Neirby to charge a fee of \$300 for new plans, \$100 for an update, \$50 for mini-manure plans, \$25 for mini-plan updates effective as of July 20th. All aye, none opposed. Motion carried.

BWSR FARM BILL TECHNICIAN GRANT: The BWSR reduced the grant to a 0.5 FTE position, which is a 50% cut from previous levels. Motion by Robert Duban, second by Dale Neirby to proceed with accepting the new grant at the 0.5 FTE rate. All aye, none opposed. Motion carried.

GOODHUE CO. VEGETATIVE BUFFER PAYMENT –Motion by Robert Duban, second by Dale Neirby to approve VBG-2010-8 - William Budensiek-15065 Sherwood Trl-Zumbrota-Minneola Sec 22 - .63 ac - \$504.00 vegetative buffer voucher. All aye, none opposed. Motion carried.

RICE CO. VEGETATIVE BUFFER CONTRACT PAYMENTS: Motion by Robert Duban, second by Dale Neirby to approve the following vegetative buffer voucher payments:
VBR-2010-1 John Becker –2687 Millersburg Blvd- Dundas – Bridgewater Sec 17 - \$5360.00 – 6.7 ac x \$80 x 10 yrs
VBR – 2010-2 John Becker –2687 Millersburg Blvd - Dundas – Bridgewater Sec 5 & 6 - \$1600.00 – 2 ac x \$80 x 10 yrs
All aye, none opposed. Motion carried.

RICE VEGET. BUFFER DEADLINE EXTENSION AMENDMENT-Motion by Robert Duban, second by Dale Neirby to approve VBR 2010-4 Mike Lenaghan vegetative buffer deadline extension. Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neirby and Wagenbach. All aye, none opposed. Motion carried.

STEELE VEGET BUFFER DEADLINE EXTENSION AMENDMENT-Motion by Robert Duban, second by Dale Neirby to approve the following vegetative buffer deadline extensions:
VBS-2010-2- Tom Trotman – Blooming Prairie – Aurora B. Prairie – Sec 34 , 3 – 13.1 ac
VBS-2010-8 through 13 James Klecker –Owatonna-Summit, Bloom Prairie, Somerset- 30.1 Ac
Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neirby and Wagenbach. All aye, none opposed. Motion carried.

STEELE VEGETATIVE BUFFER VOUCHER PAYMENTS-Motion by Robert Duban, second by Dick Huston to approve the following Steele Co vegetative buffer contract payments:
VBS-2010-5 Bill Heers – Faribault – Merton Sec 3 & 10 - \$4200.00 – 7 ac x \$60 x 10 yrs
VBS 2010-3 Ray Vesely – Owatonna –Lemond Sec 22 - \$5100.00 – 8.5 ac x \$60 x 10 yrs
VBS2010-4 – Bill Heers – Faribault – Merton Sec 20- \$4080.00 - \$6.8 ac x \$60 x 10 yrs

VBS 2010-6 - Rod Wagner – Claremont – Havana Sec 14 - \$3180.00 – 5.3 ac x \$60 x 10 yrs
VBS 2010-7 - Hilding Johnson-Owatonna-Lemond Sec 8 - \$960.00- 1.6 ac x \$60 x 10 yrs
VBS 2010-15 – Curtis Johnson – Ellendale - Lemond Sec 8- \$180.00 - .3 ac x \$60 x 10 yrs
VBS 2010-16 – Mary Johnson – Owatonna – Lemond Sec 8 - \$1740.00 – 2.9 ac x \$60 x 10 yrs
VBS 2010 – 17 – James Cashman – Hopkins-Clinton Falls Sec 33 \$840.00 – 1.4 ac x \$60 x 10 yrs
VBS 2010-19 – Georgette Maas – Medford –Medford Sec 7 - \$1980.00 – 3.3 ac x \$60 x 10 yrs
VBS 2010-8 – James Klecker-Owatonna-Summit Sec 9 - \$4320.00-7.2 ac. X \$60 x 10 yrs
VBS 2010-9 – James Klecker-Owatonna-Bloom Prairie Sec 5 - \$3660.00-6.1 ac. X \$60 x 10 yrs
VBS 2010-10 – James Klecker-Owatonna-Bloom Prairie Sec 1 - \$5940.00-9.9 ac. X \$60 x 10 yrs
VBS 2010-11 – James Klecker-Owatonna-Summit Sec 2 - \$2220.00-3.7 ac. X \$60 x 10 yrs
VBS 2010-12 – James Klecker-Owatonna-Somerset Sec 31 - \$600.00-1.0 ac. X \$60 x 10 yrs
VBS 2010-13 – James Klecker-Owatonna-Aurora Sec 31 -\$1320.00-2.2 ac. X \$60 x 10 yrs
VBS 2010-18- Robert Heers- Owatonna- Merton Sec 30 - \$3720.00- 6.2 ac. X \$60 x 10 yrs
VBS 2010-1- Tim Simon- Ellendale-Summit Sec 18 - \$7440.00- 12.4 ac. X \$60 x 10 yrs
Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neirby and Wagenbach. All aye, none opposed. Motion carried.

STATE C-S APPLICATIONS: Motion by Dick Huston, second by Robert Duban to approve the following state cost share contract application:

CS110233 - Rice Co. Parks - Falls Creek Park- Cannon City Sec 33 - Sed Basin - \$2275.00
Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neirby and Wagenbach. All aye, none opposed. Motion carried.

STATE C-S APPLICATIONS: Motion by Dick Huston, second by Robert Duban to approve the following state cost share contract application:

CS111335 Bernard Franek-8715 Union Lake Trl-Lonsdale-WHT Sec 35 Sed Basin-\$3284.45
Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neirby and Wagenbach. All aye, none opposed. Motion carried.

STATE C-S VOUCHER PAYMENTS: Motion by Dale Neirby, second by Dick Huston to approve the following state cost share voucher:

CS110814B – Dave Topp-1010 11 Ave E – Faribault - Sed Basin- SHV 14 - \$1083.55
Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neirby and Wagenbach. All aye, none opposed. Motion carried.

STATE C-S VOUCHER PAYMENTS: Motion by Dale Neirby, second by Dick Huston to approve the following state cost share voucher:

CS100814- Dave Topp-1010 11 Ave E – Faribault – 2 Basins 2 Terraces SHV 14 - \$8043.10
Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neirby and Wagenbach. All aye, none opposed. Motion carried

1ST UNITED BANK CD MATURED JULY 14, 2011: Board discussed options for CD renewal and felt that a shorter term will be better given the low interest rates. Motion by Robert Duban, second by Dick Huston to renew the CD at 1st United Bank for 12 months at 1.25%. Ayes: Duban, Huston, Neirby and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried

USDA SETTLEMENTS: Tom Coffman, NRCS informed the board of some lawsuits recently settled at USDA regarding discrimination. He is now required to promote NRCS programs to groups such as Hispanics and African Americans.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS: Dick Huston did a beef judging event with a group of young adults, held a garden tour for his church where 90 people attended, passed around an article Reliance Bank did on their new rain garden and will not be present for the August meeting. Dick received a call two months ago on erosion into French Lake. Tim Labs followed up on it and the landowner was very satisfied with the quick response. Dale Neirby is working with his townhome

association to address soil and water concerns where he lives. Robert Duban - no report. Gary Wagenbach attended a CRWP meeting where they had an informative discussion on ag drainage and will be providing some handouts to us. There is a SWCD Governance meeting coming up September 12-13 that Gary suggested attending.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. EQIP: Much demand for conservation planning. We recently requested \$60,000 to fund two more EQIP applications.
2. CSP 2011 contracting is done. \$70,000 contracted annually for three participants.
3. Food Drive: USDA is conducting a food drive. Food from anyone is welcome. There is a box in the hall. Items will be taken to the food shelf July 27 and August 24. Extra garden produce is encouraged.
4. Kasey Taylor is the new Area 7 Assistant State Conservationist. She began her duties July 5, 2011.
5. Strip Till Expo is August 5 in Owatonna. Brochure is in the hallway.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT by Steve Pahs:

Work this past month has focused on everything from ditch inspection and spraying to grant reporting. I also took about a week of vacation time earlier this month. I had the pleasure of visiting Kuball Farms and interviewing Bob Kuball for the Outstanding Conservationist Award as he gave me a tour of the farm in his Gator.

Other activity this month:

- CD 4 complaint investigation
- Meyer farm to review erosion concerns
- Met with Dahle construction to review CD 29 cleanout
- Nugent farm to review erosion and water quality issues
- CD 25 informational meeting
- Attended Rice FAC meeting
- Held CD 12 meeting regarding potential improvement

Looking ahead, the SWCD is collecting food donations for area food shelves. If you want to donate, please see any of the staff. An EQIP work group meeting is set for July 26th at 9 am. More reporting requirements are due, and we are looking at possible grant proposals for the next round of Clean Water Fund funds.

DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT by Tim Labs:

- ❖ Attended the County Water Plan Technical Meeting.
- ❖ Four observation well readings taken.
- ❖ Continued processing of RIM/WRP easements.
- ❖ Started yearly RIM, CREP and RIM/WRP status reviews.
- ❖ Started spot checks of existing state cost share applications.
- ❖ Attended monthly plat/CUP meeting at Planning and Zoning. Review new applications.
- ❖ Wetland Conservation Act Activities:

- Approval of a replacement plan application on the Faribault Airport runway expansion.
- Technical Evaluation Panel meeting on county McCollough Park wetland replacement application.
- Approval of the Hwy 3 & 21 bike trail wetland replacement application.
- Progress check on two wetland impact violation sites.
- Checked two wetland delineations completed by consulting firms.
- Lots of miscellaneous calls and follow up on water/wetland flooding, neighbor disputes, etc.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST’S REPORT by Katie Richards:

I have been training with Kelly on surveying waterways and basins. We also have been doing CRP contract renewal checks. I have been getting in contact with those producers with 590s so I can get them certified well before the deadline. Jeff King and I have also been in contact with questions that have come up by some producers in the area. I met with a Dodge County producer to set up a manure management plan for a BWSR grant. No new plans since June board meeting but a few updated plans. Currently, I’m waiting for the government to get the budget so I can access eLink and get my plans input into it. Steve and I will be working on making a plan payment schedule for producers. Finished a CNMP and after Tom looked through it, only a couple of signatures are needed. Goodhue may be sending more plans for me to work on and assist them with in the near future. In touch with Mark Kanable for a list of CNMPs that need to be updated and what year they are in.

Plans I’ve been working on this month (all updates):

- *Hanson – Rice CNMP
- *Heers – Steele CNMP
- *Wagner – Steele CNMP
- *Baure – Rice CNMP
- *Spindler – Steele CNMP

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. Landowners are installing their filter strips through the CWF and Scott County money. I have been working with those landowners to make sure that everything is ready for spring planting. Mark Simon completed an application for WREP. He was conditionally approved with a WREP contract for 26.5 acres. Two shoreline projects have been installed this spring with assistance from the native buffer cost share.

Accomplishments Include:

- Completed proposals for CRP
- Worked with landowners that are interested in CRP
- Completed CRP modifications
- Participated in WREP panel conference call
- Discussed native plants for wet areas with the Northfield Wild Ones Chapter
- Attended SEMACDE area director meeting
- Attended Rice County Water Plan meeting

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE: News articles.

ADJOURN: Chairman Wagenbach adjourned the meeting at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Steve Pahs – District Manager

Dale Neirby – Board Secretary