



Rice Soil and Water Conservation District

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Revised Rice SWCD – Board Meeting Minutes June 17, 2009 – 1:00 PM

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

PRESENT: Bob Borchert, Wally Hildebrandt, Richard Huston, Gary Wagenbach, Tom Coffman, Steve Pahs, Danielle Waldschmidt, Adam Arndt, Michelle Schaefer from BWSR and Debbie Skarupa.

ABSENT: Bob Duban.

MINUTES: Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve the May 20, 2009 board meeting minutes. Ayes: Borchert, Hildebrandt, Wagenbach and Huston. All aye - None opposed – Motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT/BILLS PAYABLE: Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the May program summary and June Bills Payable subject to audit. Ayes: Borchert, Hildebrandt, Wagenbach and Huston. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

STAFF/SUPERVISOR TOUR: Staff and supervisors took a short tour of Ditch 32, a no-till drill demonstration from Bernie Rosckes at Chris Neisen's, L. Prescott's property, and Mark Stearn's sediment basin on June 15. Discussion followed. Board and staff felt it was very educational.

RICE SWCD LOGO: Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Borchert to approve staff picking design and ordering business cards. Gary Wagenbach will print similar one for the supervisors. Ayes: Borchert, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

MICHELLE SCHAEFER FROM BWSR: Michelle spoke on expected upcoming budget cuts and passed out a handout entitled "SWCD's - Knowing your Worth & Selling Yourself." Budgets will be tight. Discussion followed.

2009 PROPOSED BUDGET REQUEST: Budget request needs to be to Rice County by July 2, 2009. Steve Pahs spoke on the proposed budget cuts that the state will be making and various grants and fund dollars. As of June 30, 2009 the MPCA program is no longer available. Discussion followed. Supervisors felt no-till drill dollars should stay with the fund and not be spent. Ditch system and ATV's were also reviewed. Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Borchert to approve the 2010 proposed budget to be presented to the Rice County Commissioners. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Ayes: Borchert, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach.

AUDIT FOR DECEMBER 31, 2008: Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to accept the low bid of \$2,100.00 from James Maiser, CPA. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Ayes: Borchert, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach.

FY 2010 OB WELL AGREEMENT: Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to continue the OB Well Reading Agreement with the MN DNR. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Ayes: Borchert, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach.

MPCA STORMWATER TECH GRANT: MPCA Stormwater Grant was discontinued as of June 30, 2009 because of funding cuts and funding the position without a funding source would be very difficult. Discussion followed. No action was taken.

OFFICE RENTAL LEASE: A new five-year lease has been signed by St. Paul USDA with Ron Carlson for the same rent per square foot (\$16.25) and the same office space - 5,054 square feet. The local Food and Agriculture Council (FAC) have met several times to allot space for storage based on employee numbers and what the allowance is on the space worksheet. Our new combined total square footage is 1,580 square feet. For the last five-year lease it was 1,390 square feet. SWCD will sublease from NRCS. More discussion followed without any action being taken.

RESOLUTION #2009002 – CONTROLLED BURN POLICY: Steve Pahs said MCIT in a presentation said that employees participating at controlled burns could be a liability issue. Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approved Resolution #2009002 Controlled Burn Policy with minor revisions. All aye – None opposed – Motion carried. Ayes: Borchert, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach.

NATIVE GRASS BUFFER CONTRACT: Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the following Native Grass Buffer Contract:

NGB#2009001 – Joel Schema – 2550 Cedar Lake – Faribault Wells Sec#26 - \$288.00. Critical Area Stabilization. Dave Rickert will be the conservation district technical representative. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Ayes: Borchert, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach.

RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP: Steve received 79 rain barrels from Faribault Foods and will conduct a Rain Barrel Workshop on June 27th from 10:00 to 2:00 PM showing people how to assemble their own rain barrels. Flyers and sample rain barrels are on display at many businesses in Faribault and Northfield, with ads in newspapers and KDHL. Rain barrels save water, electricity, costs and soil.

FSA PAYMENT PROCESSING LETTER: CRP payments have been late in getting paid from FSA which is holding up program dollars and landowners have voiced dissatisfaction. A letter to FSA County Executive Director Evie Moore expressing concern was signed by Dick Huston.

POSTER CONTEST: Board looked at the posters received from Jefferson Elementary and chose three to go to the Area 7 meeting on July 1st.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS: Wally Hildebrandt said the Master Gardener's workshop using the "Gardening 101" Power Point presentation went fairly well. Bob Borchert reminded everyone of the Area 7 MASWCD Resolutions Meeting on July 1st at People's Coop in Rochester where Jeff Nielsen will speak on budget presentations. Bob Borchert encouraged supervisors to also attend the

Orientation and Refresher Course July 14 and 15 in St. Cloud with Danielle and Adam. Dick Huston said he gave the Rice SWCD PP presentation to about 50 people at the Rotary Club emphasizing that we serve all people in the county. Northfield News ran an editorial and Dick will be doing more presentations. Danielle will meet with Dick to consider narrating our PowerPoint and running it continuously at the fair booth. Intend to pot some prairie flowers as examples of native prairie species.

DC Report by Tom Coffman:

1. EQIP 2009
 - 28 applications
 - 1 Ag waste
 - Planned amount is for \$442,650
2. WRP/RIM signup ended June 5. We had one application and is now being considered for funding.
3. Through the efforts of Wally Hildebrandt, Steve Pahs and Diana Strain of RC&D, a gardening workshop was held by Master Gardeners in Faribault on June 10, 2009. A thank you to Wally Hildebrandt and Diana Strain for this effort.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT by Steve Pahs:

Steve spoke on the visibility articles such as ditch spraying and the rain barrel workshop. Mn Dept of Ag has a Conservation Funding Guide on www.mda.state.us that shows where programs are available.

DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT by Tim Labs:

- ☀ Observation Well Reading taken
- ☀ Attended a Plat Review Meeting at Planning & Zoning
- ☀ Off for a week of vacation
- ☀ Assisted BWSR staff with wetland surveying on the J. Jirik RIM/WRP easement
- ☀ CREP easement processing and assistance on seeding and seeding plans.
- ☀ Met with F. Vosejпка and J. Sevcik to discuss moving the wetland restoration structure for Sevcik's CREP wetland onto Vosejпка's land downstream. Fritz agreed and will be signing up for RIM.
- ☀ Wetland Conservation Act:
 - Checked several WCA violation sites for restoration and sent out satisfactory restoration letters.
 - Checked a few sites for wetland impacts for driveways and excavation ponds.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST'S REPORT by Adam Arndt:

- Looking at needs for Joe Petricka's farm.
- Going over e-Link reporting for nutrient management grant with Matt Drewitz.
- Water Sampling for Danielle.
- Attended board meeting.
- Installed new road sign with Dick Huston, Steve, and Lucas on LeSueur Co. line.
- Worked on no-till drill repairs.
- Took no-till drill to Goodhue Co. for them to use on 3 different sites.
- Contacted, delivered, and set drill for several farmers throughout the county.

Nutrient Plans Started, Completed, or Revised Last Month:

- Curt Oeltjenbruns (Dodge)

- Randy Bauer (Rice)
- Mike Lohmann (Goodhue)
- Joe Petricka (Rice)
- Scott Forcelle (Rice)
- Byron O'Connor (Rice)

May Ditch Services:

- Ditch inventory with Steve, checking for clean out needs and spraying needs.
- Checked CD26 culvert for replacement needs.
- Contacted and met with John from Terry Jon aviation for spraying county ditches.

STORMWATER TECHNICIAN'S REPORT by Danielle Waldschmidt:

I am completing inspections on sites that have started construction and working with owners/contractors with questions on site inspections. 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 people interested in shoreline restoration. I am making contacts 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
- Meet with Sandy Rayman on completing a shoreline restoration
- Completed weekly water testing at four sites for the Cannon River Watershed Partnership
- Worked on plans to correct J. Dietz's feedlot
- Visited Rick Hager feedlot
- Assisted Pete Fryer with Mark Trcka and Jim Duban feedlots
- Contacted open lot agreement participants on correcting feedlot issues

JPB ACTIVITY REPORT: None available this month.

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE: Rain garden flyer and Envirothon results were reviewed.

ADJOURN. Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Borchert to adjourn. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Ayes: Borchert, Hildebrandt, Wagenbach and Huston. Time: 3:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Debbie Skarupa – Secretary

Wally Hildebrandt - Board Secretary