

RICE SWCD BOARD MEETING

June 18, 2008 – 1:00 PM

MINUTES

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

PRESENT: Robert Borchert, Wally Hildebrandt, Richard Huston, Tom Coffman, Steven Pahs, and Debbie Skarupa. Gary Wagenbach arrived at 1:02 PM.

ABSENT: Robert Duban

FINANCIAL/BILLS PAYABLE: Motion by Bob Borchert, second by Wally Hildebrandt to approve the May Program Summary and Bills Payable subject to audit. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

MINUTES: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Bob Borchert to approve the May 21, 2008 board minutes as circulated. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

DITCH INSPECTION STATUS: Steve Pahs said the District is receiving a lot of calls about ditch inspections after the news release, including some complaints. Ditches were sprayed by helicopter this week.

LEGISLATIVE BUS TOUR: Bus Tour was cancelled due to poor response. None of the Rice Commissioners, Gary Weiers, Fran Windschitl, nor any representatives were able to attend at this time. One Rice Co. Commissioner suggested an evening meeting because three commissioners go back to work in the afternoon after their county meeting.

SUPERVISOR ELECTIONS: Filing fee is \$20.00 and filing dates are July 1 – 15th. Steve Pahs was on KDHL AM Minnesota this week and spoke on elections and district activities. Bob Duban, Dick Huston and Gary Wagenbach are up for re-election in November.

RAIN GARDEN DEMONSTRATION PLOT: Gary Wagenbach, Adam, Deb, and Steve helped Danielle dig out roots and dirt for the rain garden east of the conservation building at the Rice County fairgrounds. Twenty species of prairie plants were planted yesterday in two to three inches of wood mulch, with grass seed around the berm. Bob Borchert will contact companies asking for donated pavers. Gutters will be installed in the next two weeks. Rice SWCD will need to maintain the rain garden.

MASWCD RESOLUTIONS MEETING: Area 7 Resolutions meeting was held June 17 at People's Co-op in Rochester with Bob Borchert, Wally Hildebrandt and Steve Pahs in attendance. Bob Borchert went over the six resolutions that passed and one that failed as follows:

PASSED:

Extension of Feedlot Compliance Deadline for Disaster Counties	-	Root River
Education on Benefits of Cattle for Erosion Control	-	Root River
Forest Management Education	-	Root River
Enforcement of Conservation Plan	-	Winona SWCD
Area Poster, Mural and Video Contests	-	Rice SWCD
Tax Credit for Soil & Water Runoff Control Practices	-	Fillmore SWCD

FAILED:

Area Director Expenses at NACD Annual Convention

- Rice SWCD

Consensus was that increasing this revenue would equally increase the expenses and dues.

Discussion followed. Tom Coffman said he receives a random list to do status reviews from St. Paul. He felt it was better to work with landowners to help fix the problems and get conservation on the land than to penalize them.

NEW BUSINESS:

AREA 7 POSTER, VIDEO, MURAL CONTEST:

Five posters were received from Jefferson Elementary School in Faribault. None were chosen as winners, but they understand the concepts, and we appreciate their efforts

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. **EQIP/WHIP/WRP-** Presently, NRCS state office is planning on receiving additional funds for the remainder of this fiscal year. We currently have a dozen plus people interested in EQIP, two for WHIP and two for WRP.
2. NRCS is holding Cultural Appreciation events around the state. The nearest event to us is the State School Orphanage in Owatonna on July 8.
3. Conservation Compliance Reviews have been completed, except one. So far, everything in regards to HEL and swampbuster is in compliance on the required ten random checks.

PROPOSED 2009 BUDGET: Steve Pahs handed out a 2008 budget with projected expenses. Discussion followed. The CRP Farm Bill grant was not approved at the 25% we requested. They are cutting back. Tree sales were way down this year. Mats and tubex sales were up, possibly due to Steve's free samples and sale prices. Computer costs will increase in 2008. NRCS will supply one free computer, then another one free with a purchase of one more. Cost per computer will be \$3000.00. Steve anticipates all five staying on the NRCS network. ARC GIS license is high along with IT support. Rice County wants 2009 budget figures by July 1st. Motion by Bob Borchert, second by Wally Hildebrandt to approve the 2008 budget. This motion was not voted on because 2008 budget has been approved already. Discussion followed on the 2009 budget. Steve is asking for a 3% increase from Rice County. Adam Arndt's Nutrient Management Grant is expiring in June 2009. May get an extension. May switch to a different health insurance policy to save money. Rent will also increase if Rural Development leaves the building. Payroll totals were discussed. Steve will check on payroll expense numbers.

ADAM ARNDT'S REVISED JOB DESCRIPTION: Adam Arndt's duties will be moved around to include 75% Nutrient Management Program and 25% other duties such as ditch inspections, CRWP sampling, and no-till drill. Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Gary Wagenbach to reclassify Adam Arndt as a District Technician. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

CLOSED MEETING: At approximately 2:10 PM Tom Coffman and Debbie Skarupa left while meeting was closed and personnel rates were reviewed. Meeting was reopened at approximately 2:25 PM.

PERSONNEL WAGE RATES: Motion by Robert Borchert, second by Gary Wagenbach to move Adam Arndt to Step #1, Range 22 on the wage scale (16.68/hr) effective June 16th. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

Motion by Gary Wagenbach, second by Wally Hildebrandt to move Danielle Waldschmidt to Step 1, Range 22 on the wage scale (16.68/hr) effective June 16th. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

FAIR BOOTH: Rain garden was discussed. Board felt Adam and Danielle should do a joint project on rain gardens and nutrient management. Board members can man the booth if they so choose.

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Dick Huston to approve a minimum of one to go to the Leadership Course subsidized by NRCS, if anyone wants to go. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

RC&D DUES INVOICE: Wally Hildebrandt has asked Dorothy from Olmsted SWCD to send the RC&D dues bill to Rice County.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS: Gary Wagenbach attended the MN Environment Initiative Meeting at the request of the C.R.W.P. Dick Huston said his projects are working very well and he's seeing lots of turkeys, mallards, wood ducks, pheasants, and deer. Prairie and food plots are growing excellently. Dick would like to have the July board meeting at his house with family members invited for a potluck picnic after the meeting. Gary Wagenbach would like the August board meeting at his home. He was considering a hayride and tour at 11:00 AM to see his projects, grilling at 11:30 with the board meeting at 1:00 PM. Deb will change newspaper schedule and post on the door.

COPY MACHINE: We may not purchase Konica 7022 refurbished copy machine from the internet as may have trouble servicing it. Staff checking on prices.

TALENT SHOW AT STATE CONVENTION: Hosting area would like to know if supervisors would attend or participate in a Sunday Night talent show during the convention. Consensus was that two supervisors may attend but no-one would like to show off their talents.

SUPERVISOR COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: Motion by Gary Wagenbach, second by Bob Borchert to approve the supervisor/staff committee assignment listing. Discussion followed. Motion by Bob Borchert, second by Gary Wagenbach to amend the committee assignments for 2008 and add MASWCD Finance Committee to the bottom of the list. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT by Steve Pahs: Over the past month, a variety of activity has kept us busy. With the departure of Nicole Lehman, we have been preparing to take over her projects. Adam and I have been reviewing several drainage ditches to address concerns over cleanouts, repairs, and spraying. We are now in native grass planting season and have been moving the drill, although it has been a little slow due to the wet weather. We have been preparing the site at the fairgrounds for a rain garden, and expect to finish the project before the end of June.

Other activity this past month:

- Feedlot planning for Cheryl Olson
- Planning for bus tour
- Met with Terry/Jon to set up drainage ditch spraying
- Completed an ATV safety course

- Construction checks on Keith Rossow and Bill Heyer sediment basins
- Public meeting for CD 32 abandonment/re-alignment
- Survey of CD 32
- Water quality sampling
- Update position descriptions for some staff and hold employee evaluations

The plans for the next month are to finalize the 2009 budget, continue to process CREP easements and assist with establishment of native grasses, continue with feedlot repair projects, etc.

DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT by Tim Labs:

- ⊗ Five Observation Well readings taken.
- ⊗ Attended a meeting with Kenard Schmidke group on their CREP wetland application to discuss wetland restoration options.
- ⊗ Attended the monthly Plat Review Meeting at Planning and Zoning.
- ⊗ Reviewed the status of all the CREP applications with Nicole before she left.
- ⊗ Wetland Conservation Act Activities:
 - Reviewed eight possible wetland violations resulting from a DNR Enforcement Air Flight that was flown in the county. Sites will need field checks to determine if they are violations.
 - Completed a Replacement Order and a Restoration Order on the J & J Power Sports wetland violation site. The replacement order required double the normal 2.25:1 replacement ratio as it was an after the fact violation. J & J and the consultant, I & S Engineering, have appealed the replacement order to BWSR. No decision made by BWSR yet.
 - Met with the Twin Lakes Bluff LLC group and a proposed housing development on the north side of Cody Lake in Section 31 of Wheatland TWP. They are proposing impacts to one wetland. Reviewed their wetland delineation report.
 - Met with Willinger's Golf Club and the Suburban Sportsman's Club on a drainage dispute on their shared property line.
 - Attended a two-day wetland training session with BWSR staff in Rice and Steele Counties.
 - Met with Jerry Anderson, Corps of Engineers, and BWSR staff at the Circle Lake Development to discuss finishing their wetland replacement plan application.
 - Looked at a couple of proposed driveway sites with Planning & Zoning staff for wetland impacts.
 - Was on vacation for a week.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST'S REPORT by Adam Arndt:

- Surveying of ditch 32.
- Surveying and laying out sediment basins with Kelly Oliver and Tom Coffman.
- Attended monthly board meeting.
- No-till status reviews with Kelly and Tom.
- Delivered and set up no-till drill on three sites.
- Attended meeting with Nicole Lehman and land owners along with BWSR staff about the large wetland restoration Nicole has been working on.
- Reviewed all of Nicole's projects so that I have a little background on each one after Nicole leaves.
- Met with Terry Jon who sprays the county ditches with a helicopter. Discussed which ditches we wanted to spray this year.
- Completed FLEVAL'S for Jayme Blome and Steve Vosejka.
- Checking ditch no. 9 for malignance and possible beaver activity.
- Met with Jeff King and went over several of my completed plans. Working on CNMP's for EQIP funding.

Nutrient Plans Completed or in Progress Last Month:

- Neil Speedling (Wabasha)
- Laura Smisek (Rice)
- Ralph Michel (Rice)
- Jayme Blome (Rice)
- Ron Wegner (Rice)
- Steve Vosejka (Rice)
- Darryl Floam (Goodhue)
- Lowell Tangen (Goodhue)

MPCA STORMWATER TECHNICIAN'S REPORT by Danielle Waldschmidt: I have spent most of my time doing inspections and meeting with permit contacts to address issues on inspection reports. I have been working with the MPCA on several construction sites that have severe violations from the NPDES requirements on enforcement actions. I have also been working on plans for the rain garden at the Rice County Fair Grounds. I am putting together a workshop with the Planning and Zoning Staff, to go over NPDES requirements.

Accomplishments Include:

- Updated and organizing 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 the NPDES/SDS
- Attended Pre-Construction meetings for projects beginning this summer
- Working on enforcement cases with the MPCA
- Completed inspections with MPCA

OTHER CORRESPONDENCE: J.P.B. Reports

ADJOURN: Motion by Gary Wagenbach second by Robert Borchert to adjourn. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Time: 2:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Debbie Skarupa – Secretary

Wally Hildebrandt - Board Secretary