

RICE S.W.C.D.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 15, 2011 – 1:30 PM

PRESENT: Robert Duban, Dale Neirby, Jim Purfeerst, Gary Wagenbach, Steve Pahs, Tom Coffman, Tim Labs and Debbie Skarupa.

ABSENT: Dick Huston

Chairman Gary Wagenbach called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM.

MINUTES: Gary Wagenbach asked to have “Prairie Partners - Wild Ones Chapter” added to the Greenvale Elementary School presentation paragraph. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the May 18, 2011 board meeting minutes with that clarification. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT: Discussed later in the meeting.

SEMASWCD RESOLUTIONS MEETING: Steve Pahs and Gary Wagenbach attended the SEMASWCD Resolutions Meeting on June 14 at the Rochester Eagles Club. Four resolutions were introduced and three were passed. Our three posters on trees were the only ones received so they are the Area winners. The MASWCD stopped sponsoring the poster, mural, video contest a few years ago and the SEMASWCD continued it with dollar prizes, but only three districts participated last year.

DAN COUGHLIN GRAZING DAY: There was a Grazing Day Workshop at the Dan Coughlin Farm in Lonsdale on June 11 with about 40 people in attendance. Tom Coffman said Dan Coughlin did a good job and John Zinn, state grazing specialist, and Jason Redalen from the MN Grazing Land Initiative thanked the Rice SWCD for their \$100 sponsorship. Jim and Deb Purfeerst were impressed with the tour. Discussion followed on grazing, seeding, mowing paddocks, market demand, and windbreaks with rotational grazing. Gary suggested a news release be written and posted on the Rice SWCD web page.

NEW BUSINESS:

POSSIBLE STATE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN: Board received a printout from BWSR about possible state government shutdown starting July 1 if a budget is not approved. Steve said the Farm Bill technician position may have to do something else for two months according to Tabor Hoek. Danielle may be able to update ditch records at Rice County for Fran Windschitl. It's not certain if SWCD can work on state funded projects or wetland enforcement while state is shut down.

MASWCD NATIVE PLANT AND TREE PROGRAM: BWSR sent out a sheet recommending districts review their tree sale program and discuss selling only native trees and plants. Put on agenda in the near future.

PRELIMINARY 2012 BUDGET: Steve Pahs reviewed each line item with four possible scenarios. Districts should keep four to six month operating expenses in their fund balance and deficits are likely. Gary W. said CRWP has established a \$50,000 line of credit. Steve questioned if we need to keep the No-till drill as it is time consuming to move around to landowners. Selling a truck was discussed. A long discussion followed regarding cuts, grant funding, health insurance, state mandated programs, charging for WCA services, Swampbuster regulations and dollars that this office brings into the community. (WCA was discussed in between – See WCA below.) Budget to Rice Co. Commissioners by July 1. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve a preliminary 2012 budget based on option #1 and ask for a discussion between Tim Labs, Steve Pahs and Fran Windschitl regarding WCA funding before the budget meeting with the Commissioners. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT STATUS: Tim Labs explained that WCA is a state mandated program and SWCD has handled it since 1991. WCA balance is more than \$17,000 in the red as of May 31. Tim handled 44 wetland delineations from Co. Road #1 to Co. Road #4 which were time consuming. We haven't been charging the County Hwy Dept. Bob Duban suggested Steve and Tim talk to Fran Windschitl before the budget meeting about the WCA allotment. Tim said WCA program should be looked at as he can retire in less than two years and the job takes a lot of training. Tom said NRCS would like to pass off Swampbuster to Districts, as it's a regulatory program. (Budget discussion above continued at this time.)

TILLAGE TRANSECT SURVEY: Gary Wagenbach, Katie Richards and Danielle Waldschmidt helped Steve with the Tillage Transect Survey covering about 450 stops (every ½ mile) and 900 points in Rice County. Steve passed out results sheet showing conservation tillage is significantly down. Moldboard plowing is coming back for corn on corn. Gary suggested putting tillage survey on website or newsletter and having Tillage Committee (Bob Duban, Dick Huston, Steve P and Tom C) discuss. Jim Purfeerst suggested running a PowerPoint or having a handout at the Rice Co Ag Hall of Fame breakfast. Jim will contact Art Madson.

DNR OBSERVATION WELL READING AGREEMENT: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dale Neirby to approve the 2012 DNR Observation Well Reading Agreement. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

STATE C-S FLOOD RELIEF APPLICATIONS: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dale Neirby to approve the following state cost share flood relief contract:

CSFR110909H-William Hein-3722 220 St E-Faribault, MN Walcott Sec 20-Flood Damage Repair-\$6565.25

Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dale Neirby to approve the following state cost share flood relief contract:

CSFR110136 – Farm and Field LLC Constantine Contolatis – 2325 W. 90 St – Bloomington, MN 55431 – Bridgewater Section 36 – Two sediment control basins - \$ 6,300.00.

Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dale Neirby to approve the following state cost share flood relief contract:

CSFR1109090 – Robert Olson – 2815 Village Drive – Faribault, Walcott Sec 9 – Flood Damage Repairs - \$ 2,500.00

Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

GOODHUE SWCD VEGETATIVE BUFFER AMENDMENTS:

Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following Goodhue Vegetative Buffer Contract dollar amendments:

VBG#2010-2 Jerry Stensland 1462 Cascade St – Rochester - Mazeppa Section 7 - Acreage Change from .984 acres to 1.1 acres.

VBG#2010-6 Troy Hokanson 13610 370 St – Goodhue – Belle Creek Section 17 & 20 – Acreage Change from 6.85 acres to 9.6 acres.

Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

VEGETATIVE BUFFER VOUCHER PAYMENTS: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the following vegetative buffer payment for :

VBG#2010-2 – Jerry Stensland-1462 Cascade St –Rochester -Mazeppa Township Section 7 - Vegetative Buffer - 1.1 Ac x \$80 per acre x ten years - \$880.00

VBG#2010-6 – Troy Hokanson – 13610 370 St. – Goodhue – Belle Creek Twp. Section 17 & 20 – Vegetative Buffer – 9.6 ac x \$80/ac x ten years - \$7680.00

VBG#2010-7 – Dennis Remme - 38057 Goodhue Blvd - Dennison- Warsaw Twp - Section 30 – Vegetative Buffer – 3.5 ac x \$80/ac x ten years - \$2800.00

VBG#2010-4 – Scott Hawkinson – 28888 390 St. – Goodhue – Belvidere Twp - Section 36 – Vegetative Buffer – 9.9 Acres x \$80/acre x ten years - \$7,920.00

VBG#2010-5 – Les Schliep – 49401 195 Ave – Pine Island – Pine Island Twp – Section 21 - Vegetative Buffer - 3.4 acres x \$80 x ten years – \$2720.00

Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Vegetative buffers must be maintained by landowners for ten years.

APPROVE RICE SWCD VEGETATIVE BUFFER AMENDMENT: Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve a deadline extension from June 30, 2011 to November 30, 2011 for the following contract:

VBR#2010-5 – Rice Co Steam and Gas Engine – 11988 Faribault Blvd – Dundas – Bridgewater Twp Section 15 - .7 acres – Amend completion date to November 30, 2011 due to seeding dates.

Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

APPROVE RICE SWCD VEGETATIVE BUFFER VOUCHER PAYMENT:

Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the following vegetative buffer payment:

VBR#2010-3 – Robert Duban – 12084 Bagley Ave – Dundas – Forest Twp Section 23 – Vegetative Buffer – 5.6 ac x \$80/acre x ten years - \$4480.00. Landowner to maintain for ten years. Ayes: Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. Bob Duban abstained from voting. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

RICE COUNTY FAIR BOOTH IDEAS: Suggestions included tillage survey, trees, final windbreak pictures, rain barrels, rain gardens, invasives and tillage equipment. Steve may do booth on tillage survey. Supervisors may staff the booth.

ZUMBRO WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve \$35.00 annual dues payment to Zumbro Watershed Partnership. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

SIGNATURE CARD AT STATE BANK: Board members signed a revised signature card for State Bank of Faribault.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS: Gary Wagenbach attended the staff canoe trip on the Cannon River for the Cannon River Watershed Partnership and gave a brief report on CRWP status.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. State Conservationist Don Baloun announced the retirement of Area Conservationist John Nicholson on June 6. John retired on June 3 with few people knowing. District Conservationist Jim Fritz is Acting Area Conservationist until July 1.
2. CSP: We have three pre-approved contracts that I'm presently conducting field reviews and revising scoring.
3. CRP 41: Eight out of 12 applicants approved in Rice.
4. Conservation Planning Course was held last week on the Ron Wegner and Steve Drewitz farm. Instructors and organizers of the course were well pleased with both farms and the hospitality shown by Ron and Steve.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT by Steve Pahs:

The past two months have been full of a variety of activities. While field work was slow due to weather, I still had quite a bit of survey, design, and construction work that was done. We also wrapped up a very successful native plant sale in May. There have been many requests to view

drainage systems for cleanouts, erosion, etc. that I've been following up on. I've also been focusing on the 2012 budget as well. The no-till drill program has been very slow, but is currently being used a lot now that the weather is dry.

Other activity this month:

- Circle Lake Association meeting
- Presentation at St. Olaf class
- Conducted one personnel review with the committee
- Completed Farm Bill Grant application
- Met with CRWP staff on the CWMA grant program
- Met with CRWP, BWSR, and U of M on 2-stage ditch potential on CD 22
- Conducted the tillage transect survey
- Met with Kotek's on soil erosion concern with Comm. Steve Bauer attending

The outlook for the next month is more drainage system work, some planning for conservation projects and feedlot projects, and budgets. It would also be a good time to schedule a tillage committee meeting to discuss the survey results and decide if we want to prepare a strategy to promote more conservation tillage.

DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT by Tim Labs:

- ❖ Four observation well readings taken – yearly voucher completed
- ❖ Continued RIM/WRP Flood Easement processing
- ❖ Viewed RIM/WRP site with Jeff Hedtke – BWSR
- ❖ Meeting with contractors to get bids on two flood damage areas for state flood cost share.
- ❖ Reviewed CUP applications from Planning and Zoning for wetland impacts.
- ❖ Attended monthly Plat Review Meeting.
- ❖ Attended Xerces Pollinator training in St. Peter.
- ❖ Vacation time off
- ❖ Wetland Conservation Act Activities:
 - Hwy 3 & 21 bike trail wetland impact application review
 - DNR bike trail bridge project wetland delineation by Shager Park
 - Northfield Cannon River bike trail replacement plan approval
 - Wetland delineation review of 44 wetlands along CSAH #1 between the freeway and CSAH #4.
 - Restoration Order completed on a wetland violation on a gravel mining operation in Forest Twp that had sediment wash into wetlands.
 - Restoration Order completed on a violation in Erin Twp on a ditch that was dug into a Type 3 wetland.
 - Lots of miscellaneous WCA issues and calls.

FARM BILL TECHNICIAN'S REPORT by Danielle Waldschmidt:

I have been working on completing CRP modifications, CRP reenrollments and new CRP enrollments. 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. Reliance Bank in Faribault installed a raingarden this spring. I've been helping them with the planning.

Accomplishments Include:

- Completed proposals for CRP
- Worked with landowners that are interested in CRP
- Completed CRP modifications
- Completed Conservation Planning Course in Owatonna
- Attended Pollinator workshop: Farming for Bees in St. Peter
- Assisted with the Native Plant Sale distribution
- Discussed the CWMA and invasive species with the Northfield Wild Ones Chapter
- Meet with CRWP and Carleton about the CWMA

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST’S REPORT By Katie Richards:

I have been training with Kelly on surveying waterways and basins. We also have been doing no-till contract checks and CRP waterway checks. I am waiting on hearing back from a couple of Steele County producers. In the meantime, I have set up their maps and getting ready for their updates. They have EQIP contracts. I have completed the AgLearn courses that were assigned. End of May, I went and started my LincPass enrollment. I’ve been keeping up with MPCA procedures. I will be meeting with a Dodge County producer later in June or July to set up a MMP that will include milkhouse waste.

Plans I’ve been working on this month:

- *Spinler – Steele CNMP
- *Heers – Steele CNMP
- *Wagner – Steele CNMP

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE: News article on Reliance Bank’s rain garden set up by Dick Huston.

ADJOURN: Chairman Wagenbach adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

Board Member

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