



Rice Soil and Water Conservation District

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Rice SWCD – Board Meeting Minutes March 18, 2009 – 1:00 PM

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

PRESENT: Bob Borchert, Bob Duban, Wally Hildebrandt, Dick Huston, Gary Wagenbach, Tom Coffman, Steve Pahs, Jeff Koster, Master Gardener Judy Keogh, and Debbie Skarupa.

ABSENT: None

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION: Jeff Koster from Hiawatha Valley RC&D showed a PowerPoint presentation that he, Wally Hildebrandt and Steve Pahs put together titled “Gardening 101”. Intent was to set up an outline presentation that master gardeners or other groups could individualize for their own presentations. Revision ideas may be emailed to Jeff Koster. Board thanked Judy Keogh for her comments and for attending the meeting.

MINUTES: Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the February 18, 2009 board meeting minutes. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed – Motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT/BILLS PAYABLE: MPCA grant dollars were discussed. Temporary grants are being replaced with permanent grants that will be open for anyone who wants to apply. Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the January and February program reports and March bills subject to audit. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

MASWCD DAY AT THE CAPITOL: Steve Pahs, D. Waldschmidt, Adam Arndt, Wally Hildebrandt, Bob Duban and Bob Borchert attended the Day at the Capitol on February 23 and 24. Board felt visits with legislators were productive.

FIRE SAFE/PROJECTOR: Projector and an extra bulb have been purchased with the following donations: State Bank of Faribault - \$500, 1st United Bank - \$252.81, Affinity Plus Credit Union - \$100 and Reliance Bank - \$200. Dick Huston is taking care of the thank you’s. Thank you to all the banks for helping us educate the youth in Rice County about conservation. Dick Huston and Danielle Waldschmidt are working on a PowerPoint presentation for the service clubs. The fire and waterproof safe is still being looked into.

OFFICE LEASE STATUS: The lease will be on a month to month extension until a firm date for moving out has been set by Rural Development.

REVISED COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS: Personnel Committee was revised to have Wally Hildebrandt and Dick Huston as members with Bob Borchert as an alternate.

CONTRACTOR'S MEETING: FYI- Food for the March 25th joint contractor's meeting in Steele County with Steele and Dodge SWCD will now be paid for retroactively.

AREA 7 MASWCD ANNUAL SPRING MEETING: Area 7 MASWCD Director Bob Borchert stated the Area 7 MASWCD spring training meeting will be held April 15th at People's Coop for \$15.00 per person. Staff and supervisors were encouraged to attend.

NEW BUSINESS:

HIAWATHA VALLEY RC&D UPDATE: Jeff Koster from RC&D said the Value-Added Ag Conference held for two days in January in Rochester had 227 registrations. Eau Claire will be the site in 2010, Rochester 2011 and possibly Iowa in 2012. Current happenings, future "shovel ready" projects, and budgets were brought up.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA): SWCD staff is required to sign Attachment C saying they will not give out certain landowner information without written permission from the landowner or they could receive a \$5,000 fine. Staff has signed Attachment C, but Tom Coffman recommended board supervisors wait until the Memo of Understanding becomes effective. Discussion followed.

CANNON RIVER WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Borchert to have Steve Pahs sign an agreement with CRWP for sampling three streams in the Faribault area. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

ANNUAL REPORT: The Annual Report was approved at the February Board meeting and the final report was reviewed.

STEWARDSHIP INSERTS: Inserts have not been received yet, so they will be handed out at the April 16 meeting. Bob B- 400, Dick - 100, Wally - 200; Gary - 150; and Bob D - 600.

STATE COST-SHARE CONTRACT: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Borchert to approve the following state cost-share contract:

CS#080702 Richard Wille - 11697 210th St. E. - Kenyon, MN 55946 - Richland Twp Sec 2 - Grassed Waterway and Rock Crossing - \$5501.60. Payment will be from a partial 2008 and partial 2009 grant period. Tom Coffman is the designated Conservation District Technical Representative. No other funds are being applied to this 2008 & 2009 FY practice, and 65% is the approved cost-share amount with approximately \$550.16 in T&A.

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

SUPERVISOR REPORTS:

Bob Borchert is working on the Area 7 MASWCD meeting. Gary Wagenbach will give a CRWP summary next meeting. Wally Hildebrandt shared several ag/farming magazines with no or low subscription fees that had pertinent articles. Bob Duban spoke on subordinate sewer systems. Many septic systems are at maximum capacity. Dick Huston was on KDHL AM Minnesota. Pheasants Forever Banquet went well with money raised staying in the county. Workshops in conjunction with Rice County Planning & Zoning are April 7 on Raingardens at the Rice Co. 4-H building, May 12 on Lakescaping at Planning & Zoning, May 21 on Shoreline Design at Rice Co. Government Services Building, and May 30 is a shoreline restoration project at Shager Park. Lessard dollars were discussed. Steve Pahs will contact Gary Weiers about 5% budget cuts.

DC REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. EQIP & WHIP public comment period extended to April 18th. This will delay signup and approval period again.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:

February and early March has been full of activity. Lots of meetings and preparation for the spring workload. I have been very involved in overseeing the tree removal and ditch cleanout on CD 32A in Forest and Erin townships. Other ditch systems are also getting reviewed for needs. Tree sales have been steady, but numbers are about 25% less than a year ago. Much time has been spent coordinating all the classroom visits that are now underway, although we are still waiting on some of the materials needed to do the presentations. All three Ag and the Environment meetings held in Northfield were very informative and had good attendance. It is likely that more of these meetings will be offered again in the next year. Focus is now on spring activities including trees, ditch cleanouts, feedlot evaluations, and implementation of some CREP II plans.

Other activities this past month:

- Went to MPLS to get fingerprints and photo for federal ID card
- Day at the Capitol-met with Dahle, Day, Fritz, and Bly
- Put together a presentation for Wally H.
- Met with Larry Richie regarding milkhouse waste treatment
- Attended a Web Soil Survey orientation
- Area 7 meeting in Stewartville
- Added several items to the district website

Tree day will be Tuesday, April 21. Tree numbers are down with fewer trees on each order. Steve said Rice SWCD could not support a financial match for the shared survey equipment grant discussed at the Area 7 SEMACDE meeting. SE MN Water Resources Feedlot II grant must be spent by June 30, 2009. Tim, Danielle and Steve are working on projects. Biomass technician has been pursuing three grants for farmable buffers.

DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Completed finger printing for LincPass in Minneapolis
- Continued CREP Easement Processing
- Attended Monthly Plat Review Meeting at Planning & Zoning
- Completed Three Farmstead Windbreak Plans
- Attended a Freedom of Information (FOIA) meeting in Owatonna

☼ Wetland Conservation Act Activities:

- ❖ Met with two attorneys to discuss past WCA violations on the Sakatah Shores Development as part of upcoming litigation. Copied my WCA file for them.
- ❖ Attended WCA training on new delineation manual supplements
- ❖ Attended Advanced WCA Training in Mankato
- ❖ Met with DNR Enforcement Officer Larry Hanson to discuss ongoing WCA enforcement cases.
- ❖ Worked on ongoing files including Marty Ahlman, Sakatah Shores and J & J Power Sports

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT REPORT

- Met with Jon Schmidt to go over his plan.
- Participated in the CTIC teleconference.
- On site with Jim Dietz helping Danielle with a MinnFarm assessment.
- Attended the Day at the Capitol to speak with representatives.
- Attended NEPA training with Tom and Kelly. Jeff King went over nutrient management changes and updates.
- Attended area 7 meeting. Gave joint presentation with Dawn Bernau at the meeting.
- Created reminder postcards for March 27th workshop and mailed.
- Attended feedlot meeting in Blooming Prairie.

Nutrient Pans started, Completed, or Revised Last Month:

- Darrell Zolnowsky (Rice)
- Pat Smith (Steele)
- Dale Spindler (Steele)
- Jon Schmidt (Steele)
- Tom Sammon (Rice)
- Scott Clementson (Goodhue)
- Jon Huseeth (Goodhue)
- Darryl Flom (Goodhue)
- Gary Lehnertz (Wabasha)
- Dan Hein (Rice)
- Larry Ritchie (Rice)

February Ditch Services:

- Marked CD 32 for the start of clean out.
- Met with Glen Franek of RUDD Construction to look at ditch 32 and all portions to be cleaned. Also met with a landowner about her concerns with the clean out of CD 32.
- Researching CD 32 maps for culvert crossing that a landowner wanted fixed.
- Checking the clean out progress on CD 32 and met with concerned landowner about brush piles left from a tree service.
- Surveyed CD 32 and CD 9 with Steve Pahs.

CWMA Grant Project:

- Made phone calls to Charles Umbanhour, Ron Gatslof, and Joe McGough.
- Researching grant project.
- Worked on web page about CWMA and Buckthorn removal, to be added to the Rice SWCD website.

STORMWATER TECHNICIAN’S REPORT:

While most of the construction activity is completed for the season, I have been completing inspections on sites that were active until the ground froze. I am working on providing education to elected officials and cities. I spoke to several LGU’s about their needs for education on NPDES requirements. I met with the Rice County Planning and Zoning staff to go over the JPA program, erosion and sediment control BMP’s and NPDES requirements. I was at a City Council meeting for the City of Dundas to answer any questions about the JPA program and NPDES construction stormwater requirements. I am continuing to put together a plan for the MN Waters grant. I have met with the partners to create a plan. I have started to go over the feedlot information. I have completed site visits, completed MinnFARM’s and developed feedlot fixes for those who are interested in receiving technical assistance.

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 the NPDES/SDS
- Answered questions at the City of Dundas City Council meeting
- Meet with Rice County Planning and Zoning staff to discuss JPA program, erosion and sediment control BMP’s and NPDES requirement
- Attended Rice County Plat Review meeting
- Visited Haven Bauer, Jim Dietz and Dianne Dienst feedlots, completed MinnFARM’s and developed feedlot fixes
- Contacted open lot agreement participants on correcting feedlot issues
- Scheduled elementary school education visits about soil conservation
- Completed 2nd and 5th grade presentations at St. Dominic in Northfield on soils and soil conservation
- Attended Area VII SEMACDE meeting in Stewartville
- Attended MASWCD Day at the Capitol and met with local elected officials in St. Paul
- Meet with Rice County Master Gardeners to help with the Raingarden workshop

JPB ACTIVITY REPORT: As mailed out.

ADJOURN: Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Borchert to adjourn. Time: 2:50 PM. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Debbie Skarupa – Secretary

Wally Hildebrandt - Board Secretary