

RICE S.W.C.D.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2009

PRESENT: Bob Duban, Wally Hildebrandt, Richard Huston, Gary Wagenbach, Steve Pahs, Tom Coffman, Rice Co. Commissioner Steve Bauer, and Debbie Skarupa.

ABSENT: Bob Borchert

Chairman Dick Huston called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and thanked Rice County Commissioner Steve Bauer for attending the meeting and luncheon.

MINUTES: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve the October 21, 2009 board meeting minutes. Ayes: Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye -None opposed - Motion carried.

FINANCIAL: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the October Program Summary and Bills Payable subject to audit. Ayes: Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye -None opposed - Motion carried.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. Ten CSP applications were submitted last Monday for funding consideration.
2. Fall construction is well underway. Late harvest has slowed progress.
3. Lots of ruts on HEL. Having quite a few calls about fall tillage on soybean stubble.
We do allow spot tillage of NHEL portions of HEL fields.

N.R.I. CONTRIBUTION REPORT: NRCS St. Paul office has not finalized the budget so at this time there is not any money available for a contribution agreement. .

WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT AWARD: A luncheon was held today at Joe's Sports Café honoring Bernie and Sally Rosckes for their conservation and wildlife efforts. They received a plaque from Rice SWCD and Jerry Groskreutz from KDHL did a radio interview. Bernie and Sally Rosckes have 30 acres of wetland restorations, CRP, hardwood tree plantings, food plots, native prairie grasses and wildlife tree plantings in Wheatland Township.

MASWCD ANNUAL CONVENTION: Bob Borchert, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Duban, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Huston, three members from the Tri-Lakes Sportsman's Club, and Adam will be attending. SEMASWCD (Area 7) will not be having a basket this year and supervisors are asked to bring auction items to the convention. Dick and Glenda will be donating two Timber Wolves tickets. State Conservationist Bill Hunt wanted to give Wally Hildebrandt an award at the convention for his 50 years of service as a Rice SWCD supervisor, but Wally is not planning on going to the convention this year. Wally was elected as a Rice SWCD supervisor in November 1959 and started January 1, 1960. Resolution vote tally was not discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

CLEAN WATER LEGACY GRANT: Cannon River Watershed Partnership is preparing the grant through Clean Water Legacy funding focusing on filter strips along areas that require 50 foot buffers by DNR Shoreline regulations watershed-wide. Rice SWCD as fiscal agent could get 5% administrative

costs for handling and distributing the dollars. District Farm Bill technicians would do most of the work and CRWP would have the promotional role. Grant is around \$200,000 to \$300,000 with most of the dollars going to landowners for buffer strips.

CWMA CONTRACT APPROVAL: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following Cooperative Weed Management Area BWSR Grant:

CWMA#200901-Rice Co. Parks & Facilities (Joe McGough) - Cannon River Wilderness Park – Bridgewater Section 26 – Buckthorn Removal - \$6,000.00

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

SAND CREEK/SCOTT SWCD FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT: Danielle Waldschmidt did a feasibility assessment on Sand Creek and Porter Creek in Wheatland and Webster Townships for Scott County. This upcoming Thursday night there is a landowner meeting in Jordan to get information to and from interested landowners. Rice SWCD will receive \$2000.00 for her efforts.

RICE CO. DITCH INSPECTION CONTRACT: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Duban to approve a two-year Ditch Inspection Contract with Rice County. Maximum project costs are now \$15,000 and reimbursement rates are \$35.00 per hour and some expenses. Both Adam and Steve will seek Pesticide Licenses even though we don't use restricted use products at this time. Ayes: Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

STATE COST-SHARE VOUCHER: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the following 2009/2010 state cost voucher:

CS#090708-Harvey Edel-11707Kasota Trail-Kilkenny, MN 56052-SHV Section#8-Sediment Basin - \$1299.03

Ayes: Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. This practice does meet the high priority definition, 65% is the approved c-s amount with approximately 10% T&A, and slippage will be returned to the 2010 cost-share funds.

DATE FOR PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING: Wally Hildebrandt and Richard Huston of the Personnel Committee will meet with Steve Pahs on December 11 at 9:00 AM for personnel reviews.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS: Gary Wagenbach said Cannon River Watershed Partnership is also experiencing financial funding situations. Dick Huston said DNR Forester Angela Brown has dollars for Buckthorn control for property under easements. Dick and Glenda had six youth with parents, DNR and Pheasants Forever personnel at their place for a first-time hunting experience. The youth, ages 13-16, are the only ones allowed to carry a gun. A program payment summary sheet from MASWCD was discussed.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:

There is a Rice Co. Coalition of Lakes Association meeting at the Government Services Building on November 24. Steve and board thanked Debbie for 15 years of service. Tim Labs will have 30 years of service in this coming April.

Activity since the last meeting has increased substantially with field work now being done. In the first week of November, Adam, Deb, Danielle and I attended the BWSR Academy training. We learned a

ton of information and will put it to good use. I have been working on several construction sites with Adam. He is quickly learning how to survey and design sediment basins and tile surveys. On Tuesday, November 10th, the county board approved a new contract for ditch services with us. They had several positive comments about how we are performing the duties of ditch inspector. Danielle has begun her new assignment and is now working in Steele and Waseca counties part of the time.

Other activity this month:

- Werner basins construction
- Petricka basins construction
- Edel basins construction
- Assisted Jim Jirik with a DNR grant application
- Working with CRWP to prepare a grant proposal for conservation buffers

PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT:

- ✿ Observation Well Readings taken and posted on the web.
- ✿ Completed AgLearn computer Security Awareness course.
- ✿ CREP easement vouchers and easement processing.
- ✿ RIM/WRP easement processing.
- ✿ Notification to two landowners on their expiring RIM easements.
- ✿ Wetland Conservation Act:
 - Viewed several wetland delineations on Rice County Highway Department projects.
 - Viewed a potential wetland violation site near Cedar Lake in Section 26 of Shieldsville Twp.
 - Met with landowner and attorney on steps needed to complete a wetland banking application in Bridgewater Twp.
 - Viewed county C.U.P. applications for any wetland impacts or issues.
 - Viewed a wetland violation site in Wells Twp. where fill was deposited in a wetland on a culvert replacement project.
 - Approval notification on a "No Loss" application for the Rice County Highway Department on a bridge replacement project on Wolf Creek by Fox Lake.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST'S REPORT:

- Surveyed and designed Tim Little sediment basin with help from Steve.
- Attended Heath Care meeting with insurance agents.
- Attended board meeting.
- Laid out and surveyed sediment basins on Harvey Edel's.
- Completed security and behavior awareness training.
- Completed alfalfa stand counts.
- Laid out, surveyed, and designed Gary Rock w/w and tile main with help from Tom Coffman.
- Attended BWSR Academy in Brainerd.
- Laid out and surveyed sediment basins and tile main on Petricka's.

Nutrient Plans Started, Revised, or Completed Last Month:

- Gary Lehnertz (Wabasha)
- Lars Polson (Wabasha)
- Dan Hein (Rice)

October Ditch Services:

- Viewed crossing on JD6 with renter Brian Kosel. Wants driveway widened for equipment.

- Checking beaver dams on CD4, south side of Caron Lake. Landowner is going to have them removed.
- Viewed JD6 crossing with Steve and talked to landowner Lowell Hellevick, denied request to widen crossing.
- Checking side inlet request from Ernst on CD 23.

FARM BILL TECHNICIAN’S REPORT:

I have been working on the Cooperative Weed Management Grant to complete buckthorn control, a workshop, volunteer day and a weed management plan. I have completed a feasibility and accessibility assessment for the Sand Creek Watershed for sediment and erosion control practices. I have been working with open lot participants to find those interested in technical assistance to correct feedlot pollution problems and be compliant with Open Lot Agreement requirements. I attended the BWSR Academy in Brainerd. Over the three day period there were numerous topics covered including feedlots, Green Acres, MinnFARM, native plant implementation, completing TMDL’s on a watershed basis, emerald ash borer, sharing resources across LGU boundaries, bio-retention, etc. I learned a lot from the training. I spoke about raingardens at the DNR ‘Our Waters, Our Choices’ event. There was a great turn out for the event and there were two people from that event that are interested in installing a raingarden.

Accomplishments Include:

- Completed Raingarden presentation at ‘Our Waters, Our Choices’
- Attended BWSR Academy in Brainerd
- Listened in on NRI teleconference
- Completed feasibility and accessibility assessment for Sand Creek Watershed
- Nominated Northfield United Methodist Church for the community enhancement award from MSHS

JPB MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: Not received.

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE: Board again thanked Rice County Commissioner Steve Bauer for attending the meeting.

ADJOURN: Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Duban to adjourn. Time: 1:45 PM. Ayes: Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

Debbie Skarupa
District Secretary

Wallace Hildebrandt
Rice SWCD Board Member