

RICE SWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES
1810 30th Street NW - Faribault
October 15, 2008

At 1:00 PM the board carpooled to the Faribault Energy Park for a tour of the 265 megawatt facility powered by a 220,000 HP gas turbine engine. It is owned by MMPA (MN Municipal Power Agency) a co-op of cities that does not include Rice County. This is a peaker gas plant that can be powered up quickly to add power during shortages. Long term plans include adding wind and solar education areas. Thank you Doug Klar and Shawn Metzger for the presentation and tour and to Wally Hildebrandt for setting up the tour.

Chairman Robert Duban called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

PRESENT: Wally Hildebrandt, Robert Borchert, Gary Wagenbach, Robert Duban, Richard Huston, Steve Pahs, Brad Carlson from the extension office, Chris Hughes from BWSR and Debbie Skarupa

ABSENT: Tom Coffman. Jennifer Ronnenberg from Zumbro Watershed Partnership did not attend.

Brad Carlson gave a brief update on Extension happenings including fall strip-till tours, a biomass harvest study, and a rotational tillage study. They will be moving to the 4-H building November 1st.

Chris Hughes from BWSR explained that he will be Dave Peterson's replacement as our Board Conservationist for now. Michelle Schaefers, a former DC from Iowa, may be assigned here at a later date. Steve Lawler, from Rochester, will be our wetland coordinator and Kane Radel from Marshall will deal with wetland issues in SW Minnesota.

MINUTES: Motion by Dick Huston, second by Bob Borchert to approve the September 17, 2008 board minutes as mailed. Voting affirmative: Borchert, Duban, Huston, Hildebrandt and Wagenbach. All aye – None opposed – Motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Motion by Bob Borchert, second by Dick Huston to approve the September 2008 Program Summary subject to audit. Voting affirmative: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach.- None opposed - Motion carried.

BILLS PAYABLE: Motion by Bob Borchert, second by Dick Huston to approve Bills Payable subject to audit. Voting affirmative: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye – None opposed – Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

RICE DITCH INSPECTION SERVICES STATUS: Steve Pahs will prepare a presentation for the Rice County Commissioners on the ditches. Many large dead trees. Gary Wagenbach would like to see more information available on ditch history, what's been sprayed and where, etc. Steve may add a ditch services page to the website. Fran Windschitl working on GIS info. Bring up again at a future meeting.

VEHICLE OWNERSHIP/BUDGET PRESENTATION: Ownership of the two pick-up trucks has been transferred to Rice SWCD as of October 14 per Steve's request. We will purchase gas from the county at their cost which is about \$.25 less than at the pumps. Steve Pahs handed out projected budget sheets showing an estimated \$12,000.00 deficit for 2008.

ADOPT-A-HWY: Bob Borchert looked into different roads to clean and suggested County Road 18 leading out of town on 9th Ave on the south side of Faribault. We will do a clean-up this year by a phone survey if the signs are put up in time.

ENTERING RICE SWCD SIGNS: LeSueur County SWCD wants to go in on half a sign on Hwy #60. Goodhue SWCD wanted half on Hwy 60 East towards Kenyon, but that is our newest sign and still in good shape. Steve Pahs will see if LeSueur will do two signs and then contact Dick Huston.

PRETAXED H.S.A. AUTHORITY: Paragraph allowing employees to pay a portion of their medical insurance deductible pretaxed, meaning that portion is not subject to federal, state, social security or medicare tax deductions was all that was needed. Auditor said no paperwork needs to be sent to the IRS.

FIRST AID TRAINING: Rice SWCD is signed up for October 30th from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

BAIL OUT VOTING RECORDS: Was just FYI handout sheet. No comments were made.

NEW BUSINESS:

MASWCD RESOLUTION PACKET: Board members returned their voting ballot sheet today and Deb will transfer and mail in original ballot sheet due at the MASWCD by October 31st

MASWCD CONVENTION: Convention will be December 7-9 at Crowne Plaza - St. Paul Riverfront. Parking was discussed. Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Dick Huston to authorize staff to attend the convention. Voting affirmative: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Bob Borchert will find out what Rudie Spitzer wants to do about an area basket for the auction. Bob Borchert donated some items by himself last year. Board expressed sympathy in the passing of Freeborn SWCD Supervisor Obert Haldorson.

DEDICATED SALES TAX AMENDMENT: The 3/8 of 1% sales tax increase bill that will be on the November 4th general election ballot was discussed. Public funds cannot be used to promote a position, but news releases can be used.

MINNESOTA WATERS MEMBERSHIP: Membership dues were a prerequisite to obtaining a rain garden grant which Danielle has applied for to get \$5,000 to complete ten rain gardens. Motion by Bob Borchert, second by Dick Huston to approve \$50.00 for membership dues to Minnesota Waters. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT AWARD LUNCHEON: Dick Huston is the 2008 recipient of the Rice SWCD Wildlife Enhancement Award. He will contact Debbie to see if November 19, December 17, or another date and time work best with his schedule.

BIOMASS TECHNICIAN FUNDING REQUEST: BWSR is funding \$40,000 towards a Biomass Conservation Technician position through a farm bill assistance grant. The technician would be stationed in Scott County to find new ways to develop grassland production for energy, i.e., harvested

grasses on CRP or easements etc. Scott SWCD is asking SWCDs within a 50-mile radius (Rice, Carver, LeSueur and Scott) for \$3,000 each to help with funding. Discussion followed. Wally Hildebrandt spoke on the nutrient value of turkey manure and the inefficient cost of hauling it as a fuel source. Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to disapprove participation in the \$3000.00 biomass technician funding request at this time, but may reconsider in the future with other details. Voting affirmative: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

COUNTY DITCH #32: The CREP project for Robert and Nancy Elfering was discussed. A petition has been sent to the Rice County Commissioners requesting replacing old tile lines with new 12" tile. Public Hearing is scheduled for December 16.

NACD NATIONAL CONVENTION: Convention is in New Orleans February 1 through the 4th. Steve checked into approximate costs which were; \$365 round trip flight, \$425 registration, and \$671 for lodging. Bob Borchert will be attending as Area Director and Area 7 MASWCD will be covering the expenses.

STATE C-S FEEDLOT CONTRACT: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Borchert to approve the following 2009 state cost-share feedlot contract:

CSF#091331- Mark Trcka-8675 Lark Trail-Montgomery, Wheatland Sec 31 – Ag Waste System – 46,000.00.

Voting affirmative: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed –

Motion carried. Pete Fryer is the designated Conservation District Technical Representative. EQIP funds are being applied to this 2009 FY practice, 75% is the approved cost-share amount and \$4,000.00 will be the approximate T & A amount. The \$500.00 earnest money will need to be collected.

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

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

CS#081430 – Milt Olson –7648 200th St. E. – Faribault – Wheeling 30 –Sediment Basin - \$6500.00.

Thomas Coffman is the designated Conservation District Technical Representative. 2008 and 2009 State C-S funds will be applied to this practice. The approved cost-share amount is 65%, and \$650.00 will be the approximate T&A amount. Voting affirmative: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye – None opposed – Motion carried.

CLEAN WATER LEGACY STATE COST-SHARE CONTRACT: Motion by Dick Huston, seconded by Bob Borchert to approve the following Clean Water Legacy State Cost-Share Contract:

Charles Wagner- CWL#2008-001 – 10461 Jacobson Path – Morristown 3 - Sediment Basin - \$7027.50.

Steve Pahs will be the designated Conservation District Technical Representative. State cost-share funds of \$7027.50 with zero T & A will be applied to this 2008 FY practice. Seventy-five percent is the approved cost-share amount, and there is no T&A amount with the Clean Water Legacy contract. Voting affirmative: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye – None opposed – Motion carried

SUPERVISOR'S REPORTS: Dick Huston will have disadvantaged teenagers hunting on his property on October 25th as a Pheasants Forever sponsored event sanctioned by the DNR. Carlander's will also have some teenagers hunting on their property. Wally Hildebrandt said the RC&D is looking for projects similar to handicapped fishing and handicapped boat landings to educate people on conservation. Rice County Sportsfishing Association could be contacted. Gary Wagenbach said Dave Legvold will be resigning from CRWP in October due to personal reasons. He helped the Cannon River Watershed Partnership rebuild and will be missed. Hiawatha Valley RC&D is no longer the fiscal agent for the Zumbro Watershed District.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman: Not received.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT by Steve Pahs: Field activity is now in full gear. Adam and I have been very active with drainage ditch work. County ditch #15 was cleaned out, and we have been working on CD 23, 32, 4, 25, and 9 as well. Working with staff to finish grant reporting and billing, as well as new grant applications for Minnesota Waters and Clean Water Legacy funds. Completed tillage transect data for Rice and LeSueur counties.

Other activity this past month:

- Continuing to line up a First Aid/CPR training session for Area 7 employees to be held this month.
- Surveyed and designed a sediment control basin for Dennis Krenz
- Attended a 2-day TMDL conference in Mankato. The focus was on looking at ways to reduce sediment buildup in Lake Pepin.
- Attended the Kids Health Day in Faribault and set up a booth.
- Updated the district web site with tillage data.
- Working with neighboring counties to get support for road signs.
- Preparing tree program for 2009 season

Over the next month we will be completing several projects in the field, attending first aid training, and lining up more projects for the remaining funds. We will also be doing a newsletter next month. Danielle and I will attend a training session for stormwater inspectors with MPCA, and should be getting word on the future of the program very soon. FSA is undergoing an audit on the CRP program which may result in some changes in the way we assist with the program. .

PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT by Tim Labs:

- ❁ Observation Well Readings completed.
- ❁ Took some vacation time off
- ❁ Attended a two-day Lake Pepin TMDL workshop in Mankato
- ❁ Attended monthly plat review meeting at Planning and Zoning.

- ❁ Continued with processing CREP easements
- ❁ Reviewed the revised wetland restoration construction on the Leonard Gruber RIM easement in Forest Township.
- ❁ Wetland Conservation Act:
 - Site check at J & J Power Sports to view and certify completion of their WCA Restoration Order.
 - Reviewed a wetland replacement monitoring report on the Parkland Village Development in Faribault.
 - Reviewed a Wetland Replacement Plan application for the City of Lonsdale to construct a bike trail along part of Idaho Street. (Approximately .60 acres of impacted wetland.)
 - Field visits with Planning and Zoning staff to view potential wetland issues with septic systems and driveways.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST'S REPORT by Adam Arndt

- Attended Area 7 Meeting in Stewartville.
- Completed water sampling each Tuesday morning.
- Attended a strip till demonstration at Morgan's Ag Service.
- Helped lay fabric on Allan Meyers waterway.
- Surveying with Steve Pahs on Fred Wenthe's Circle Lake project.
- Participated in the CTIC teleconference, looking at promoting Nutrient Management in SE MN to reduce the Hypoxia zone in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Completed a MinnFarm evaluation for Mike Sogla.
- Surveyed sediment basins with Tom Coffman on Milt Olson's and Dick Nielson's.
- Traveled to Wabasha to start NM plan with Gary Lenhertz.
- On site with Tim Pieper to start NM plan.
- Surveying sediment basin with Steve Pahs for Hackett.

Nutrient Plans in Progress or Completed last Month:

- Gary Lenhertz (Wabasha)
- Tim Peiper (Rice)
- Steve Luhman (Wabasha)
- Mike Sogla (Rice)

September Ditch Services:

- Contacted Allan Kuseske about joining MN Drainage Ditch Association.
- Surveying CD23 for clean out purposes.
- Met with Rud Construction, Scott Glende, Joe Simon, and Tupy Tree Services to receive bids on cleaning out CD32.
- Hired Joe Simon to complete repairs on CD25 on John Skluzacek property.
- Made contacts to contractors for CD23 clean out.
- Checked final clean out on CD15.

STORMWATER TECHNICIAN'S REPORT by Danielle Waldschmidt: I have been completing 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. With the raingarden installation completed, I have been working on maintaining the raingarden. I am working with the DNR to gain more information on completing a shoreline improvement demonstration project and the DNR shoreline grant program. I have also been working on a grant application with Minnesota Waters for raingardens education and implementation.

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
- Worked on enforcement cases with the MPCA
- Completed site inspections with MPCA contact Shawn Nelson
- Finished grant for raingarden education and implementation from Minnesota Waters
- Staffed booth on environmental topics at Kids 4 Health Day
- Toured raingarden and shoreline restorations with DNR
- Attended Area VII Meeting in Stewartville

JPB MONTHLY REPORT: Not received.

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE: Bob Duban will call Duane Hohrman to see if the no-till drill can be stored at the 4-H building at the Rice Co. Fairgrounds this fall. Harvesting canary grass was discussed.

ADJOURN: Motion by Bob Borchert, second by Gary Wagenbach to adjourn. Voting affirmative: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Time: 3:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Debbie Skarupa
Rice SWCD Secretary

Wallace Hildebrandt
Board Secretary