

**Rice SWCD Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 16, 2009 – 7:00 PM**

Vice Chairman Robert Borchert called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Rice County Commissioners Galen Malecha and Jeff Docken were introduced and thanked for attending the meeting.

**MINUTES:** Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve the August 19, 2009 board meeting minutes. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, and Hildebrandt. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the August Program Summary Report and Bills Payable subject to audit. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, and Hildebrandt. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

Chairman Richard Huston arrived at 7:05 P.M.

**PRESENT:** Bob Borchert, Bob Duban, Wally Hildebrandt, Dick Huston, Steve Pahs, Tom Coffman, Rice County Commissioner Galen Malecha, Rice County Commissioner Jeff Docken and Debbie Skarupa.

**ABSENT:** Gary Wagenbach

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NRCS WOMEN'S AG DAY:** John Nicholson cancelled the Women's Ag Day scheduled for September 2, 2009 due to poor registration numbers. Meeting will be rescheduled for a less busy time of year.

**POSSIBLE CANNON RIVER WATERSHED JPB:** District Managers in the Cannon River Watershed have met twice and decided to use the SE MN Water Resources Board because they already have a director and a structure in place. LeSueur County is not interested in participating. Steve explained that new grants prefer to see improvements on a watershed basis instead of county lines. A technician could be shared.

**AREA 7 MASWCD FALL MEETING:** The Area 7 MASWCD Fall Meeting was today, September 16, 2009 at the Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch in Stewartville. Board felt it was a productive meeting and thanked Bob Borchert as Area 7 Director for his work setting up the meeting. Wally explained how Bob Bardwell started the ranch after a construction accident left him a paraplegic. Bob Borchert said the 75 in attendance was the highest number in seven years (33 out of 55 supervisors). NRCS State Director, William Hunt, announced he will be retiring in a few months after 44 years of service with NRCS.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**TRI-COUNTY BUFFER CWL:** Beth Kallestad from CRWP is working on a Tri-County Buffer Clean Water Legacy grant for shoreline buffers for Rice, Waseca and LeSueur Counties.

**UPPER CANNON IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT (UCIP) (LeSueur Co.):**

LeSueur County Water Planner is actively seeking water quality funding for Ag BMP shoreline practices and environmental practices. The application total is \$200,000 of which \$12,000 could come to projects in Rice County and for technical work.

**MOU WITH SCOTT CO. FOR CWP WORK:**

Watershed Management Organization is looking to do access work in Erin, Wheatland and Webster townships for Sand Creek. Chairman Huston explained to Rice County Commissioners Galen Malecha and Jeff Docken that the Rice SWCD Board has asked Rice SWCD staff to seek grants to maintain expenses for the MPCA Storm water Technician position that was funded until June 30. Total amount would be a maximum of \$2000.00 at \$26 per hour.

Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the Memo of Understanding application with Scott County to do urban storm water BMP's on the Cannon River. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

**HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN REQUEST:**

Danielle Waldschmidt has requested reimbursement for health insurance instead of the SWCD health insurance coverage and has purchased her own plan. Steve Pahs stated that the personnel policy needs to be revisited in the near future regarding health insurance coverage. Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve paying Danielle Waldschmidt reimbursement for health insurance premiums. Discussion followed. Vote: Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

**P.R. & I – LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:** Item will be tabled until the next meeting for Gary Wagenbach's comments.

**STATE FEEDLOT COST-SHARE EXTENSION:** Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve a completion deadline date extension until January 31, 2010 for:

CSF#080818 – Scott Marik-17691 LeSueur Ave- Kilkenny-Ag Waste System-Shv-Sec#18 –

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

**NACD ANNUAL CONFERENCE:** NACD Annual Conference is scheduled for January 31 – February 3 in Orlando, Florida. Cost is \$935.00 per person plus airfare. Bob Borchert will be attending as Area 7 SEMASWCD Director. See Steve if interested.

**BWSR ACADEMY TRAINING:** Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Borchert to approve staff going to the BWSR Academy training in November in Brainerd for a cost of \$70.00 per person. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

**FARM BILL TECHNICIAN WITH STEELE & WASECA:** Steve Pahs spoke with Dan Arndt, district manager from Steele SWCD, and Marla from Waseca SWCD about sharing a technician three ways as their joint Farm Bill Technician took a job with NRCS. BWSR funds 75% and the districts fund 25%. Discussion followed. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Bob Borchert to support Danielle Waldschmidt applying for joint farm bill technician position shared with Steele, Rice and Waseca SWCD's. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach.

**OFFICE RENTAL AGREEMENT WITH NRCS:** Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve a rental Memo of Understanding (MOU) with NRCS to pay \$8,238.00 for 869 square feet of office space at \$16.25 per square foot for March 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Steve Pahs to draft a rental agreement with building owner Ron Carlson as neither NRCS nor FSA want to sublease to SWCD. Tom Coffman stated that office rent has increased because SWCD staff has increased. Annual rent will be \$14,121.25.

**C.S.P. MEETING:** Tom Coffman stated there will be a Conservation Stewardship Program meeting September 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am in the conference room.

**STATE COST-SHARE CONTRACTS:** Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following state cost-share contract application:

#090117 – John Becker – 2687 Millersburg Blvd-Dundas-Bridgewater Township Section #17 – Waterway - \$2515.50. Steve Pahs is the conservation district technical representative.

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

Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following state cost share contract application:

#090704-Kevin Hildebrandt-404 Forest St-Kenyon-Richland Section #4 – Grassed Waterway - \$1625.00. Tom Coffman is the conservation district technical representative.

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

**SUPERVISOR REPORTS:** Wally Hildebrandt said there will be a RC&D Meeting September 28. Secretary position vacated when Diana Strain moved to Wisconsin will be filled by January 1. Dick Huston will assist Chris Neisen with this prairie burn this fall. Stormwater collection pond algae in Bloomington was discussed. Bob Duban asked Steve to send formal request for education funding to the Tri-Lakes Sportsman's Club. Tri-Lakes sponsored the booklets for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades soils presentations done at most of the Rice County elementary schools this past year.

**DC REPORT By Tom Coffman:**

1. Kelly had a baby boy, "Noah Russell" on August 28. Baby and she are doing fine. She will be on leave until end of October.
2. Construction is underway. Projects were recently completed in Erin and Shieldsville Townships. One is in process in Walcott. Two will begin next week with one in Richland and one in Webster.

**RICE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:** Galen Malecha thanked SWCD for the job we do saying most people don't understand what you do. Galen felt the next two years will be difficult budgeting years with 2010 being worse than 2009. Dick Huston has been to five or six service clubs explaining the SWCD mission and is willing to go to whatever clubs are interested. Jeff Docken gave two thumbs up for the education presentations the SWCD has held for school students. Ditch program was discussed. The cost benefits of spraying trees in ditches before they get larger was discussed. Element, Platoon and Tordon are being used. Tom Coffman stated that NRCS appreciates the county buying and updating high resolution aerial photography. It makes our conservation planning job easier and more accurate.

**DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT by Steve Pahs:**

Adam and I have been doing some ditch inspection work this past month on CD 32A and CD 25. We removed a ¼ mile of trees on CD 25 and sprayed the stumps. Also sprayed new growth on CD 32A where trees were removed in March. I toured the Koda Energy facility in Shakopee to learn how the use of grasses will work in their facility. The 2 older trucks have needed some maintenance this month, but we are still at or below projected vehicle expenses for the year. There have been more talks with surrounding districts about the best way to leverage funds on a watershed basis. Instead of creating a new JPB, we are going to see if we can expand the SE MN Water Resources Board to include all the counties in the Cannon and use that entity to apply for grants.

I attended the annual MASWCD Education Committee meeting on September 2<sup>nd</sup> in St. Paul. The group reviewed current education plans for staff and supervisors. Also looked at training and education needs for the future. I will be reporting on this at the Area meeting.

Last, I continue to work on the current and future budget. At present, it looks like we will be about 30K in the red by year's end. There are some possible projects that will offset that number some, but the reality is we are still going to lose money this year.

## **DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT by Tim Labs:**

- ✿ Four observation well readings taken
- ✿ Attended a Plat Review Meeting at Planning & Zoning
- ✿ Continued CREP easement processing and completed seeding vouchers
- ✿ Processed an Ag BMP loan application
- ✿ Took some vacation time off
- ✿ Wetland Conservation Act:
  - Met with the developers and consultant of the Circle Lake Estates Development on Circle Lake on what is needed to complete their replacement plan and re-instate their banking plan.
  - On site with DNR staff at the Big Woods State Park to review some wetland areas on a proposed stream crossing area.
  - Attended a meeting with the Assistant County Attorney and the DNR Conservation Officer to discuss the status of a wetland violation
  - Reviewed a report on the proposed Koch Pipeline repair project on any wetland impacts.
  - Various calls and reviews of wetland activities including wetland excavations and driveways.

## **NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST'S REPORT by Adam Arndt:**

### **Nutrient Management Report by Adam Arndt:**

- Attended a manure demonstration day in Dodge County.
- Wrote article on the CWMA project.
- Visited CWMA site.
- Discussed CWMA with Danielle and Debbie, decided Danielle will take the lead on the project.
- Met Todd Peipho in Owatonna office and helped him with a Nutrient Plan.
- Went over NRCS certification forms with Gary Lehnertz.
- Went over NRCS forms with John Wartheson.
- Dawn Bernau in Rice office helping me install new NM software/mapping program.

**Nutrient Plans Started, Revised, or Completed Last Month:**

- Steve Arndt (Steele)
- Jeff Beckman (Goodhue)
- John Wartheson (Wabasha)
- Gary Lehnertz (Wabasha)
- Dennis Samuelson (Goodhue)
- Lars Polson (Wabasha)

**August Ditch Services:**

- Researched, made phone calls, and bought a new 50 gal. ATV sprayer.
- Picked up, assembled, and tested ATV sprayer.
- Picked up chemicals from Owatonna office. Figured out mix ratio and sprayed CD 25 with Steve.
- Sprayed CD 32 with Steve.

**DISTRICT/STORMWATER TECHNCIAN'S REPORT by Danielle Waldschmidt:**

I have been finishing the requirements for the MN Waters grant. I compiled information for a final report for MN Waters. I estimate that 2800 square feet of raingardens have been constructed with over 500 hours of volunteer time. I have been working on writing a grant for the Clean Water Partnership. The Cooperative Weed Management Grant has been passed on to me. I am working on determining what needs to be completed to finish the grant by the end of the grant period. 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 have been completing weekly water testing for CRWP.

**Accomplishments Include:**

- Completed weekly water testing at four sites for the Cannon River Watershed Partnership
- Attended Sand Creek CWP meeting in Scott County
- Meet with feedlot owners regarding correcting pollution problems
- Completed shoreland restoration plan
- Completed final report for MN Waters grant

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to adjourn. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Time: 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Debbie Skarupa – Secretary

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Bob Borchert  
Rice SWCD Board Member

