Introductions were made and Chairman Jim Purfeerst called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

MINUTES: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Jerry Courson to approve the September 10, 2014 board meeting minutes. Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL: Items on the program record were reviewed. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dale Neirby to approve the September financial reports and the bills payable subject to audit. Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

SE MASWCD AREA 7 JOINT FALL MEETING: Board felt the Fall Joint SEMASWCD Area 7 meeting held September 22, 2014 at Valley Grove Historic Site was a good meeting. They appreciated Senator Dan Sparks from Austin and Representative Jeanne Poppe, also from Austin, attending. DNR Forester Dick Peterson, Wildlife Biologist Myles Bakke and Professor Mary Savina gave presentations. Doug Thomas from BWSR spoke on funding options. Gary Wagenbach thanked Ashley and Debbie Skarupa for helping set up the meeting and the Board thanked Gary for all his work.

RICE CO ATV/FEATHER LITE TRAILER/SPRAYER STATUS: Steve Pahs has gotten quotes to replace the stolen ATV, Feather Lite trailer, and sprayer owned by Rice County and used for ditches. This item will go on the County Commissioner’s agenda October 28. Insurance will pay around $7,000 - about half of the replacement costs.

CLEAN WATER FUND (CWF) NUTRIENT MGMT FUNDING: Steve has applied for a new Clean Water Fund Nutrient Management Grant. We will know in December or January if it was approved.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE – ASHLEY: Ashley attended a two-day workshop at Arrowwood put on by MASWCD. How to maintain relationships with elected officials was on the agenda. Day at the Capitol sessions are good, but they suggested also meeting legislators for coffee or another time when they are not in session. Another item covered was a session on six forms of persuasion,
NEW BUSINESS:

MASWCD RESOLUTION PACKET:  
All the board members signed the master resolution ballot and two members will email Debbie their voting ballot. Master resolution ballot is due to MASWCD by November 1st.

2015 BUDGET UPDATE:  Steve said he requested about a 15% increase from Rice County and received a 3% increase, so he will need to make at least $10,000 in adjustments to balance the budget. Steve will meet with Rice County Administrator Tony Murphy later this week. We will need to approve the final budget in December.

OTHER:  Bob Duban said he met with Rice County Commissioners. Tony Murphy said they are receiving a $46,000 grant for invasive species control. Bob was wondering about it going to the Parks Department. The state has no guidelines for distribution. Bob suggested asking for $10,000 for projects to eliminate sediment on lakes and streams or for landowners for lakeshore restoration. Need to request Tri-lakes’ donation soon. Lake association grants, DNR lake invasives, law signage, and other invasives like buckthorn and purple loosestrife were discussed. Steve Pahs could do a letter.

DEPT OF AG- NUTRIENT MGMT PROPOSAL:  
Department of Agriculture wants to do two half-time positions in SE to do nitrate management in high risk areas of the southeast river counties. Would have to get one position to work in focus areas of Goodhue and Fillmore. Plots would be set up with farmers to run basal stalk nitrate tests. Not recommended for our part of the state. Will put on November agenda.

WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT AWARD LUNCHEON:  Debbie to set up luncheon for 2014 Wildlife Enhancement Award recipient Judith Bechtum after the November or December board meeting.

2015 STATE COST SHARE CONTRACT APPLICATION:  
Motion by Jerry Courson, seconded by Dale Neirby to approve the following 2015 regular state cost share contract application:

CS2015-1 Three Sisters Lakeside Farm, LLC – 1400 Cannon Circle Suite #2 –Fb. (Upper Midwest Management – Farryl Kluis) Wells Section17-1 sediment basin - $1199.00.

Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried. 2015 cost share is at 50% rate.

SCOTT SWMO#13-57 RAY LARSON CONTRACT VOUCHER:  Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Duban to approve Scott County WMO Sand Creek payment as follows:

Raymond H Larson-6044 Olinger Circle-Edina-55436-Grassed waterway-Wheatland 5&8-$3,422.70. Scott County will pay Ray Larson the project amount of $3,422.70.

Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.
**EARNEST MONEY REIMBURSEMENT:** Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the reimbursement of $500.00 earnest money to Ray Larson for the Sand Creek Scott Water Management Organization project as project is now complete. Rice SWCD will receive $875.00 from Scott WMO for T&A. Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach.  All Aye.  None opposed. Motion carried.

**CLEAN WATER FUND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT FUNDING:** Our application last year was not funded and Clean Water Funds for the nutrient management position will only carry us until early 2015.  Do we seek a half-time position and partner with Department of Ag for two years specializing more on groundwater pollution and Karst areas of Goodhue and Wabasha Counties?  Steve will meet with Mn Department of Ag about funding a half-time position.  Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dale Neirby to authorize Steve Pahs to apply for Clean Water Funds for nutrient management.  Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby, and Wagenbach.  All Aye.  None opposed. Motion carried.

**CWMA CONTRACT DATE EXTENSIONS:**
Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Jerry Courson to approve extending the deadline date to June 8, 2016 for the following Clean Water Management Area brush management contracts:

- CWMA-12-001 Rory Groves-6200 133 St. E-Northfield-Bridgewater Sec 25 – 390.29
- CWMA-12-002 Laurie Meuwissen-11580 Ingot Trail Lonsdale-Erin Sec 15 - $280.00
- CWMA-12-004 Judith Bechtum-6010 Dent Ave-Webster-Webster Sec 21 - $1188.95
- CWMA-12-005 Paul Douville-4700 230 St. E.-Faribault- Walcott Sec 10 - $1785.48

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

**STATE C-S FLOOD RELIEF AMENDMENT:**
Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Jerry Courson to approve the following 2013 flood relief cost share contract amendment #2 to increase the cost to $34,733.25:

- FR13-003 Tom Furlong-5998 177 St. W-Faribault-Wells 7 - $34,733.25

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

**STATE C-S FLOOD RELIEF VOUCHER PAYMENT:**
Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the following 2013 C-S Flood Relief voucher payment:

- FR13-003 Tom Furlong-5998 177 St. W. Faribault-Wells Sec 7 –Grade Stabilizer - $34,733.25.  Phase 2 and Phase 3 dollars are being used for this project.

Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach.  All Aye.  None opposed. Motion carried.
STATE COST SHARE FLOOD RELIEF CONTRACT PHASE #3
Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following state cost share flood relief contract:

FR13-017 Eleanor Salisbury Trust-1100 Farhaven Crt-Nfld-Grade Stabilizer-$31,402.42

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

EPA PROPOSED RULE ON “WATERS OF THE US”
Copies of several letters to the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and US Army Corps of Engineers were mailed to the board regarding the “Waters of the US Under the Clean Water Act.” Much Discussion followed. EPA documents were driven by a court case. Farm Bureau has taken a stance. This could affect NRCS practices and wetland issues. Difficult to discuss this issue in a short amount of time. At times it is difficult for landowners when several different agencies are involved in a project and with different federal, state and county levels. If all waters are connected, could affect tile drainage and ditches. Deadline for public comment is October 20 or may be extended to November. Should a letter from the board be submitted? Board felt more homework needed to be done. Put on next board meeting agenda.

PERSONNEL POLICY UPDATE- WAGE DISCLOSURE
Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Jerry Courson to approve the Personnel Policy Handbook revision recommended by MCIT about Wage Disclosure and insert into the Employee Handbook as follows:

Wage Disclosure Protections

Under Minnesota Statutes Section 181.172(a), an employer shall not:

• Require nondisclosure by an employee of his or her wages as a condition of employment;
• Require an employee to sign a waiver or other document that purports to deny an employee the right to disclose the employee’s wages;
• Take any adverse employment action against an employee for disclosing the employee’s own wages that have been disclosed voluntarily.

However, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 181.172(b), nothing in the statute shall:

• Create an obligation on any employer or employee to disclose wages;
• Permit an employee, without the written consent of the employer, to disclose proprietary information, trade secret information or information that is otherwise subject to legal privilege or protected by law;
• Diminish any existing rights under the National Labor Relations Act; or
• Permit the employee to disclose wage information of other employees to a competitor of his or her employer.

STATE COST SHARE FLOOD RELIEF AGREEMENT 2013 PHASE #4: Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the State Cost-Share 2013 Phase #4 BWSR grant agreement in the amount of $141,307.00. Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby,
Purfeerst and Wagenbach.  All Aye.  None opposed. Motion carried. We get T&A based on hourly rate.

**“GETTING STARTED GRANTING” WORKSHEET:** Bob Duban asked the board to take 15 minutes and complete the worksheet to see what is required to get a grant and how to convince someone to give you the grant. He felt the worksheet that he received at the water conference was very useful information and a good blue print for grant writing. Discuss again at November board meeting.

**OTHER/SUPERVISOR REPORTS:** Gary Wagenbach had certificates made for all SE Area 7 retiring supervisors and supervisors not seeking re-election. Steve Connelly will sign and Dorothy at Olmsted SWCD will mail out. Gary spoke on One Watershed One Plan, water related perspectives and the book titled Life in the Soil, which he suggested the District purchase two copies. He and Steve are giving a public presentation November 3 on flooding. Bob Duban has served two years on the MASWCD Awards Committee and gave an update on awards at the upcoming convention. Circle Lake’s fundraiser marathon was very well attended. Dollars go towards Circle Lake improvement projects. Jerry said Roberds Lake sewage project is done and he will attend the BALMM meeting next week. Jim said Hiawatha RC&D is working on the Fugles Mill project that is about five miles SE of Rochester and was purchased in the 1980’s. Longhorns may be used instead of goats for some invasive plant projects. Jim said Nerstrand Elevator has a 360 HP John Deere Tractor ETS machine for rent.

**D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman/Nicole Schaffer:**

ECP – Emergency Conservation Program- FSA has a 30 day sign up form with a deadline of October 17. They have received ten applications.

EQIP - The next EQIP deadline is October 17, 2014, followed by November 14 and a December 19, 2014 deadline. Rice had 20 EQIP contracts funded for about $380,000 in the last round of funding and we now have 117 projects on a master list with greater needs than funding. Flood related rainfall patterns have increased and so have workload requests. Ashley, Colin, and Tom do most of the work in house.

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

Workload remains high for erosion control and flood damage projects, with two of them being completed this month. We anticipate several more to be completed this fall. I’ve been busy with a variety of things, from training in Travis, to wetland violations, ditch projects, and grant applications. I also completed about a dozen RIM easement inspections. I am working on an agreement with the Mn Department of Agriculture to fund a half position to do nutrient management plot work on nitrate management. This proposal will likely be ready by December.

We are very close to receiving an additional allocation of 2012 Flood Relief dollars for some projects in the Northfield area. If funded, this would put our total at nearly $730,000. This is more money than the past 25 years of State Cost-Share combined! Most of the projects will be completed by next spring, or at the latest, the fall of 2015.
Tim Labs continues to assist with WCA workload. It is getting close to the time to search for a new technician to fill this position, so I’ll be discussing that with the board at the November meeting.

Also coming up will be annual personnel reviews and wage adjustments.

Construction season will be busy. The CREP 100 acre wetland restoration easement in Morristown, with several landowners, is being completed and was discussed. He will be meeting with Tony Murphy about the future of the district. Flood prevention, holding water on the land, and partnerships could be mentioned. Rice will receive almost $750,000 in Flood Relief funds. Steve will attend pesticide training. Steve said we are one position short and need to discuss or change position descriptions around. We can’t get by without Tim Labs.

**FARM BILL TECHNICIAN’S REPORT By Ashley Tabery.**

**Past Month:**
- Many CRP contracts, site visits and appointments
- Construction checks on Estrem’s
- Ditch 33 meeting on September 11th to talk about buffers and CRP
- Leadership training in Baxter
- Move drill to two landowners
- Scott WMO payments, vouchers and processing
- RIM: pre-construction at Rosckes, check on structure at Hennek, Cons Plan/Abstract for Nielsen
- Planning for and attending SEMACDE meeting on 22nd
- Water plan meeting
- Picked up lincpass in Minneapolis
- Stake/Survey/Design tile for Petricka, now ready for construction
- Soils presentation at Goodhue outdoor education day
- Site visits to talk about CRP/RIM for multiple landowners

**Upcoming:**
- State cost-share inspections
- Continue to move Nielsen RIM application forward
- Construction on Petricka & Salisbury/Bauer
- Prepare for fall construction
- Needs on many farms, work with Colin to divide

Goats make better infiltration and a healthier forest.

**NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST’S REPORT by Travis Hirman:**
I have been getting familiar with the activities of the district and my personal duties here. E-mail and computer access has been made available. Spencer visited to help show me the nutrient planning software. I attended an Excel training program and will attend the fall CCA update in Paynesville. We are currently working on an MMP for Bob Carroll in Dundas.
**OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE:** Articles.

**ADJOURN:** Chairman Purfeerst adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

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Jerry Courson - Board Member