RICE S.W.C.D.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 12, 2014 - 9:00 AM

PRESENT: Robert Duban, Jerry Courson, Jim Purfeerst, Gary Wagenbach, Steve Pahs, Travis Hirman, Ashley Tabery, Debbie Skarupa, Tom Coffman, and Laurie Svien from Zumbro Watershed Partnership.

ABSENT: Dale Neirby

Chairman Jim Purfeerst called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and Executive Director of the Zumbro Watershed Partnership, Laurie Svien, introduced himself.

MINUTES: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Jerry Courson to approve the October 8, 2014 board meeting minutes. Ayes: Courson, Duban, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

ADOPT-A-HWY: Staff cleaned the 9th Avenue SW roadside ditches after the October 8th board meeting.

INVASIVE SPECIES CONFERENCE – DULUTH GARY W: Gary Wagenbach attended the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC) in Duluth October 20-22. The conference had 680 in attendance and he reported on Beltrami County’s invasive issues, goats, grazing projects, Invasive Control Inc, Great Lakes Early Detection Network- GLEDN, privacy issues, fire burns, education and outreach, Dow Chemical, chemical/mechanical spraying, and media resources. Bob Duban met with County Commissioners about the approximately $46,000-$47,000 grant they received from BWSR. Next year’s grant will be about $67,000. CRWP will hire a .75 FTE Community Engagement Coordinator to organize and communicate with the public. Should staff meet with Trent and Julie and then invite them to a board meeting? Steve Pahs will meet with Julie Runkel.

DEPT OF AG NUTRIENT MGMT GRANT: Steve is working with MDA for a half-time position for nutrient management work to introduce farmers to basal stalk nitrate testing and should have a contract at the December board meeting.

EPA PROPOSED RULE ON “WATERS OF THE US”: Item was tabled at the October 8, 2014 board meeting for further research. Discussion followed. NACD has a position statement dated October 30, 2014 supporting the mutual goal of the Clean Water Act, but opposing any expansion of the Clean Water Act. Farm Bureau has a chart on stream numbers changing from about 77,000 to approximately 140,000, making it harder to get projects on the ground. Rice County sent in a letter opposing the changes. Bob felt most counties have the ability to do a good job with clean water concerns.
GETTING STARTED GRANTING – HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT: Item was tabled from the October meeting. Bob Duban brought back a questionnaire sheet from a water conference on applying for grants. Discussion followed on items needed to consider when applying for grants.

NEW BUSINESS:

NOVEMBER 4TH SUPERVISOR ELECTION: The following supervisor districts were on the ballot:

- District #2 Richard Cook – Jerry Courson – Rick Elsen
- District #4 Todd Lien - Jim Purfeerst
- District #5 Richard Peterson and Todd Rost

Supervisors elected were: Richard Cook, Jim Purfeerst and Richard Peterson. Discussion followed on media and candidate information. Jerry Courson said he was honored to have been appointed to fill the vacancy and will stay in contact with the board. The Board thanked Jerry for his years of service. He will be missed.

ZUMBRO WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP: Executive Director Laurie Svien spoke on data on the FTP site, monitoring sites on the Zumbro River when it’s raining for flow data and concentrations, river levels, educational signage, and MN Historical Society’s upcoming history of the Zumbro. He is working with the MPCA to develop a WRAPS document which will be the foundation for One Watershed One Plan and is doing both the Cannon River and the Zumbro River. Goodhue has finished Lake Pepin. His tillage survey results were disappointing and non-ag use is up 9% since 1985. Rice SWCD tillage survey doesn’t record building sites, and rolls to the next field. ZWP’s ten year anniversary is coming up in March. Buffer ordinance, Olmsted County’s private plane aerial pictures of buffers, and using Lidar to ID gullies were discussed. Steve said he may receive a request to improve Ditch #12 which would increase capacity with affects downstream. Steve and Gary gave a presentation on flooding and how to keep water on the landscape longer to infiltrate. Ditch 12 and flooding was discussed. Buffers do help.

JIM PURFEERST COVER CROP: Results from the cover crop fields at the Jim Purfeerst farm were close. Three different seed methods had just a few bushels difference. Three cover crops had yields of 227, 232, 231 and 229 – basically no reduction. Seeds flown in look better – more evenly distributed. Gene Kuntz from CRWP is working on a summary and a cost benefit analysis. The value of reducing erosion, nitrate tests, and next year’s crop yield were also discussed. Cattle are eating the radishes. We appreciate all Jim’s time and effort with cover crops.

TRI-LAKES SPORTSMEN’S CLUB DONATION: We received $1000 from Tri-Lakes Sportsmen’s Club for educational events and materials. May receive $1500 next year. Suggestions for use were: Youth education 5th grade field day, station at River Bend Nature Center when youth are there for field trips, Envirothon expenses, $100 to each school for travel expenses to Envirothon, poster contest, and SWCD newsletter mailing. Thank you Tri-Lakes for your generous donation.
MASWCD CONVENTION DECEMBER 7,8,9 IN BLOOMINGTON:
Auction donations were discussed. Jim will bring Isaacson’s toy tractor from last year, Bob will look into other sources. Clyde and Bryan Eggum will come Monday evening with their wives and are registered for the hotel and supper Monday night. Gary Wagenbach suggested working with legislators and Rotary Club to communicate the need for base funding. Doug Thomas is using Goodhue SWCD’s numbers for essential services amounts. Day at Capitol is in January next year. Board would like to meet up with Steele County Supervisors at the convention to discuss Day at the Capitol.

WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT POSITION: Steve Pahs discussed the WCA position, the 100% match requirements, and that if we return the job to Rice County we would still be required to do some level of workload and receive about $5,000 annually. Tim Labs has been a blessing and he couldn’t have done it without him. Will discuss further at the Personnel Committee meeting on December 5.

CANCELLATION STATE C- S FLOOD RELIEF CONTRACT:
Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to cancel the following 2013 Flood Relief Phase # 2 as follows:
FRCS13-011 Robert Kluver-30251 Eveleth Ave-Northfield- Nfld9  Sediment Basins $29,686.50
Ayes: Courson, Duban, Purfeerst and Wagenbach.  All Aye.  None opposed. Motion carried.

SCOTT SWMO#14-0 DAN SULLIVAN CONTRACT APPLICATION: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Jerry Courson to approve Scott County Water Management Organization Sand Creek Contract #14-0 as follows:
SWMO#14-0 Dan Sullivan-30095 151 Ave-New Prague-Wht 4-Filter Strip $4200.00
Scott WMO will pay for project. Rice SWCD will receive $875.00 for T&A.
Ayes: Courson, Duban, 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 Phase #2  cost share contract amendment to increase the cost from $5,895.45 to $15,872.85
FR13-008 Ken Sherwin-13108 Kane Ave- Northfield-Nfld 21- Waterway to $15,872.85
Ayes: Courson, Duban, Purfeerst and Wagenbach.  All Aye.  None opposed. Motion carried.
Tom Coffman discussed waterway seeding mixtures.

STATE C-S FLOOD RELIEF VOUCHER PAYMENT: Motion by Jerry Courson, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following 2013 C-S Flood Relief Phase #2 voucher payments:
FR13-013-Estrem Farms-13864 Kane Ave-Nerstrand-Nfld Sec27 - 15 Sed Basins- $9,082.80 This is the final payment using Phase #2 funds.
FR13-008 Ken Sherwin-13108 Kane Ave-Northfield-Nfld Sec 21-W/Way - $15,872.85
FR13-016 – Leonard Petricka-15414 Shieldsville Blvd-Wells #5-4 Sediment Basins - $7,211.25 Phase #2 Funds.

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

**STATE C-S 2015 CONTRACT APPLICATION:**
Motion by Jerry Courson, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the following 2015 State Cost share contract application at 50% cost-share:

CS15-2 James Story-200 7th St-Kenyon-Richland Sec 3-One Sediment Basin- $1,320.00

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

**BWSR FLOOD RELIEF PH#2 40% REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST:**
Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Jerry Courson to approve the 2013 BWSR Flood Relief Phase #2, 40% reimbursement request financial report. Fifty percent was received at first and has been paid out, so the next 40% is being requested. Ayes: Courson, Duban, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**APPROVE CWMA#12-002 VOUCHER:**
Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following Cooperative Weed Management Area Contract #12-002 payment:

CWMA12-002 – Laurie Meuwissen-11580 Ingot Trail Lonsdale- Erin Sec 15 – Buckthorn/Brush Mgmt $280.00

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

**STATE C-S 2013 CONTRACT AMENDMENT:** Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Jerry Courson to approve amending the John Ross CS130419 State Cost share to extend the date to December 1, 2015 as follows:

CS130419-John Ross 6491 130 St. W. Lonsdale-Forest 19- Sediment Basin - $5969.70-12/1/15

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

**STATE C-S CONTRACT DATE AMENDMENT:** Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Duban to approve an amendment to extend the due date from 12-1-14 to 12-1-15 for the following contract:

CS14-001 Eldon Turek-15765 Leroy Ave Kilkenny – Shv Sec 6 – Terraces - $6,387.77

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

This is a regular 2014 state cost share contract.

**WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT AWARD LUNCHEON:** An award luncheon will be held for Judith Bechtum at Gran Plaza Mexican Restaurant today at 12:00.
SUPERVISOR/OTHER REPORTS: Jerry Courson went to the BALMM meeting in Rochester on October 15 and ground water and well management were discussed. Permit applications have increased five times over the past five years and aquifer draw down is a concern. Want to observe 7000 wells. There is a resolution addressing the need to monitor wells by private landowners. Mapping discharge into streams uses dye to see flow rates. Huge numbers of tires are still being pulled from rivers. Bob Duban said health insurance rates have greatly increased for the Joint Powers Board personnel. Gary spoke on flooding issues and linking MDA pollinator PDFs to the website. CRWP has a balanced $350,000 budget.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. Staff Update: Nikki had a baby girl on November 1 and will be on leave until after Christmas. Colin’s mother passed away last Saturday so he’s on leave until tomorrow.

2. Construction: We have completed several jobs, but many more need to get completed in order to meet the EQIP 12 month commencement deadline. Cold weather will end the dirt work approximately one month earlier than normal. Minnesota weather is not an acceptable excuse for National Headquarters. Therefore, there has to be dirt work started within the first 12 months in order to avoid termination and possible liquidated damage. Most of our EQIP contracts are approved during summer months so if work can’t get completed the first fall, they will need to do it the following spring or summer to avoid penalty.

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT by Steve Pahs: Not received.

FARM BILL TECHNICIAN’S REPORT By Ashley Gallagher.

Past Month:
• Water plan brainstorm and meeting
• Construction and checks on Salisbury, Petricka
• Needs with Jim Story
• Drill to Forcelle, Hanson, Spitzack, Faribault Foods
• Flood Relief info into eLink, organizing folders and TA
• Monitoring site visit, started to prep for winter
• State cost-share inspections
• eLink reporting for Flood Relief
• Vouchers and paperwork for multiple contracts
• Carleton talk on conservation easements
• Sullivan CRP and Sand Creek estimates/applications/site visits
• Bartusek CRP filter strips/infeasible-to-farm waiver, and contours
• CRWP meeting on water access
• Time off for wedding

Upcoming:
• State cost-share inspections
• Continue to move Nielsen RIM forward
• Construction on Ross, Turek, Three Sisters, Larson, Story
• Needs on many farms, work with Colin to divide
• eLink reporting for all cost-share programs

**NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST’S REPORT by Travis Hirman:**

• I now have complete access to all of the computer programs and services that I need.
• I met with Dawn Bernau and Matt Kruger to go over some of his projects, and learn about nutrient management from Dawn. It seems as though Matt will provide me with a fair amount of work. As of now he has lead me to one new plan and one update.
• I have completed my first update of a plan for Dale Spindler in Owatonna. I have also completed 3 manure spreader calibrations.
• I met with Jeff King and John Boyum (Fillmore NM specialist) to receive training. I will continue to work with Jeff to complete my training and receive authority to work on EQIP NMP’s.

**OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE:** Articles. Board thanked Jerry Courson for his years of service as he will not be able to attend the December board meeting.

**ADJOURN:** Chairman Purfeerst adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

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Jerry Courson - Board Secretary