RICE S.W.C.D.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 8, 2014 – 9:00 AM

PRESENT: Robert Duban, Dale Neirby, Jim Purfeerst, Gary Wagenbach, Steve Pahs, Ashley Tabery, Collin Schoenecker, Debbie Skarupa, Tom Coffman and Spencer Herbert.

ABSENT: Jerry Courson

Chairman Jim Purfeerst called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

MINUTES: Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the December 11, 2014 board meeting minutes. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: December Financial report is not finished due to year-end. Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the bills payable subject to audit. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:
BWSR ZUMBRO RIVER WATERSHED PRAP: Steve Pahs went over the report analyzed from the survey on the Zumbro. The conclusion was there is communication between counties, but there is room for improvement. Steve to forward Beth at CRWP a copy. Survey sent to county and district employees, supervisors, and commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS:
ROTATE SUPERVISOR POSITIONS: Supervisor positions were rotated for 2014 as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Jim Purfeerst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice Chairman</td>
<td>Gary Wagenbach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Robert Duban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Jerry Courson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.R. &amp; I</td>
<td>Dale Neirby</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

P.R. & I (Public Relations and Information)

APPROVE 1ST UNITED BANK AS OFFICIAL DEPOSITORY: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dale Neirby to approve 1st United Bank in Faribault as the official depository. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

APPROVE FARIBAULT DAILY NEWS AS OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dale Neirby to approve the Faribault Daily News as the official
newspaper. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**APPROVE IRS MILEAGE RATE:** Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dale Neirby to approve the IRS mileage rate of $.56 for 2014. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**APPROVE BILLS PAYABLE:** Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following fees and dues payable for 2014:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coalition</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NACD</td>
<td>$775.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASMCD</td>
<td>$2866.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE Joint Powers Board</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Envirothon</td>
<td>$175.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question was asked how MASMCD arrives at the amount of dues. Sheila Vanney does a nice job as lobbyist. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**AGRI-NEWS SUBSCRIPTION:** Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Bob Duban to approve paying a two-year subscription to Agri News for $69.33. Agri News provides good coverage for us. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**VEHICLE SUMMARY FOR 2013:** Steve reviewed miles driven and fuel costs for the four vehicles (2002 Chevy was sold in November of 2013) as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vehicle</th>
<th>Miles Driven</th>
<th>Fuel &amp; Maint.</th>
<th>Cost per Mile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002 Chevy</td>
<td>6,853</td>
<td>$1,309</td>
<td>$.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 Chevy</td>
<td>9,492</td>
<td>$2,816</td>
<td>$.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 Dodge</td>
<td>8,273</td>
<td>$1,905</td>
<td>$.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 Dodge</td>
<td>1,687</td>
<td>$ 400</td>
<td>$.24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nutrient Management Grant is charged for Spencer’s mileage. Board thanked Steve for his report.

**APPROVE FLOOD RELIEF C-S VOUCHER PAYMENT:** Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dale Neirby to approve the 2013 Flood Relief Cost Share voucher payment as follows:

FR13-009-Mark Rydberg-11792 Jacobs Ave-Northfield-Four Sediment Basins -$21,575.07
Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Steven Pahs was the designated district representative for this 2013 Flood Relief cost share contract at 90% cost-share.

**OTHER REPORTS:**

**WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT & FOREST STEWARDSHIP AWARD:** Ken Sahlin, Karin Winegar, and Gary Wagenbach accepted the 2014 combined Wildlife Enhancement and Forest Stewardship award on behalf of the Valley Grove Preservation Society on
December 8 at Boston’s. Board was impressed with the number of outside people who stepped up to help preserve and maintain the Valley Grove Church and surrounding property.

SOIL HEALTH MEETING: Tom handed out a soil health sheet he made and spoke about the last Soil Health Meeting at the Cheese Cave. Meetings are meant for farmers to discuss their thoughts and experiences. Not sure what physical structure will be left on the tillage radish sites in the spring. Coverage on soil health has been in many places. Gary mentioned Dave Brandt from Ohio and his 50 minute video on the NRCS website and also national science magazine’s coverage on soil health. Livestock help soil health. Tom mentioned cover crops seem to deter root worm problems and are beneficial in many ways. Bob Duban said rotation with alfalfa may be key to weed control.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS: Dale Neirby passed around a Grassland Planner from Aurora County South Dakota and spoke on six inch ring test. Rainfall was able to percolate further down with less runoff in managed pastureland. Similar to sprinkler system in North Dakota that Bob, Jim and Tom toured. There is more infiltration when more organic matter is in the soil. Gary Wagenbach said Cannon River Watershed Partnership will move to downtown Northfield. Jim Purfeerst is on Hiawatha Valley RC&D Executive Committee. Suzy Meneguzzo has left RC&D and John Beckwith is taking over in the interim. RC&Ds, watershed partnerships, citizen engagement councils, land area, diversity and wildlife habitat were discussed. Gary Wagenbach asked about topics for a possible Area 7 spring supervisor meeting to be put on the February agenda. Jim asked about putting together a sheet on reduced state cost share funds for the Day at the Capitol. Steve felt if we had tax levy authority we could get more projects done. C.S.P. was discussed. Gary Wagenbach mentioned the Northfield Climate Summit on January 18, 2014 at St. Olaf.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. EQIP is presently being rolled out. The new payment schedule will be out this month. We presently have 18 applications and 46 more names on the list that require a needs determination and planning appointment. MN EQIP allocation for FY 13 was 27 million. For 2013, it is down to 21 million.

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT by Steve Pahs:
BWSR Board Conservationist Tom Gile is working with other BWSR staff to schedule a future meeting on the possibility of a soil erosion ordinance. CRWP is hosting a meeting January 23 from 9:00 to 11:00 on developing a water plan based on the watershed. Steve will attend the Climate Change Summit January 18 but may not have a booth. He handed out a sheet on MN DNR Draft Blufflands/Rochester Plateau Subsection Forest Resource Management Plan, the Northfield Summit and BWSR’s comment period for One Watershed, One Plan Boundary Map. He will meet with Scott County for cost share assistance projects and an additional agreement from 319 EPA funds. JPB meeting is January 29 in Rochester.

The past month has been relatively quiet, with many people in the office taking some time off, including myself. I’ve been working on a few flood relief projects and will continue to prepare them in the next few months. We had a decent fall construction season, although it came to an abrupt and earlier stop than we would’ve liked. The focus now will be on preparing for the spring projects, tree orders, and preparing reports. There is also a lot of talk in the Zumbro and Cannon watersheds about doing a One Water plan. I will be participating
in those discussions and keep you informed of any plans for developing a watershed based plan. I’m also working with BWSR staff to get more information on soil erosion ordinances so we can schedule a meeting on that topic soon.

Other activity this past month:

- Attended a PRAP meeting in Rochester. Looked at ways we are collaborating with other LGU’s in the Zumbro watershed and where we can improve.
- Attending annual Rice County Water Plan technical committee meeting to review progress.

FARM BILL TECHNICIAN REPORT by Ashley Tabery: Ashley is working with EQIP needs.

Past Month:

- Completed and submitted CWMA grant
- Meet with Bruce Albers and Gary Reuvers to discuss possible projects, and project with Tom Noonan.
- Needs for Greg Solheid on stream bank and crop erosion.
- Completed cost-share spot checks for 2013 and mailed inspection info and necessary actions if need be.
- Monitoring site check, equipment update.
- Cost-share closeouts for 2011 flood relief and 2012 base grant.
- eLink reporting for all cost-share grants.
- Edited TA reporting spreadsheets and entered hours.
- Webinars on disaster recovery and wetland banking.
- County water plan review and meeting.

Upcoming:

- Farm bill technicians meeting in Granite Falls.
- Submit all cost-share reports on eLink.
- Needs for spring projects.
- Meet with Elizabeth on Furlong, Estrem, and Sherwin projects.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST’S REPORT by Spencer Herbert:
Spencer is working on grant reporting for 2013.

I completed a new MMP for Dan LaCanne (Rice). I also worked with Wade and Steve to develop a MinnFarm feedlot evaluation for Dan. I still have some work to do on the feedlot evaluation before is it finalized. I did a plan review and completed certification forms for Bob Heers (Steele) and Randy Bauer (Rice) so they will be approved for their EQIP payments. I put a lot of work into catching up on eLINK reporting. I have all completed plans entered and updated. I was unable to complete the mapping portion of the reporting, as there are still errors in the new system. I also worked to update all contacts, plans, miles, etc for the calendar year 2013. Steve and I had a conference call with Dawn and Donna from Fillmore County to discuss budgets, matches dollars, and cost estimates. I also put some
effort into developing a comprehensive NM map for each county. This map would show which farms I have developed plans for and can be used for various purposes.

I attended the Crop Production Retailers short course December 11-12 in Minneapolis. There was a variety of speakers that presented research and new product updates. I also attended the trade show and picked up some valuable information on new and lesser known fertility products. I helped Tom arrange another Soil Health meeting that we held at the Cheese Cave on Dec. 17. It was a smaller crowd than we hoped for, but I think it was a good meeting. There seems to be a lot of interest in cover crops, I think it could just take a few early adopters to really get the ball rolling. The short growing seasons poses the biggest challenge to adoption, in my opinion. If new techniques or equipment are developed to combat that issue, I could see cover crops taking off.

Looking ahead: I have some EQIP plans in Wabasha Co that will need review and updates for 2014 crop year. Continue work on Dan LaCanne’s feedlot evaluation. I will be studying for the state level CCA exam that I will take in February. Work on any other plans when necessary.

RESOURCE SPECIALIST REPORT by Collin Schoenecker:

Past:
- Sent out Notice of Decision on two WCA sites.
- Met with landowner about potential fill in wetland.
- Start gathering information for WCA 2013 Annual Reporting Form.
- Reviewed Tax forfeit land for Wetlands for Rice County.
- Basin Construction checks with Colin Williams.
- Marik feedlot inspection with Steve.
- Created easement tracking excel sheet.
- Created wetland plant ID guide

Upcoming
- Staff Meeting
- Water Plan Technical Committee meeting
- WRP 101 training
- WCA 2013 Annual Reporting Form
- TEP meeting

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE: Newspaper articles.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Northfield Climate Summit – January 18.

ADJOURN: Chairman Jim Purfeerst adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, February 12 at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted by:_____________________________________
Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

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Jerry Courson - Board Member