RICE S.W.C.D.
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday – January 11, 2017 - 9:00 AM

PRESENT: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, Steve Pahs, Leslie Diaz-Alvarez, Justin Fuchs, Travis Hirman, Rice County Commissioner Jeff Docken, Zumbro Watershed Partnership Executive Director Sarah Middleton and Debbie Skarupa.

Chairman Jim Purfeerst called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

OATH OF OFFICE: Supervisors Tim Little, Mike Ludwig and Richard Cook read their Oath of Office as elected supervisors.

INTRODUCTIONS: Introductions were made.

MINUTES: Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Mike Ludwig to approve the December 14, 2016 board minutes with one correction. Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL/BILLS PAYABLE: December financial summary will be available next month due to year-end. Discussion on dues and new smart TV. Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Richard Cook to accept the January bills payable subject to audit. Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:
2017 SUPERVISOR POSITIONS: Discussion. Phone numbers will be updated. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Tim Little to approve the 2017 supervisor positions as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairperson</td>
<td>Jim Purfeerst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Chair</td>
<td>Richard Cook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Richard Peterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Tim Little</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations &amp; Information</td>
<td>Mike Ludwig</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.
COMMITTEE POSITIONS FOR 2017: Discussion. Hiawatha Valley RC&D member-at-large has been vacant for a few years. Do we want to replace? Discussion. Jim Purfeerst will ask Jake Langeslag if he is interested. Day at the Capitol was discussed. Would be good for some to go to the night before briefing. One Watershed One Plan was discussed.

Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the following committee assignments for 2017:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMITTEE</th>
<th>Board Representative</th>
<th>Staff Rep</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rice County Forestry Committee</td>
<td>Dick Peterson</td>
<td>Steve Pahs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hiawatha RC &amp; D</td>
<td>Jim Purfeerst</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Revolving Fund SE Joint Powers Board</td>
<td>Jim Purfeerst</td>
<td>Steve Pahs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALMM</td>
<td>No-one at this time</td>
<td>Any staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational Handbook Committee</td>
<td>Dick Peterson</td>
<td>Steve Pahs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personnel Committee</td>
<td>Mike Ludwig - Richard Cook (Tim Little Alt)</td>
<td>Steve Pahs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Tillage &amp; Soil Heath Committee</td>
<td>Tim L - Mike L All invited - No Per Diem</td>
<td>Steve-Travis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannon River Watershed Partnership</td>
<td>Richard Cook - Tim Little (Alternate)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Zumbro Watershed Partnership</td>
<td>Dick Peterson</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Legislative Affairs Committee</td>
<td>Richard Cook</td>
<td>Steve Pahs</td>
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<td>Budget Committee</td>
<td>Richard Cook - Dick Peterson</td>
<td>Steve Pahs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buffer Committee</td>
<td>Tim Little - Richard Cook (Dick P. as Alter.)</td>
<td>Steve-Travis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee</td>
<td>Richard Cook - (Mike Ludwig alternate if 2 ok)</td>
<td>Steve Pahs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

State Committees are appointed by MASWCD later in the year.

Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

1ST UNITED BANK OFFICIAL DEPOSITORY: Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve 1st United Bank as the official depository for 2017. Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

BANK SIGNATURE CARDS: Bank signature cards have been updated and will be signed by supervisors.

2017 IRS MILEAGE RATE: Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Richard Cook to approve using the 2017 IRS mileage rate of $.535 per mile. Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

ANNUAL DUES: We have been paying N.A.C.D. (National Association of Conservation Districts) $775 in annual dues. Discussion. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Mike Ludwig to approve the NACD annual dues at $775 or above. Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.
BWSR FY 17 LOCAL CAPACITY GRANT: Last year received $100,000.00. This year will receive $118,000 because Rice County increased their funding by $18,000.00 to match BWSR’s amount. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the BWSR FY17 Local Capacity Services Grant for $118,000.00. Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

VEHICLE SUMMARY 2016/2005 CHEVY SALE: Steve reviewed the lower fuel costs for 2017. Steve felt we don’t need a fourth vehicle too often and recommended selling it, after the bumper is repaired. Discussion. Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Mike Ludwig to sell the 2005 Chevy as is, after the bumper is repaired, for a negotiated price. Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

JPB AGREEMENT MN DEPT. OF AG: MDA wants to know if there is a nitrate problem. We will sent letters to people and the lab will send them the kits. Justin will handle. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Tim Little to approve the Joint Powers Board MDA agreement for nitrate testing. Discussion. Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

STATE C-S WELL SEALING: Well sealing is an eligible practice in the state cost share guidelines. Rice County did one or two a year, but are no longer receiving grant money for that. Discussion. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Tim Little to participate in well sealing as an eligible practice for state cost share funds. Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

PART-TIME PUBLIC RELATIONS & INFORMATION SPECIALIST: Steve handed out a job description for a 0.5 FTE position to do a Facebook page, maintain the website, do YouTube videos, fair booth, fact sheets, newsletters, presentations and other duties. Discussion. Motion by Richard cook to approve a part-time Public Relations and Information Specialist position as described by the district manager for a rate as negotiated by the district manager. Add other duties as assigned. Position will be funded by the BWSR District Capacity grant. Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

2016 BWSR EASEMENT IMPLEMENTATION GRANT: We have received $2000.00 per contract to implement RIM and RIM/WRP contracts in the past and this grant will be changed in 2017. Current balance will stay in 2016 profit. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve a BWSR Easement Implementation Grant Closeout form, if needed. Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

NACD ANNUAL CONVENTION: The National Association of Conservation Districts’ annual convention will be held in Denver, Colorado January 28 - Feb 1. District has paid part of the expenses to some of these conventions in the past.
SUPERVISOR REPORTS: Nothing business related to report.

ACTING D.C. REPORT by Leslie Diaz-Alvarez:

1. I will be acting CD for 120 days until Tom’s replacement is hired.
2. Client Gateway: This website helps landowners do a lot of their business online with no need to come into the office. See www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway.
3. NRCS is promoting the Conservation Stewardship Program which helps landowners improve wildlife, soil erosion, water quality and air quality. There is a huge list of available practices. Five year contracts up to $40,000 per year but need to include the entire farm. Rice County has two or three contracts now.
4. NRCS will be holding a Minority and Immigrant Farmer Conference in St. Paul January 28 and 29 at the U of M conference center.

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT by Steve Pahs: If you’d like to add anything to the board meeting agenda, please tell me. Our 75th Anniversary is from August 25, 1942 so planning to do a big promotion.

OTHER: Travis will send out another round of letters to remind people about buffers. Changes may happen to extend buffer compliance deadlines. BWSR posted two new draft guidance documents. See BWSR website for penalty fee schedules, draft APO and jurisdiction. Jeff Docken said county has no penalty system for issues and they try to work with people. Try to get people to understand it’s the right thing to do. DNR did make some changes. Richard Cook said if we have to enforce, then county must be with us. Most landowners understand the need to keep their soil. Travis said CRP was approaching cap but more CRP acreage has been freed up.

Justin spoke about Faribault Foods project. Discussion.

Sarah Middleton from Zumbro Watershed Partnership said they are working on WRAPs. Using tools to reach nitrogen and phosphorus goals. A portion of the Zumbro River is in Rice County. Steve will get draft documents and they’ll submit in March. Discussing One Watershed One Plan.

DISTRICT TECHNICIAN’S REPORT by Bridget Evers:

- New CRP contracts
- State Cost Share projects Survey and Designs
- EQIP projects
- Scott WMO projects
- Reporting in E-Link

Upcoming:
- Continue New CRP Sign ups
- Survey and designs for Cost share items and CRP program (wetland restorations)
- EQIP survey and designs with Colin
• Feedlot surveying with Kate (JPB Engineer)

**NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT REPORT by Travis Hirman:**

• Continued with day to day buffer operations: phone conservations, in office meetings, planning.
• Spent time working with BWSR’s online buffer tracking tool. A preliminary review of all parcels was completed. BWSR required this before Jan 1st 2017.
• Attended our Rice soil health event.
• Met with planning and zoning to discuss buffer law.
• Looking ahead: more buffer implementation which will include a 2nd round of letters. Also, MMPs for Bucks Unlimited and Metogga Lake Dairies.

**RESOURCE SPECIALIST REPORT by Justin Fuchs:**

• R.I.M. wetland embankment project, earthwork finished seeding and mulching is only thing left that will be completed in spring 2017.
• Electronically file all WCA records 1991-present.
• Soil Health Field Day Forest Town Hall.
• Meeting with landowner regarding WCA activity outside City of Faribault.
• MDA nitrate testing meeting with lab.
• Meeting with landowner regarding WCA, past activity and potential for development.
• Board and staff meetings.
• TEP meeting for DNR pedestrian bridge in City of Faribault.

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to adjourn. Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Time: 10:50 a.m.

**SOIL HEALTH TOPIC:** Steve Pahs showed a YouTube video Bridget selected called “Cover Crop Cow.” Video showed numerous species of grass in the cover crop that was eaten by cattle.

**OPEN MEETING LAW PRESENTATION:** Steve showed a MCIT (MN Counties Intergovernmental Trust) PowerPoint on the Open Meeting Law regulations.

Submitted by: 

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Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

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Board Secretary - Timothy J. Little