RICE S.W.C.D.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 14, 2015 - 9:00 AM

PRESENT: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, Gary Wagenbach, Steve Pahs, Travis Hirman, Ashley Tabery, and Debbie Skarupa.

ABSENT: Tom Coffman

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

AGENDA ITEMS: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to add Item O - Protected Waters and Item P - Legislative Agenda to the Board Agenda. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

OATH OF OFFICE: Oath of Office was taken by Richard Cook and Dick Peterson. Jim Purfeerst also received an Oath of Office form. Forms were notarized.

MINUTES: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Richard Cook to approve the December 10, 2014 board minutes as presented. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL: Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Richard Cook to approve the checks and bills payable. December report will include year-end so is not ready yet. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

DEPT OF AG NUTRIENT MGMT GRANT AGREEMENT STATUS: Steve received the SE SWCD Tech Support JPB sub-agreement and it was discussed along with nitrate levels in Iowa and Minnesota. Agreement is with the Mn Department of Ag for a half-time position grant for nutrient management work by Travis and is a Clean Water Fund grant. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the SE SWCD Tech Support JPB Sub-agreement to the Joint Powers Agreement which starts in January 2015 and expires June 30, 2016 for $59,126.50. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

2013 AUDIT: Item was tabled at the December 10 board meeting. Discussion followed. Bob Duban asked what the Custodial Credit Risk Deposit paragraph meant. Debbie will ask the auditor. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Richard Cook to approve the acceptance of the 2013 audit report. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

DEW DROP DRILL: Steve Pahs said he applied to the Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation for $7000.00 for a Dew Drop Notill Drill and $7000.00 was received. An open flat bed trailer with rails will still be needed to pull the 3’ drill and ATV. Bob Duban said the Tri-Lakes Sportsmen’s Club donations can be used for whatever the SWCD wishes and they do not need to be used for
educational purposes. Discussion followed. Bob suggested putting drill on website for pollinator planting. Steve to check on trailer options and prices for the February board meeting.

**SOIL HEALTH MEETING:** There were 14-15 people in attendance at the last soil health meeting. Landowners are interested. Points to watch for are herbicides and a low cost way to seed cover crops. Discussion followed. Jim felt quarterly or semi-annual meetings would be beneficial and all board members are invited.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**SUPERVISOR POSITION ROTATIONS FOR 2015:** Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the 2015 supervisor positions as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Gary Wagenbach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Chair</td>
<td>Robert Duban</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Jim Purfeerst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Richard Cook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Relations &amp; Information</td>
<td>Dick Peterson</td>
</tr>
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Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**2015 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS/LEGISLATIVE:** Discussion followed. Committee assignments for 2015 are as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMITTEE</th>
<th>Board Representative</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rice County Forestry Committee</td>
<td>Dick Peterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiawatha RC &amp; D</td>
<td>Jim Purfeerst</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Revolving Fund SE Joint Powers</td>
<td>Bob Duban</td>
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<td>Board</td>
<td>Gary Wagenbach</td>
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<tr>
<td>BALMM</td>
<td>Gary Wagenbach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operational Handbook Committee</td>
<td>Gary Wagenbach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personnel Committee</td>
<td>Gary Wagenbach - Richard Cook (Bob Alt)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Planning Technical Committee</td>
<td>Gary Wagenbach - Richard Cook (Alter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Tillage &amp; Soil Heath</td>
<td>Bob D - Jim P - All invited - No Per Diem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee</td>
<td>Gary Wagenbach - Richard Cook (Alter.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannon River Watershed Partnership</td>
<td>Jim Purfeerst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zumbro Watershed Partnership</td>
<td>Gary Wagenbach - Richard Cook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Affairs Committee</td>
<td>Discontinued for now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USDA Local Work Group</td>
<td>Robert Duban - Dick Peterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Committee</td>
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</table>

State Committees are appointed by MASWCD later in the year.

Legislative talking points were discussed. MASWCD has retained a lobbyist for $40,000.00. Gary Wagenbach and Richard Cook intend to go to Legislative Briefing on Monday night. Steve will go to Day at the Capitol on Tuesday.
ADOPT RICE CO. WATER PLAN AS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: The Rice County Water Plan was extended to December 31, 2015. Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Duban to adopt the Rice County Water Plan as the Comprehensive Plan until December 31, 2015. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

DESIGNATE OFFICIAL DEPOSITORY: Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to designate the First United Bank in Faribault as the official depository. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

DESIGNATE OFFICIAL NEWS PAPER: Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to designate the Faribault Daily News as the official newspaper. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

ANNUAL DUES: Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the 2015 Annual Dues as follows:

- MASWCD: $3148.70
- NACD: $775.00
- SE JPB: $500.00
- Envirothon: $175.00
- SEMASWCD (Area 7): $500.00

Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

DAY AT THE CAPITOL: Legislative Briefing will be in the evening on January 26 and Day at the Capitol on January 27. Gary and Richard will attend the Legislative Briefing the night before. Funding sources, base funding and talking points were discussed.

I.R.S. MILEAGE RATE: Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the 2015 IRS mileage rate at $.575 per mile. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

4-H AWARD DONATION: Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the donation towards 4 Champion and 3 Reserve Champion Awards totaling $54.50. Could increase amount next year if needed. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

2014 VEHICLE SUMMARY: Steve discussed the mileage and maintenance summary sheet for the three pickup trucks for 2014.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD: Bob Duban felt Steve Pahs and Ashley Gallagher should be nominated for the Employee of the Year Award. He will work with staff to get information to the Awards Committee. Discussion followed. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Gary Wagenbach that Bob Duban work with staff to nominate for the Employee of the Year Award. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.
**BWSR EASEMENT IMPLEMENTATION GRANT:** Grant is for $2,000 each to implement and review R. Olson, M. Sticha and R. Sticha RIM and RIM/WRP grants. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the $6,000.00 Amendment for Easement Implementation BWSR 2014 2015 Grant that expires December 31, 2016. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**PAY EQUITY REPORT:** Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the 2015 Pay Equity Report. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING:** Steve would like to have a Strategic Planning Meeting to develop goals to build next year’s Annual Plan. Discussion followed. Steve to arrange a half-day meeting with a facilitator (possibly Donna Rae Scheffert) in March.

**PROTECTED WATERS:** Bob Duban discussed a beaver dam on Wolf Creek and who is responsible for beaver dam water backups. County assessor won’t lower taxes on underwater pastureland. Discussion followed. Consensus was that individual landowners are responsible to maintain water flowage on a protected waters.

**LEGISLATIVE AGENDA:** Gary asked board to focus on the first section of the 2015 Legislative Platform sheet from MASWCD entitled “SWCD Funding Initiative” and also on options. Discussion followed on viewpoints, options and backing.

**SUPERVISOR/OTHER REPORTS:** Gary Wagenbach said the MASWCD Leadership Training will be open again around July. He said all the SEMASWCD Area 7 Executive Committee has been to the leadership workshop. The state association has sponsored a series of webinars and Gary will forward the link. Richard Cook felt the snow covered ditches were not as black with soil this year, so conservation tillage information may be helping. Cannon Lake is better than it was 30 years ago. Jim Purfeerst said Kimberly Kaiser feels Rice County doesn’t have too many nitrate problems. They will test Cannon City, Northfield, and Morristown Townships. Usually areas along the river with limestone and/or lighter soils have more nitrates. Steve said tree sales are slow. Gary said Dakota SWCD has eliminated their tree sale program. Put on Strategic Planning agenda. Ashley said RIM Wetland signup deadline is January 31. Payment rates are good. Wetland mitigation in the northeast counties, Wetland Banking replacement rules, mining issues and losing cropland to restore wetlands were discussed.

**D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:** (Typed and in packet)

1. **SOIL HEALTH:** We held a Rice Soil Health Group meeting December 17th at the Jim Purfeerst Farm to review the plot results, discuss various issues, and plan ahead for the 2015 season. Approximately a dozen attended. We viewed the cover crop plots in the field, but snow cover was 1 to 2 inches. Grant ideas for purchase of a spreader were discussed. We will try to meet once more before planting season.

2. **EQIP 2015:** Nikki and I are at a two-day EQIP training in Mankato, January 13 and 14. Presently have 35 applicants that we need to get cost estimates developed for. This week we will get back into the field to complete engineering surveys in order to develop plans and estimates.
Handout is provided on the EQIP 15 initiatives. We understand there may be more initiatives coming yet this year.

3. **WRP/RIM**: We are nearing the closing on the Dave and Norm Turek applications. We recently ran an engineering survey on the Ron and Mary Sticha application for an erosion issue that would eventually affect the easement area. Rochester Area Office has the Mark Simon WREP ready for construction. We are hoping to get the shallow scrapes completed in the muck soil this winter.

4. **SWAMPBUSTER**: We presently have 50 1026’s that need wetland or sodbuster determinations. Jim Jirik is working on 6 569’s (potential violations) and several reconsiderations.

**DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT by Steve Pahs:**
This past month has been filled with a mix of activity. There are a few ditch projects that I’ve been working on, and several meetings. The weather has kept us from doing much survey work. We were successful in receiving a grant of $7,000 for a small drill, so we’ll need to look at purchasing a trailer for transporting it.

Other activity this past month:

- Attended and provided comments on the Drainage Manual Update in Mankato
- Picked up the new sprayer for the ditch program
- Attended a CD 31 meeting to discuss an improvement
- Repaired some ditch banks on CD 32A
- Attended a soil health meeting at Purfeerst’s
- Attended a CD 12 meeting to discuss repairs
- Processed several WCA applications
- Finalized the 2015 budget
- Preparing the annual report and plans

In the next few weeks, focus will be to complete year end reports, work with Travis on getting the MDA project started, and develop plans to promote soil health and conservation for the year.

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

Past month:

- CRP eligibility and planning with approximately 20 people
- RIM wetlands program research/training, promotion via targeted letters
- Organized/pulled files for expiring CRP contracts
- Education program development, and presentations to Jefferson 5th grade, & Lincoln 2nd grade
- eLink reporting for flood relief and cost-share grants
- Attended St Olaf student presentations on soil health/cover crops research projects
- Attended County soil health meeting at Purfeerst farm
- Attended Pheasants Forever meeting

Upcoming:
• Four more education programs scheduled, continue to try and schedule more
• Finish eLink reporting and upload reports to website
• Needs and survey on many farms
• Continue to promote RIM and submit any eligible applications by January 30th
• Farm Bill meeting on January 30th in St Cloud
• Crop conference in Mankato on February 9th
• Area meeting February 12th

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST’S REPORT by Travis Hirman:
• I completed a new CNMP for Stacy Miller in Plainview. He is applying for Ag waste funding in order to install a new pit. He currently scrapes and hauls all his manure. He opted not to receive 590 funding through EQIP; as a result this allowed me to write his plan. Bridget Evers (Wabasha FO) and Pete Fryer were also contributors to the CNMP.
• I performed two spreader calibrations, both for Stacy Miller.
• Chris Kuball came into the office looking for an MMP. He is constructing a new swine facility in Morristown. It will be a finishing facility with 2400 head expected.
• Looking ahead: Write the Kuball plan. Update an EQIP plan for John Miller in Plainview. Attend first meeting for the N BMP Outreach program on 1/22.

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE: None

ADJOURN: Chairman Purfeerst adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

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Richard Cook - Secretary