PRESENT:  Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, Steve Pahs, Bridget Evers, Travis Hirman, Justin Fuchs, Thomas Coffman, Nicole Schaffer, and Debbie Skarupa.

ABSENT:  Gary Wagenbach

Chairman Bob Duban called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Steve asked that Furniture Purchase be added as an agenda item.

OLD BUSINESS:

SOIL HEALTH TOPIC: Colin Williams passed out papers on the Cost of Cover Crops done by the Iowa State University. He discussed profitability, improved organic matter, nutrient value, drought, increased yields, different seed mixes, soil temperature extremes as a crop stressor, etc. Bob asked about people in Ditch 32 area for possible cover crop programs through TriLakes, Circle Lake and CRWP. Colin also discussed an article forwarded from Gary Wagenbach from the New York Times entitled “Cover Crops, A Farming Revolution With Deep Roots in the Past.”

MINUTES: Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the January 13, 2016 board minutes. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL/BILLS PAYABLE: Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Richard Cook to approve the December financial statement and bills payable subject to audit. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

BUFFER LAW STATUS – NEW CHANGE ON PRIVATE DITCHES: Governor Dayton has changed a portion of the buffer law excluding private ditches that go into public ditches. An email from the DNR and BWSR said: “The decision to remove private ditches from the DNR buffer protection map will increase the scope of waters that SWCDs need to consider for local water resources riparian protection. Future communication from BWSR will provide information on this process.” Discussion followed on wetlands without shorelines, protected water acreage, size of wetland going into shoreline, etc. Bob Duban asked about selecting people to be on the committee. Travis Hirman, Steve Pahs, Dick
Peterson, Gary Wagenbach, (Richard Cook will fill in as needed), Planning and Zoning, Julie Runkel, and Rice County Commissioners Jeff Docken and Jake Gillen to meet in March. Noncompliance penalty was discussed.

**DISTRICT CAPACITY WORK PLAN REVISION:** Steve explained that Work Plan was approved but needs to be changed as can’t use all of survey dollars. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the revised $100,000.00 District Capacity Work Plan Budget. No signature needed. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**MASWCD LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FOR PROBLEM SOLVING:** Board had discussed leadership training previously and felt it may be time consuming and costly at the current time. Will consider again in a year or two. No action was taken.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**4-H AWARDS:** Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Richard Cook to continue sponsoring four Champion 4-H awards at $8.00 each and three Reserve Championship awards at $7.50 each. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**ROBERT GILL (EDGE BROOK) FLOOD RELIEF C-S AMENDMENT TO INCREASE COST:** Steve explained reasons for increase in contract cost from $32,224.73 TO $53,270.55 as tile lines were rerouted during construction, estimates were higher than anticipated, channel reconstruction, and another design done by a private engineer. NRCS engineer did first design. Landowner paying ten percent of costs. Dale Malecha Construction is doing the job. Engineer says costs are justifiable. Discussion. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to increase costs from $32,224.73 to $53,270.55 for the following 2012 Flood Relief CS Contract in Phase 2 and Phase 3:

FRCS #13-20 Robert Gill-9425 Edgebrook Dr Northfield Bridgewater Section 2&3 – water and sediment basin and grade stabilizer cost increase to $53,270.55.

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

**APPROVE ROBERT GILL (EDGE BROOK) PARTIAL PAY:** Steve is requesting a partial payment because weather prevented completion and he is withholding 10% until the project is completed. Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the following Flood Relief C-S Contract voucher partial payment from 2012 Phase #2 and #3 funds:

FRCS#13-20 Robert Gill-9425 Edgebrook Drive Northfield Bridgewater Section 2&3 – Water and Sediment Control Basin and grade stabilizer $44,951.60.

Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.
AMEND SE SWCD JPB SUB-RECIPIENT AGREEMENT FOR MDA GRANT:
The balance of the SRF Mn Department of Ag grant will be returned except for $1,100.00 that will be used for a few days of Travis’ time for final administration and mileage. Wabasha SWCD will employ a person to use the Mn Department of Ag grant.

Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Richard Cook to approve the amended SE SWCD Tech Support JPB Sub Agreement to the Joint Powers Board. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

BRENT FUCHS SCOTT WMO #14-35 VOUCHER PAYMENT: Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the following partial payment to be paid by the Scott Watershed Management Organization:

Scott WMO #14-35 14447 Culver Ave- Faribault- 8 sediment basins-Webster Section 4 - $16,486.50 (75% of $21,982.10)

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

APPROVE BRENT FUCHS EARNEST MONEY REIMBURSEMENT: Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Richard Cook to approve the $500.00 earnest money reimbursement for the above WMO 14-35 contract to Brent Fuchs-14447 Culver Avenue in Faribault. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried

APPROVE SCOTT WMO WMO#16-1 TIM MCNEARNEY: Tim McNearney is asking for 90% rather than 75% by having a Conservation Plan with residue. Porter Creek portion may need a filter strip. Discussion. Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the following Scott Water Management Organization Contract for up to 90% on the contingency that he do a conservation plan and residue as follows:

Scott WMO 16-1 Tim McNearney 8980 320 St. W. Northfield 112N 21W Sec 9 grassed Waterway $ 6604.00.

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

APPROVE 2016 ANNUAL DUES: Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the following annual dues:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zumbro Watershed Partnership</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MACDE</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEMACDE</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.
APPROVE DECEMBER 31, 2014 FINANCIAL AUDIT: Bound copies of the 2014 audit were given to the board in January. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the December 31, 2014 financial audit done by Michael Peterson Company. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

APPROVE 2015 STATE COST SHARE VOUCHER PAYMENT STEVAN JOHNSON: Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the following 2015 state cost-share voucher payment:

CS#15-03 Stevan Johnson-22682 Larson Ave-Kenyon-Walcott Section 26 – 3 sediment basins - $5977.10.

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

NRCS MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING: Tom said NRCS in the future will develop agreements with the districts to cover computer costs. Currently, NRCS pays for the copy machine, five computer seats for the SWCD, and most supplies. The summary of past agreements was reviewed. No changes were made in the past 12 months. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the NRCS Memo of Understanding. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

DAY AT THE CAPITOL: The night before is $80 registration and motel but the daytime session is at no cost. Gary and Richard went to the briefing last year, but can’t this year. Staff to put together a short summary of projects and dollars invested packet for legislators. Steve, Bob, and Jim plan on attending day session. Dick P. may go to briefing.

RICE CO. FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR NOMINATION: Policy has been to nominate our Outstanding Conservationist of the Year. Nominate Richard and Robert Sommers.

2015 CONSERVATION DELIVERY CLOSEOUT: Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Richard Cook to approve the 2015 BWSR Conservation Delivery Grant closeout for $22,940.00. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

2015 RIM EASEMENT DELIVERY CLOSEOUT: Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the 2015 BWSR Easement Delivery Grant closeout for $3,134.00. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING: Beth Kallestad from CRWP has suggested she could facilitate. Discussion on Buffer Implementation Plan, common goals, work plans, and value of three-year versus one-year plan. Steve will do work plan to define rules and our goals.
FURNITURE PURCHASE:  In the past, conservation office has used Rural Development’s old furniture. With NRCS adding an Ultima employee, will need two desk spaces. Steve is getting a layout design and pricing from a company. Steve hoping NRCS will buy matching furniture. Industry trend is smaller cubicles and standing work stations. Bring prices and designs to March meeting.

SUPERVISOR/OTHER REPORTS:  Jim Purfeerst stated earlier that he can no longer attend the Zumbro Watershed meetings that meet the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. Working on public water accesses along the river now. Dick Peterson will try to attend those meetings. Jim talked about the status of Hiawatha Valley RC&D. Currently focusing on invasive species at RBNC.

Bob Duban spoke on the Joint Powers Board favoring hiring another engineer for the Mower County office. Glen and Chris do an excellent job with all the grants. Time Kate and Pete spend in Rice County differs. Sometimes better to hire engineer than hire a private engineer. Krenz project should be going this spring depending on the weather. Dick said water is pervasive issue across all fields including state agencies. Jim Purfeerst passed out Hiawatha RC&D’s Annual Report. He also spoke on a soils meeting where he and Jay Fuhrer were speakers. Half of organic matter is carbon. Soil testing, cover crop funding, decrease in livestock to decrease in soil matter, loss of top soil, land rents, link to soil health video, expense vs savings, large operators, land in trusts, and tax issues were discussed.

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT by Steve Pahs:
Steve said he was on KDHL yesterday talking about Water Quality Certification Program and buffers. Steve will use majority of technical assistance for his time. Deadline is April 15. Next Wednesday will have Soil Health Training in Alexandria and Emerald Ash Borer training in Apple Valley.

January was busy for all with reporting. I had three ditch projects under construction as well.

Specific items I’ve done this month are:

- 100K work plan
- BWSR admin training
- Gill and Edgebrook project wrap ups
- Meeting on Ag Water Quality Cert. Program
- Soil Heath meeting
- CD 12, 14, 22 repairs
- MCIT Webinar
- SRF JPB meeting

Workload in February looks like more work on Annual plans and reports, promotion of the Ag. Water Quality Cert program, meetings on the buffer law, and a few more workshops. We are also in the midst of our annual tree sale, and sales so far are similar to last year.
DISTRICT TECHNICIAN’S REPORT by Bridget Evers:

- Soil health day in Owatonna
- New CRP contracts
- Feedlot fix possibility with Wade CFO
- WMO new project (waterway McNearney) w/Colin
- Marketing efforts for native grasses with Ryan
- Soil health day in Plainview
- CWMA
- Grant reporting

Upcoming:
- General CRP Sign up Dec.1- Feb. 24
- Soil Health Conference in Alexandria MN Feb. 17th
- Emerald Ash Borer meeting Feb. 18
- Seed Training in Rochester Feb. 23

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT REPORT by Travis Hirman:
Travis discussed buffers, maps, and penalty issue. Penalty will be severe enough for compliance. Farm Bureau meeting will stress: Rice SWCD is main contact, DNR maps, situations where buffers need to be placed. Tom suggested Bridget mention CRP options. Use of bonding dollars, CREP signup, SAFE Back 40 acres, CRP, etc. were also discussed.

- Completed an MMP update for Mark Bauer (Faribault)-500 acres.
- Attended the Freeborn Soil Health winter meeting in Owatonna.
- Attended the JPB meeting in Oronoco.
- Met with Mark Root and Larry Peterson to discuss the MAWQCP
- Participated in a remote meeting with my MDA colleagues to discuss year end and prepare for winter meetings.
- Attended BWSR grant training in Owatonna.
- Assisted a few land operators with buffer concerns.
- Completed yearly grant reporting for the NMP grant, and quarterly reporting to MDA.
- Looking ahead: New MMP for Jeff Tuma, several winter meetings and conferences. Buffer presentations for the Farm Bureau and Rice Co Crops Day.

RESOURCE SPECIALIST REPORT by Justin Fuchs

- Staff Meeting on Jan. 5th.
- BWSR Grant Writing training in Owatonna Public Utilities.
- Met landowner for WCA pictures Certification of Satisfactory Restoration file.
- Meeting regarding MN Water Quality Certification program.
- TEP meeting for CSAH 46 Reconstruction.
• Meeting with landowner regarding drainage issues with neighbor.

• Meet with landowner and Township officials regarding potential WCA violation on property.

**D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:**

1. EQIP applications are being worked on – 26 out of 32 were eligible and we are hoping to get about three quarters of these screened high by Friday deadline.

2. Conservation Stewardship Program: Application deadline is March 31. Program criteria and how it works was reviewed.

3. Organic Farmer Group Meeting: I’m planning on organizing a no agenda meeting of area organic farmers in early March.

4. Soil Health Group. I am also planning a Soil Health Group Meeting in March.

**OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE:** See above.

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to adjourn. Time: 11:40 am. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

_____________________________
Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

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Dick Peterson – Board Secretary