PRESENT: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, Gary Wagenbach, Steve Pahs, Travis Hirman, Ashley Gallagher, Tom Coffman, Nicole Schaeffer and Debbie Skarupa. Facilitator Mary Laeger-Hagemeister.

ABSENT: None

Chairman Gary Wagenbach called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

MINUTES: Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the February 11, 2015 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 Richard Cook, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the January Program Summary. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the February financial reports and bills payable subject to audit. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:


RICE SOIL HEALTH GROUP MEETING: Tom said the Soil Health Group met in Dundas on March 12. About 19 people attended. Aaron Wills from Cannon River Watershed Partnership can help with grant option opportunities. Cover crops, news articles and demo projects were discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:


TRAVIS HIRMAN – SIX MONTH INCREASE. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Jim Purfeerst “To approve Travis Hirman’s salary increase to Step 1 Range 21“ Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to add a friendly amendment: “… retroactive to March 10, 2015.” Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried

STEWARDSHIP MATERIALS: Stewardship inserts for churches in the last week in April or the first week in May have not been received yet.
**FARM TO STREAM HANDOUT:** A handout entitled “Farm to Stream – Recommendations for Accelerating Soil and Water Stewardship” by the Freshwater Society was reviewed. Social issues, cover crops, strip till, SWCD funding, etc. were discussed.

**2015 SE SWCD TECH SUPPORT JPB BWSR GRANT AGREEMENT:** Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the SE SWCD Tech Support JPB / BWSR 2015 grant agreement for $81,320.00 expiring December 31, 2018. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried. The MN Dept of Ag/SE JPB agreement Steve has signed already.

**MN CONSERVATION CORPS AGREEMENT:** SWCD will host a summer intern and the corps will bear all the costs. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the AmeriCorps Conservation Corp agreement for an intern from May 18 to August 14, 2015. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Steve Pahs signed the agreement.

**APPROVE FLOOD RELIEF C-S CONTRACT APPLICATION:** Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the following state cost share flood relief contract:

CSFR13-018 Co-owners Gerald and Duane Rohlfsen 640 Brockton Lane N – Plymouth, MN 55447 and 2889 Blaimont Drive - Danville, Virginia 24540 – CC Section 22- 3 Terraces - $20,539.70

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

**APPROVE COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA CONTRACT APPLICATION:**

Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the CWMA #12-007 contract as follows:

CWMA12-007 – Vairochana Farm – Janet Spring – 16922 Cabot Ave – Faribault CC Section 9 – Buckthorn removal - $982.01

Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Richard Cook said Greg Barta is making and will donate two buckthorn removal wrenches.

**SOIL HEALTH BUS TRIP TO BISMARCK:** Tom Coffman, Jim Purfeerst and Bob Duban went on a bus trip to Burleigh County North Dakota in 2013 and were impressed. Steve is setting up a similar bus trip for three days and two nights tentatively August 4-6th. Bus (capacity 57) will be $3,600 with driver, hotel and gratuity. CRWP is donating $1500.00 and Jill Sackett from Extension will get some SARE funds. Hoping to get one farmer per one agency person. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to support the Soil Health Tour to Bismarck as described with further information forthcoming. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Bob suggested applying to the Schmidt Foundation for grant funds.
UTILITY TRAILER PURCHASE: Dew Drop no-till three foot drill arrived yesterday. Utility trailer, storage, and ATV trailer were discussed. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to purchase a trailer for the Dew Drop drill similar to Steve’s recommendations. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Bob said we could use Tri-Lakes Sportsmen’s Club donation towards the trailer.

SUPERVISOR/OTHER REPORTS: Jim Purfeerst attended Hiawatha Valley RC&D meeting and spoke on grant money and the proposed pipeline. Advertise Bismarck tour on website.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. Soil Health Group Meeting: 19 in attendance – seven were farmers. Aaron Wills, CRWP, is meeting with Steve and me next week.

2. EQIP 15: Four approved in March so far, next round of approvals will be in April.

3. Nutrient Management Initiative: MDA is taking applications through April 15 to run side-by-side N trials. Payment is $1,500.00 per trial.

4. Cover Crop Producer Meeting: Will be in Zumbrota tomorrow.

5. Job Shadow U of M: I had a college student job shadow me last Thursday and she got her interest in soils from the Envirothon a few years back.

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

FARM BILL TECHNICIAN’S REPORT By Ashley Gallagher: Past month:
- Submitted 5 RIM applications, got notice from state that none were funded
- NRCS/SWCD employee meeting/training in Rochester
- Upper Cannon River Terrain Analysis webinars and trainings
- County water plan meetings and updates
- Buffer research, plan development, and meetings with Board and County
- Engineering review with area office staff
- Grants administration training in Rochester
- SEMACDE meeting planning
- CRP odds and ends, working with new FSA employee, approximately 8 new estimates
- MDA monitoring site snowmelt collection
- Gill/Larson/Edgebrook project coordination
- Rohlfson survey/design and paperwork
- Scott WMO meeting and project prep for applying for funds
- Education programs for Sibley 5th grade and more program scheduling
- Nutrient BMP tool training in Farmington
- Updates to 2014 Annual Report
- Spring project prep and phone calls
• Soil health group meeting at Dawn’s

Upcoming:
• Cover Crops meeting in Zumbrota March 25th
• SEMACDE meeting in Rochester on March 26th
• Women in Ag article with NRCS State Office
• Construction on 6 projects, possibly 4 more
• Needs, survey, estimates and applications for Sand Creek projects (approximately 7)
• Promotion plan for Dew Drop Drill
• Tree unloading and sorting
• Promote native plant sales, attend Faribault Business Expo on April 23rd
• Finalize multiple project estimates and get money encumbered

Nutrient Management Update by Travis Hirman:
• Nutrient Management Conference-Feb 9th in Mankato. Topics covered included: market updates, manure and SOM crediting, cover crops, and fertilizer additives.
• I gave two public presentations regarding MMP’s in Blooming Prairie and Zumbrota. My portion of the presentation was 25 minutes. Both meetings were well attended.
• Finished a new MMP for Peter Klappe (Mazeppa)- 117 acres.
• Completed an MMP update for Jerry Kelm (Faribault)- 462 acres.
• Nitrogen conference-March 6th in St. Cloud. Topics included climate outlooks, sandy soil N management, manure management, sensor technology, and in season applications.
• Attended another meeting in Rochester for the MDA position. Agenda included: BSNT, plot design, recruitment tactics.
• I have three recruits for the MDA N BMP program, as well as two assessment plots.

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE:

ADJOURN: Chairman Wagenbach adjourned the meeting at 9:02 am.

Strategic Planning Meeting with Mary Laeger-Hagemeister facilitating to follow.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

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Richard Cook – Board Secretary