PRESENT: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, Gary Wagenbach, Steve Pahs, Thomas Coffman, Bridget Evers, Justin Fuchs, Travis Hirman, Jenny Mocol-Johnson from BWSR, CRWP Executive Director Brad Frazier, and Debbie Skarupa.

ABSENT: None

Chairman Bob Duban called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Introductions were made.

SOIL HEATH TOPIC: Steve Pahs handed out an NRCS Fact Sheet on Cover Crops. A cover crop excel worksheet that populates seeding rates and mixes was discussed. Is a good planning recommendation for landowners. Blooming Prairie speaker, TJ Kartes; 34” cereal rye rooting depth, aerial seeded Far Gaze land, cover crops, tillage, etc., were mentioned.

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

Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the April 26, 2016 Special Board Meeting minutes on Spring Park. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL/BILLS PAYABLE: Steve Pahs reviewed the financial summary. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the April Program Record 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: BUFFER LAW STATUS – Travis Hirman said Governor Dayton signed a new buffer bill that revised some private/public ditch wording and clarified enforcement. We submitted public ditch comments with just a few differences. More comments down the road, but are on schedule for July.
SUPERVISOR ELECTIONS: Gary Wagenbach and Bob Duban will not be on the ballot. Hopefully, will have some interested candidates. Bob Duban will have 22 years in and Gary Wagenbach 18 years.

NEW BUSINESS:
CRWP “SIX-FIVE-FOR CLEAN WATER” PROPOSALS: Steve Pahs reviewed the Soil Health Initiatives Sheet on Ag Water Quality Certification Program Grant, CRWP $1500.00 funds, Tri-Lakes $1500 donation, CRWP’s “6,5, for Clean Water” for $5000 and Cover Crop Incentives. Discussion. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve using $5000 from the “6, 5, for Clean Water Funds” for a saturated buffer; with pollinators as a second option if grant is unsuccessful. Discussion. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

PROPOSAL CANNON RIVER ONE WATERSHED ONE PLAN: Steve and Jenny discussed transition from county to watershed planning. Root River was in the pilot program last year. Discussion. Brad Frazier is proposing to do the writing, organizing and RFP. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to support One Watershed One Plan for the Cannon River Watershed in the form of a resolution. Discussion. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Rice SWCD would be willing to be the fiscal agent.

GREAT PLAINS NO-TILL DRILL MODIFICATIONS: Steve feels the old no-till drill has potential to be used to interseed cover crops. Discussion. Board approves modifications and suggested delivering drill preloaded with seeds. Seed cost should be around $25/acre.

ROBERT GILL GRADE STABILIZER PROJECT STATUS/LETTER: Steve Pahs said the Robert Gill project wasn’t completed last year due to the weather. The NRCS state office did an engineering review and has concerns which went to the national review level. Only the area engineer has talked to the landowner about the delays, additional costs, and replacement costs. State engineer feels there is a potential for flooding two neighboring houses. Steve drafted a letter to NRCS State Conservationist Cathee Pullman. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the letter to Cathee Pullman regarding the Robert Gill grade stabilizer project. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Richard Cook, to select Ron Maas for the Forestry Award. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to select Dave and Jeff Spitzack to receive the 2016 Wildlife Enhancement Award. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**MASWCD RESOLUTION DEADLINE:** Deadline for MASWCD resolutions is July 21. Please contact Steve and/or bring resolution ideas to the June meeting.

**SEMASWCD RESOLUTION MEETING:** The SEMASWCD Resolution Meeting will be June 29 at the Legion in Stewartville from 9:15 am to 2:00 pm.

**2017 FARM BILL APPLICATION:** Steve said new Farm Bill Grant will now pay 90% of eligible expenses. Need 10% local match with 5% coming from local partner. We will ask Pheasants Forever to provide the $1,625.00 match. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the 2017 Farmbill Grant application with potential partnership with Pheasants Forever. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**2016 ENVIROTHON SCORES:** The Envirothon was held May 4th at Whitewater State Park. The top three Area 7 teams were all from Goodhue High School.

**TREE PROGRAM:** About 14,175 trees were sold which is slightly less than last year. Potted tree sales were up to 625 versus 525 in 2015. Total sales were approximately $28,000 with about $15,500 in costs. About 225 staff hours are involved so basically breaking even, but is a good service and trees are going in the ground.

**DNR WALK-IN ACCESS PROGRAM:** Bridget Evers explained the DNR Walk-in Access Program. Landowners can receive $10/acre with incentive payments for adjoining acreage or more than 140 acres. Their land is posted and hunters can walk onto the property and hunt. Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Richard Cook to participate in the DNR Walk-In Access Program and authorize district manager to sign the Joint Powers Agreement. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**BWSR BUFFER LAW GRANT CLOSEOUT:** Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve and sign the BWSR $20,000.00 Buffer Law Grant closeout form. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**MN AG WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM:** Ten landowners in Rice County have signed up for the program. Discussion. Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to spend the remainder of the MN Ag Water Quality Program Grant funds on news media/radio ads and cover crop seeds for promotion.
Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

SUPERVISOR/OTHER REPORTS: Richard Cook asked how to approach HEL issues with landowners. Money is available at low interest for machinery and USDA has limited resource farmer program for under $30,000 AGI and $100,000 gross farm sales. Tom Coffman could work with landowner. Jim Purfeerst talked about Hiawatha Valley RC&D’s possible year around fresh produce warehouse. Rochester has winter sale once per month. Gary Wagenbach talked about T.J. Kartes speaking about cover crops in the private sector or at a SEMASWCD meeting or a field day. Bob Duban said Tri-lakes gave away 400 apple trees and talked about the seining at Circle Lake.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:
1. EQIP 2016. We have 18 approved contracts for $253,633. Three applications are pending for a special initiative fund under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program whereby those who have signed up for MAWQCP can apply for EQIP and receive higher financial assistance.

2. Soil Health Tour. September 8th is a good date for Jeff Jirik. He has seeded 1.5 acres to oats to facilitate a parking area and a soil pit site.

3. Rice Local Work Group. The LWG met this morning to review USDA conservation programs. Targeted watersheds are Circle Lake and Zumbro River.

4. AgriNews Article, April 28, front page, story on young farmer from Gibbon using cover crops was discussed with the board.

5. Compliance Reviews will begin this month. Eighteen in Rice will be completed by Tom Steger. I’ll be doing the Goodhue reviews.

6. Full-time Ultima employee, Teresa Crooks, will begin duties here on June 13.

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT by Steve Pahs: No written report received. I did ditch spraying earlier than last year. MCC Intern, Brianna Egge, starts in less than two weeks. Attending lots of meetings. Zumbro WRAPS Meeting is June 7th in Wanamingo. Furniture on hold for now.

DISTRICT TECHNICIAN’S REPORT by Bridget Evers:
- New CRP contracts
- CRP Checks
- State Cost Share projects Survey and Designs
- Surveying with Colin
- Helped with Tree sales
- Helped Steve with ditches
Upcoming:
- Survey’s
- Continue CRP Checks
- Continue New CRP Sign ups
- Survey and designs for cost share items and CRP program (wetland restorations)

**NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT REPORT by Travis Hirman:**
- Completed a new MMP for Jeff Tuma (Rice, 528 acres), and an MMP update for Micah Dicke (Goodhue, 382 acres).
- Helped with tree week; preparing orders, assisting with hand out day, etc.
- Helped Steve with flagging and seeding on JD 6.
- Held the 2nd meeting of the Buffer Steering Committee. Also reviewed the preliminary buffer map, and fielded buffer questions from landowners.
- Looking ahead: MMPs for Comstock and Strand, help with farm bill workload, hold 3rd buffer meeting.

**RESOURCE SPECIALIST REPORT by Justin Fuchs**
- Site Visit with Amber Steele from BWSR for problem area WCA boundary determination.
- DNR OB Well Checks
- Meeting about WCA project pertaining to City of Faribault.
- Pick up NEW Great Plains No Till Drill from Lodermeier’s in Goodhue.
- WCA meeting at the City of Faribault.
- Help with Tree Sale.
- Meeting at I & S for wetland credits closing.
- Attend Earth Day at the Cannon River Stem School in Faribault.
- Dwarf Trout Lily Survey with DNR for RIM application.
- Site visit for wetland boundary determination in Northfield.
- Meet with USFWS and landowner about potential conservation easement programs that land is eligible for.
- DNR OB Well Checks.

**OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**ADJOURN:** Chairman Duban adjourned the meeting at 11:28 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

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Dick Peterson – Board Secretary