RICE S.W.C.D.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 2014 – 9:00 AM


ABSENT: None

Chairman Jim Purfeerst called the meeting to order around 9:00 am. Rick Elsen the owner of Lake Maps introduced himself. Rick is active in the lake associations in Rice County and wanted to sit in on the meeting.

MINUTES: Motion by Jerry Courson, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the April 9, 2014 board meeting minutes. Ayes: Duban, Courson, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: Steve said the WCA grant money has been received earlier than normal. Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the April financial statement and bills payable subject to audit Ayes: Duban, Courson, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None Opposed. Motion carried. Steve will call a budget committee meeting to discuss finances.

OLD BUSINESS:

TREE DAY: Tree pickup was relocated to the Beer Gardens because the conservation building has display cases stored in it. Location worked well, we weren’t overstocked and extra trees were mostly sold at tree day. Steve said profit was around $9200.00.

ENVIROTHON: The Area Envirotong was held May 7 at Alexander Park in Faribault. Bob and Gary were oral presentation judges. Ashley and Nikki Schaefer were at the Soils Station, Luke Belgard at Water Resources, Dick Peterson at Forestry, Tiffany Ploehn from the River Bend Nature Center at Wildlife and Jim Jirik at the Current Events station Board felt oral presentation scenario was challenging. Tom gave a special thank you to Debbie, Ashley, Nikki and Jim. Thanks to all who participated. Event was well organized.

RICE CO. COMMISSIONERS MEETING: Steve met with Tony Murphy and asked for a joint meeting regarding the shoreland ordinance, buffers, ditches, etc. Tentative meeting date is June 17 around 9:00 – 10:00 am. Gary Wagenbach discussed three parts of MASWCD district financial outline.. Bob spoke on information he received at the conference. Jim suggested bringing before and after pictures of ditch cleanouts. Maps are valuable. Discussion followed on joint board meetings twice a year, facilitator, goals, letter promoting buffers, farmers with conservation plans are in compliance, length of buffer, shore land ordinance, draft resolution, etc. Rick Elsen said surrounding
counties have gone to 100% compliance. Board will discuss further right after the June 11 regular board meeting.

**WCA ASSISTANCE CONTRACT WITH TIM LABS:** Collin Schoenecker has taken a different position and Steve would like to hire Tim Labs on a contract basis to fill in the interim. Tim will train Steve and review the wetland sites with him. Contract amount would be $40 per hour and Tim would have no benefits nor be an employee. Tim would need to pay worker’s compensation, all federal, state and any taxes and insurance, etc. Steve said primarily, Tim would work from home and he can’t earn more than $15,000 without a reduction in retirement. Liability and vehicle insurance was discussed. Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Dale Neirby to approve the WCA contract as read with Tim Labs for work needing to be done with Item #4 (about vehicles) deleted. All aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

**ELECTION FILING:** Supervisor filing is from May 20th to June 3. Dale said we’re doing a good job getting the information in the papers and Jim felt Chris did a nice job on his newspaper article.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MASWCD RESOLUTIONS:** Steve explained the grass roots resolution process. Last year Area 7 had 15 to 18 resolutions, which was more than most areas. Gary is working with LeAnn and Steve Connelly and a draft Resolutions Meeting agenda was given to the board today. Resolutions Meeting will be June 25 at the Stewartville American Legion.

**ADOPT-A-HWY:** Adopt-A-Hwy ditch cleaning was postponed until fall.

**SELECT OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST 2014:** Board reviewed list of eligible landowners. Discussion followed. Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Jerry Courson to select Clyde and Brian Eggum as the 2014 Outstanding Conservationists. All aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

**WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT AWARD FOR 2014:** List of possible award recipients was reviewed. Discussion followed. Board would like more direction and names. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to table the Wildlife Enhancement Award and Forest Stewardship Award selection to the June board meeting. All aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

**APPROVE AUDIT BID FOR 2013 AUDIT:** Two bids for the 2013 audit have been received: Peterson Company LTD for $2,500.00 and Clifton Larson Allen LLP for $4,500.00. Motion by Jerry Courson, seconded by Bob Duban to award the 2013 audit bid to Peterson Company LTD for $2,500.00. All aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

**APPROVE TECHNICAL APPROVAL AUTHORITY FOR ASHLEY:** Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Bob Duban to approve technical approval authority for engineering practices for Ashley Tabery. All aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

**CWMA #12003 GRANT VOUCHER:** Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the following 2012 Clean Water Management Area payment voucher at 50% cost share. :

CWMA#12003-Jake Langeslag-4640 230 Street E-Faribault-Walcott Section 10 - Brush Management - $1255.00. All aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.
MASWCD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM: MASWCD Leadership brochure, letter and information sheet were handed out to the board. Program cost is $2300.00 for the one year program. Gary Wagenbach expressed an interest. Steve will have a budget meeting before the next board meeting. Add to June agenda.

PLAN ANNUAL TOUR: Last year’s tour was collaboration with Cannon River Watershed Partnership. Laurie Svien is executive director for Zumbro Watershed Partnership. Discussion followed on SE Rice County; Gene Kuntz starting at CRWP June 1, cover crops, Sommer’s Brothers and Jim Purfeerst’s farms, helicopter seeding, soil health, date, pollinators, buffers, ditches, variable rate planter, new technology, bus or carpooling, etc. Continue to plan tour. Give map Zumbro drainage, map Ditch 12, mention who has buffers, start at Jim Purfeerst’s shed, showcase conservation practices, invite public, Put on June agenda.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS: Bob Duban handed out a grant writing survey he received at the conference as homework for next month’s meeting. He said the State of Water Conference sponsored by the Freshwater Society, U of M Extension, PCA, DNR and BWSR May 1 and 2nd at Cragun’s was good. He spoke on Crow Wing County’s ordinance, different viewpoints, speakers, legislature geared towards watersheds, farmer’s land use and thanked the board for sending him to the conference. Bob went with a person from Circle Lake who drove to Brainerd. Gary Wagenbach spoke on CRWP and the Area 7 Resolutions Meeting agenda topics. He is helping Steve Connelly with the Resolutions Meeting. Jerry Courson reviewed topics from the last BALMM meeting in Oronoco; honey bee pollinators, 2.5 million hives nationwide, more than 4000 bee species worldwide, MN getting about $250,000, and cover crops, etc. Jerry said cover crops could be incorporated into the conservation farmer award. Gary mentioned the EQIP pollinator docket.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. EQIP 14. Program is coming closer to approving contracts. Signup deadline is now May 16th for first ranking period.

2. Construction projects have been at a standstill due to wet weather. Many will get delayed until fall as farmers will be ready to plant as soon as it gets fit.

3. ACEP - Agriculture Conservation Easement Program is being rolled out. We are having teleconferences every Monday afternoon. First round signup period ends June 6. This program includes the old Wetland Reserve Program.

4. Compliance reviews will again be switched with Goodhue and Rice. Tom Steger will be doing Rice and I will be doing Goodhue.

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT by Steve Pahs:

Since the April board meeting, we have been very busy with spring work. The tree program was a success, with over 13,000 trees sold plus supplies such as mats and tubes also helping add to sales. The cold, wet conditions have prevented almost all construction work from occurring.

Other activity this past month:
• Submitted One Watershed application for the Cannon
• CD 32A and 33 redetermination of benefits meetings
• Prepared and sent in our Biennial Budget Request
• Prepared and sent in a new Farm Bill Tech. request
• Onsite with Bill Hoover to review flooding concerns
• Meeting with County Administrator to discuss budgets, meetings
• Dealt with a variety of WCA issues
• Several ditch issues/projects being worked on
• Sand Creek meeting on farmer led councils

In the next month, time will be focused on ditch projects and spraying, budget preparation, tour and demo plans, and preparation for our meeting with the county board. We will also be staking some projects for summer and fall construction. Will also further analyze the future of the WCA position and when the ideal time will be to fill that position.

Lonsdale area erosion, soil ordinance, road ditches, urban population, and plant sale were discussed.

**FARM BILL TECHNICIAN REPORT by Ashley Tabery:**

**Past Month:**
• Ravine erosion needs at Paul Book’s and Cannon River Wilderness Area
• Survey and design Larson/Franek Grassed waterway
• Finalized plans for Estrem’s, Started construction and check out
• Prepared buffer estimates for landowners on Ditch 7, 23, 32A and 33
• Needs with Area Office at Noonan’s
• Monitoring site data collection
• CRP visit with Shimp, and a handful of CRP contract modifications/updates
• Trees! Unloaded and sorted
• Delivered drill to landowner, also to shop to get welded
• Surveyed Bauer/Salisbury terraces
• Langeslag site visit to assess buckthorn, also to discuss RIM and CRP
• Water plan/ Biennial budget request meeting
• Spoke at Lonsdale Arbor day
• EnviroScape and soil/water education for Roosevelt 2nd graders
• Sherwin grassed waterway changes/tile survey
• Assisted with Envirothon
• Attended Pheasants Forever meeting, gained their support, then submitted Farm Bill Application
• Garden club presentation on invasive species

**Upcoming:**
• Finish up construction season: hopefully complete Estrem, Sherwin,, Klapperich, Strouth, Furlong, Donkers, and Larson
• Needs/survey for many including: Petricka, Noonan, Bauer, Ross, Rock, Hoefs
• Develop possible solutions for ravine erosion, send letters to landowners
• Attend ditch meeting to discuss buffers
• Native plant distribution
• Shields lake association meeting May 15th
• RIM webinar, then work on applications for June deadline
• Pollinator training in Morris, then work on planning a workshop

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST'S REPORT by Spencer Herbert:

This past month I completed plan for Dave Buck (Goodhue) and Matt Hanson (Rice). Dave’s plan was an update for an existing plan, and also encompassed a new heifer site. Matt Hanson is building another hog building, so his plan needed updating to include additional animal units and land agreements. I also met with three other producers that need plans: Nate Kuball (Rice), Brent Lexvold (Goodhue), and John Huneke (Goodhue). I have just started work on Kuball’s plan. Lexvold and Huneke will be completed when time allows me.

Other activities this past month included: helping with tree day, radio show on KDHL, CCA credentials, and CRWP contract work. Tom Coffman and I were invited by Jerry Groskreutz to talk about soil health on KDHL, and we put together a good radio show. My CCA credential work included documenting work experience, education, and providing professional references. When all credentials have been submitted it will be reviewed by the local board for approval. I also spent time doing contract work for CRWP. So far it has mostly been getting familiar with their projects, resources, and goals. The main projects I will be working on include identifying potential erosion reduction sites in two targeted watersheds, as well as organizing a farmer led watershed group in the Belle Creek area.

Looking ahead: Continue work with Kuball, begin on Lexvold and Huneke. Focus on getting some potential projects for CRWP identified. Contact key landowners in Belle Creek Watershed.

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE: Newspaper article

UPCOMING EVENTS:

ADJOURN: Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Duban to adjourn the meeting. All aye. None Opposed. Motion carried. Time: 11:15 am.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, June 11, 2014 at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted by:  
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Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

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Jerry Courson - Board Secretary