PRESENT: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Gary Wagenbach, Steve Pahs, Thomas Coffman, Travis Hirman, MCC Intern Brianna Egge and Debbie Skarupa.

ABSENT: Jim Purfeerst

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

SOIL HEALTH TOPIC: An article entitled “Cover Crops Take Root for Indiana No-Tiller” from the No-Till Farmer magazine, which was copied by Bridget, was discussed. Gary Wagenbach mentioned Gabe Brown from North Dakota on Ted Talks and his increased soil carbon from 3% to 12% and increased water infiltration. Might be a good video to have running at fair or the September 8th Field Day.

MCC INTERN: Mn Conservation Corps Intern Brianna Egge was introduced. Brianna is from the Prior Lake area and a U of M student majoring in Environmental Sciences and minoring in Soil Science. She will be here for the summer.

MINUTES: Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the May 11, 2016 board minutes. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL/BILLS PAYABLE: Steve Pahs reviewed the financial summary. A three-species cover crop mix of radish, turnip and rye was purchased with some of the MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program Grant dollars. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the May Program Record and bills payable subject to audit. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:
BUFFER LAW STATUS – Steve Pahs handed out a recent DNR paper on the “Origin of State Authority over Public Waters.” Travis Hirman said the third Buffer Committee meeting was held at the end of May. Fifteen summarized comments were submitted. County ditches with shoreline classification had been a 50’ requirement and was changed to one rod. Public ditches with shoreline needed 50’ and now is mostly one rod. Who will sign the buffer letters? County has until April 2017 to decide if they will be the buffer enforcer. One Watershed One Plan was discussed.
BWSR released a statement that farmers certified in MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program will be exempt from buffer requirements. BWSR will be releasing guidance after June 22, 2016 on how to handle alternative practices, on-site planning, etc. Many variations. MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program has more than 100 applications.

Tom Coffman wondered if grassed waterways should be on the protected waters map. He discussed a waterway southeast of town with 200-300 acres that was added to the map. Travis doubts DNR will take it off. May need to wait and hear comments back for rationale of a grassed waterway being a protected water. If these waterways are left as protected waters, the landowner will need to pay for a permit to reconstruct his own waterway and wait for ok. Another example was noted where it took months to approve the design and receive the permit. Hopefully, comments will help.

The following discussion was held later, after the CRP Resolution was passed below: Clarification was asked for Definitions under “I” in the DNR “History of Water Protection.” It states: “Public waters includes and shall be limited to the following waters of the state: 1. All natural and altered natural watercourses with a total drainage area greater than 2 square miles, except that trout streams officially designated by the commissioner shall be public waters regardless of the size of their drainage area.” More discussion. Good to have area hydrologists come to our meeting for clarification on why things changed. Dick Peterson suggested asking David Leuthe from the DNR for a written update. Put buffers on July agenda.

SUPERVISOR ELECTIONS: Candidates who filed are: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Beth Kallestad, and Mike Ludwig.

ONE WATERSHED ONE PLAN FOR CANNON RIVER WATERSHED: Steve drafted a resolution in support. Dakota SWCD doesn’t want to participate. They are treated differently because of metro status. Discussion.

Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the One Watershed One Plan for the Cannon River Watershed Resolution. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

ONE WATERSHED ONE PLAN FOR ZUMBRO RIVER WATERSHED: Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the One Watershed One Plan for the Zumbro River Watershed. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

GREAT PLAINS NO-TILL DRILL MODIFICATIONS: Steve had Larry Conrad move the hitch over 15” to modify the drill for cover crop seeding. We are not charging rental fees to farmers who are using it to seed cover crops. Revenues from drills are used for upgrading machinery. Drill is working very well.

SEMASWCD RESOLUTION MEETING: The SEMASWCD Resolution Meeting will be held June 29th at Stewartville from 9:15 to 2:00 pm. Steve, Gary, Jim and Bob plan on attending.
MN AG WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM: Grant for $6,000 was received and used for staff time, plat books, advertising, cover crop seed etc. Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Richard Cook to approve the final closeout of the MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program Grant. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Soil Health Farm Tour is being planned for September 8, 2016 at Jeff Jirik’s farm by Millersburg. Cover crops, terraces, no-till plots, intakes, etc. will be shown. Wagon ride transportation, tent, possibly Governor Dayton attending, including lakeshore owners, or Tri-Lakes members, lunch, and Dave Legvold’s previous tour was discussed. May be better to keep it local - target audience and ask Governor Dayton to view a day or so prior or after the tour. Bob and Richard Cook offered to serve on planning committee which could also include Gene Kuntz from CRWP.

FARMER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST JUNE 11: Town Square Media, owner of KDHL radio, will be hosting a Farmer Appreciation Breakfast at the gymnastics building at the fairgrounds on Saturday June 11, from 8:00 to noon. Travis offered to man a booth and speak at 11:30 on Saturday.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING: Date will be rescheduled to August 10, 2016 after a short board meeting. SWCD will provide lunch. Discuss more in July.

NEW BUSINESS:

RICE RESOLUTION TO REVIEW CRP ACREAGE: Resolution to increase CRP acres was viewed and discussed. Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Richard Cook to approve the Rice SWCD resolution with revisions to increase the CRP acreage cap from 23 to 30 million. Email final product to supervisors. Rental rates were discussed. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Buffers were discussed again – See Buffers item above.

C.W.M.A. CONTRACT AMENDMENTS: Discussion. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the extension date for Candice Knudsen as follows:


Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve extending the contract date and increasing the contract amount to $1,390.82 for Daniel Zielske as follows:

CWMA#12-008 Daniel Zielske-Morristown-Buckthorn Mgmt-$1,390.82 extended to June 30, 2016.

Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.
C.W.M.A. CONTRACT CANCELLATION:  Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Richard Cook to cancel the following Cooperative Weed Management Area contract:


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

C.W.M.A. CONTRACT VOUCHER PAYMENT:  Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the following voucher payment:

CWMA#12-007 Vairochana Farm-Janet Spring-16922 Cabot Ave-Fb-CC9-Buckthorn Management-$982.01.

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

STATE C-S CONTRACT VOUCHER PAYMENT:  Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Richard Cook to approve the following 2016 cost share voucher payment:

CS16-02 Robert Peterson-7525 Co 12 Blvd-Kenyon-Richland 24- 1 Waterway-$993.75

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

SCOTT WMO PAYMENT APPROVAL:  Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Richard Cook to approve the following contract for payment by Scott WMO:

WMO#16-01 Tim McNearney-8980 320 Street W. Northfield -1 Waterway- $6,192.00
This was approved at 90% cost share because it had a conservation assessment done.

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

APPROVE PAUL SCHEFFER FEEDLOT VI:  Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Richard Cook to approve the following SE Water Resources Board Feedlot cost share contract:

WRB#16-01  Paul Scheffler-18850 Fairbanks Ave Faribault Wells 19 Milk House Waste $5192.16.

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

AUDIT ESTIMATES:  Bid estimate requests were sent to about a dozen CPAs.  Michael Peterson was the only one who returned an estimate.  His firm does the auditing for a lot of the SWCDs in the state and he did ours last year.  Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Richard Cook to award Peterson Company LTD the bid to do the
2015 audit for $2,500.00. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**REMOVE PROBATIONARY STATUS:** Bridget Evers has been here almost a year and doing well. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to remove Bridget Evers from probationary status. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**REQUEST TECHNICAL APPROVAL AUTHORITY FOR STAFF:** Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to request technical approval authority for Bridget Evers, Justin Fuchs and Travis Hirman. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**APPROVE 2017 PRELIMINARY BUDGET:** Steve said it’s harder to budget now with larger BWSR grants. Discussion. Legislature is requiring us to do extra work. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to increase the budget request to Rice County by three percent. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**OTHER:** How to spend the $100,000 District Capacity was discussed. Put on Strategic Planning agenda. Urban issues such as blowing grass into boulevard, rain gardens, and impervious surfaces were brought up. Could invite water planners from Faribault and Northfield to Strategic Planning Meeting. Spring Park and Edgebrook were also discussed. Gill property is being reviewed by NRCS and concern is if water is seven to nine feet high and it blows, it could flood one or two basements. NRCS may have to cover replacement costs. Housing not in the best place. Is under review.

**SUPERVISOR/OTHER REPORTS:** Gary said Cannon River Watershed Partnership hired Tonya Kjerland half-time and she has a water resources background. EPA has new summary of Atrazine and groundwater issues. Should contamination issues be part of staff training? Staff has had some training. Dick Peterson has been going to Zumbro Watershed Partnership meetings and said Sarah Middleton will be the new executive director after June 9. She is a Northfield resident working 25 hours per week. Zumbro will be getting WRAPS. Richard Cook said Cannon Lake water quality is better the last few years. Bob Duban spoke about an article wondering if SWCDs are still wearing the white hats. He hopes SWCDs don’t get put into a regulatory position. Discussion. Staff to try to resolve problems for landowners. Richard mentioned the tone of the buffer letters to be sent out. The attitude of staff and our recommendations to meet the standards is important.

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

1. EQIP spring construction is winding down. Two jobs are in process of installation. One in Erin Township and one in Warsaw Township.

2. We have two new NRCS staffers arriving full-time this month. Our Ultima employee, Teresa Crooks, will be starting next Monday. Her duties will be full-time clerical assistant. NRCS has a contract with Ultima Employment Agency through September 30, 2016. Soil Conservationist Leslie Diaz Alvarez will begin full-time duties here on June 27.
**DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT by Steve Pahs:** No written report received. Busy spraying ditches and seeding ditch banks. Dew Drop seeder is used a lot and working well. Six, Five For is due Friday. Fair booth will be on soil health. Gary suggested showing Gabe Brown video. Tom said Rice County seems to be doing better on residue in compliance reviews than Goodhue County.

**DISTRICT TECHNICIAN’S REPORT by Bridget Evers:**
- New CRP contracts
- CRP Checks
- State Cost Share projects Survey and Designs
- Surveying with Colin
- RUSLE2 training
- AED/CPR Training
- Bark bed milk house waste system with engineer from Goodhue
- Flood Relief projects
- Ditch Projects with Steve

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 Mark Comstock (turkeys) in West Concord, 592 acres.
- Performed CRP checks for expiring CP21 contracts (filter strips).
- Helped with seeding and spraying of CD11A, 12 & 23.
- Answered buffer questions from walk-ins.
- Held 3rd Buffer Committee meeting. Went over new buffer updates and prepared comments to be made on the preliminary buffer map.
- Looking ahead: RUSLE2 training in Rochester, BWSR buffer meeting in Owatonna, MMPs for Strand, Buck.

**RESOURCE SPECIALIST REPORT by Justin Fuchs**
- City of Dundas Delineation Review
- Rice County Highway Bridge L3923 Delineation Review
- Rice County Highway Bridge 66J74 Delineation Review
- TEP Meetings for Highway Replacements
- Lonsdale Arbor Day Event at the Elementary School
- DNR Well Checks
• WCA Site Visit
• WCA Site Visit WCA Violation Phelps Lake
• WCA Site Visit
• AGBMP Loan Meeting with Applicant
• Wetland Restoration Presentation for Master Naturalist Certification at the River Bend Nature Center
• Drill Rentals for Spring Planting and CRP Planting
• Prepare for RIM Site Visits in June
• Site Visit WCA Violation Union Lake

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE: Most articles being emailed.

ADJOURN: Chairman Duban adjourned the meeting at 11:35 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

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Dick Peterson – Board Secretary