PRESENT: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, Gary Wagenbach, Steve Pahs, Travis Hirman, Tom Coffman, Nicole Schaffer and Debbie Skarupa.

ABSENT: None

Chairman Gary Wagenbach called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

MINUTES: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the May 13, 2015 board minutes as presented. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL/BILLS PAYABLE: Financial statements were reviewed. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the May Program Summary 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:

MN CONSERVATION CORP INTERN: Steve has been training Jarett Spitzack and felt it is a good experience for everyone involved. Jarett is doing the tillage survey right now.

BISMARCK BUS TRIP AUGUST 5-7: Steve said the bus holds 57 and he has room for 15 more people. Steve, Travis, and Jarett will be attending. Steve did receive a $2,000 SARE grant and he reviewed expenses and donations. NRCS personnel (12) have not been given approval to attend yet. Hardship scholarships were discussed. Revenues should exceed expenses, but will wait to see how it shapes up.

CTIC TOUR: The National Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) Tour will be August 11-13 and there should be around 200 people in attendance. Far Gaze Farms and Dave Legvold’s farm will be the stops viewed in Rice County. Nutrient management, cover crops, soil health and two pits will be discussed. Mark Dietrich from MDA and Mary Kells-Peterson from BWSR are planning the tour. Jim Purfeerst said Root River’s research on One Watershed One Plan was extremely interesting. Money may go to established projects. Gary explained the TMDL to WRAPS to One Watershed One Plan development process. Funding was discussed. Agenda is being worked on. Check CTIC.org or MASWCD website.

BWSR TOUR AUGUST 26-27: The Board of Water and Soil Resources board tour for August 26 and 27 will be in Goodhue and Rice County. Focus will be on BWSR funded projects (Salisbury). Put on July agenda.
**COVER CROP RESOLUTION:** Tom Coffman explained RMA’s guidelines for crop insurance and inter-seeding near the maturity date. NRCS cover crop standards are older. Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the development of a Cover Crop Resolution to be taken to the Resolution Meeting on June 17.

**SOIL HEALTH CLIP:** Steve Pahs showed an NRCS video on Mixed Cover Crops.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**SCOTT CO WMO TECHNICAL SERVICES AGREEMENT:** Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the Scott Watershed Management Organization agreement effective March 11, 2015 to January 31, 2019 for $60,000. Scott WMO pays landowners for the projects. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**APPROVE HIRING DISTRICT TECHNICIAN:** Steve, Gary, Travis, and Jarett interviewed the top five people. Discussion followed. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve hiring Bridget Evers at Range 23 with a six month review. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Bridget starts June 22.

**RESOURCE SPECIALIST POSITION:** Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to give authorization to Steve Pahs to proceed with the hiring and offering the job for the Resource Specialist position. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**SEMASWCD AREA RESOLUTION MEETING:** Area Resolution Meeting will be June 17 at People’s Co-op in Oronoco from 9:00 to 2:30. Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach will attend and take resolution copies.

**RICE COUNTY FAIR BOOTH:** Rice County Fair is July 21 – 26. Suggested topics for the booth were pollinators and soil health. May have trays of native wild flowers for samples and order forms for 2016. Could display Dew Drop drill, if there is enough room.

**OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE NOMINATION:** Bob Duban and Gary Wagenbach will work on nominating an employee of the year for the MASWCD convention.

**WEED WRENCH DONATION:** Four orange weed wrenches were donated anonymously to the Rice SWCD today. The wrenches have a board screwed on to the bottom for better leverage. Richard Cook signed a thank you letter and purchased some gift certificates for the donators. He took a picture and will do a write up for the paper and website.

**2016 BUDGET:** Steve reviewed the 2016 budget sheet to be sent to Rice County. Discussion followed. Rent is month to month. Space is limited. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Bob Duban to go with the 2% increase column on the 2016 budget sheet with a caveat that a tech position will be added and presented to the County by July 1 for compliance purposes, contingent on appropriation. Discussion. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.
CWMA CONTRACT VOUCHER PAYMENT:  
Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the following Cooperative Weed Management Area Contract voucher payment as follows:

CWMA12-005  Paul Douville, 4700 230 St. E. Faribault Walcott Sec 10- Buckthorn Mgmt.- $1785.48.

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

CANCEL STATE C-S CONTRACT:  
Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the cancellation of the following regular state cost-share contract:


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

AMENDMENT FLOOD RELIEF C-S CONTRACT FR13-018:  
Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the following amendment to increase the final payment by $638.28 due to additional tile needed for:

Gerald & Duane Rohlfsen-640 Brockton Lane W Plymouth and 2889 Blairmont Dr-Danville Virginia Cannon City Section 22-Terraces – Additional $638.28 to $21,178.08. See below.

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

APPROVE FLOOD RELIEF C-S CONTRACT VOUCHER:  
Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the following flood relief cost share voucher at 90% cost-share from Phase #2:

CSFR13-018 Gerald and Duane Rohlfsen-640 Brockton Lane N. Plymouth 55447 and 2889 Blairmont Drive – Danville, Virginia 24540- Cannon City Section 22 – Terraces - $21,178.08.

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

2013 C-S CONTRACT VOUCHER PAYMENT:  
Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Richard Cook to approve the following 2013 state cost-share contract at 75% cost-share:


Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.
SCOTT WMO/SAND CREEK CONTRACT APPLICATION: Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the following Scott Watershed Management Organization contract application:

Scott WMO 15-21 Ken Franek 3673 Kanabec Ave – New Prague 56071 Wheatland Sec 5 – Sediment Basin - $2775.00

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

2013 BWSR COST-SHARE CLOSEOUT WITH SLIPPAGE: Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to sign the 2013 cost-share grant closeout form with slippage upon completion. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

SUPERVISOR/OTHER REPORTS: Supervisors spoke on River Bend Nature Center using Jake Langeslag’s goats to eat invasive garlic mustard, wild parsnip and buckthorn. Seeds stay in the ground for five to seven years. Chairman Wagenbach left the meeting at 10:40 a.m. Circle Lake, dredging, sediment, crumbler, and rollers were discussed. Richard Cook purchased gift certificates for the two brothers from Warsaw who donated four orange weed wrenches today. Dick Peterson mentioned the traveling invasive species workshop and will send out information. Weeds, tree diseases, trees, California drought, and emerald ash borers were discussed. MN has more ash trees than any other state. Dick Peterson will work with Steve to put together something. Jim Purfeerst said Deet and birth control pill residue are highest residuals in some water tests. Steve will get Mike Peterson monitoring site results. Locks on Mississippi River, barges, no-till drills, cultivation, herbicides, etc. were also discussed.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. NRCS Client Gateway: NRCS recently released an online tool for farmers and landowners to do business online (www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway.gov). A talking point handout was provided with web address and additional information.

2. EQIP 15: We anticipate approving many EQIP applications. This month so far, we have five contracts approved for funding and hopefully we can get that number similar to the last few years where we’ve averaged 20 or so per year.

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT by Steve Pahs: No written report was received. Steve will be on vacation June 12-19. I have been spraying ditching before corn gets too high. New boomless sprayer is working out very nicely. Helicopter spray was disappointing last year, but better coverage with 100 foot hose, and soon will have buffers on all the systems.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT UPDATE by Travis Hirman:
- Completed a new MMP for Zahbulls Holsteins (Plainview).
- Participated in the interview process for the district tech. position.
- Received my USDA LincPass (electronic ID card).
• Since Ashley’s departure I have assumed most of the no-till and dew drop drill responsibilities.
• Assisted with the native plant sale.
• MDA nutrient management continues to progress
  o One plot in Kellogg was installed (variable AA rate)
  o One timing plot was side-dressed (urea split application)
  o Attended another meeting in Rochester
  o Prepared quarterly report to MDA

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE:

ADJOURN: Vice Chairman Robert Duban adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

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Richard Cook – Board Secretary