PRESENT: Jerry Courson, Dale Neirby, Jim Purfeerst, Gary Wagenbach, Steve Pahs, Ashley Tabery, Spencer Herbert, Debbie Skarupa, Tom Coffman, and Rick Elsen.

ABSENT: Bob Duban

Chairman Jim Purfeerst called the meeting to order at 9:02 am. Rick Elsen the owner of Lake Maps was in attendance and said he has filed for district supervisor. Jerry Courson said Dick Cook also filed and he is glad to see an interest from the community on civic engagement.

MINUTES: Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Jerry Courson to approve the May 14, 2014 board meeting minutes with a correction to add to the sentence: Gary Wagenbach discussed the three parts “of MASWCD District financial outline.” Ayes: Courson, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Steve reviewed the May financial statement line by line. There will be more negative balances as grants are being paid 50%, then 40%, and after completion the final 10%. Motion by Jerry Courson, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the May financial statement and bills payable subject to audit Ayes: Courson, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

W.C.A. REVISED AGREEMENT WITH TIM LABS: Original plan was to enter into a consulting contract with Tim Labs for Wetland Conservation Act assignments. Auto and liability insurance would cost Tim $3000. Tim can be hired without publicizing the position as a temporary part-time employee if he works less than 14 hours per week and less than 67 days per year according to the County Attorney. Steve adjusted the hourly rate downward. Hours worked will be flexible, as projects and calls are needed. Discussion followed.

Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Dale Neirby to adopt the part-time, temporary Wetland Conservation Act hourly agreement with Tim Labs as written. Ayes: Courson, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

SUPERVISOR ELECTION: The following have filed for District Supervisor positions:

District #2 Jerry Courson, Richard Cook and Rick Elsen
District #3 Jim Purfeerst and Todd Lien
District #5 Richard Peterson and Todd Rost

PLAN SWCD TOUR: Tour will be discussed after today’s meeting.
MASWCD RESOLUTIONS MEETING: Rice SWCD does not have any resolutions and so far, none have been received from other counties. Steve, Gary, Jerry and probably Bob will be carpooling. Jim Purfeerst may pay at the door.

WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT AWARD: Item was tabled at the May board meeting. Discussion followed. Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Dale Neirby to select Judith Bechtum as Wildlife Enhancement Award recipient for 2014. Ayes: Courson, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

MASWCD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM: Item was tabled at the May 14, 2014 board meeting. Steve said the cost is $2300.00 and at this time he recommends not sending anyone because it’s not in the budget. Ashley said MASWCD scholarship may be around $200.00. Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS:

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2015: Steve passed out handouts on the past history of cost of living allowances and Rice County funding. Jim Purfeerst, Dale Neirby and Steve Pahs met to discuss the budget on June 10th. Discussion followed. Rice SWCD needs to have an approved budget to Rice County by July 1. WCA position, fund balance, losing staff, watershed districts, taxing authority, other districts, etc. were discussed. Steve has set up a meeting with the county commissioners next Tuesday, June 17. Steve discussed salaries. Motion by Gary Wagenbach to approve the preliminary 2015 budget in column #2 with step increases and no COLA. Motion died for lack of a second. Board closed the meeting at 10:25 a.m. to discuss.

Board reconvened at 11:00 a.m. Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to provide a 2% COLA increase for the balance of 2014 effective July 1. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Motion by Jerry Courson, seconded by Dale Neirby to approve the preliminary 2015 budget in column #1 to the Rice County Commissioners totaling $440,756 to include a step and 2% COLA adjustment. Ayes: Courson, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

CS130918 DALE KLAPPERICH – COST SHARE DATE AMENDMENT: Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Dale Neirby to approve the following 2013 cost share contract amendment to extend the date to June 11, 2015 due to weather conditions:

CS130918-Dale Klapperich-23749 Albers Ave-Faribault-Walcott 18-Waterway with diversions-$3600.00. This is a 2013 cost share contract that is expected to be completed soon.

Ayes: Courson, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

CS 130419 JOHN ROSS- COST SHARE CONTRACT : Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Dale Neirby to apply 2013 slippage to the John Ross CS130419 contract

COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA CONTRACT #12-005: Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Dale Neirby to approve the following CWMA Contract:

CWMA#12-005 – Paul Douville-4700 230 St. E- Faribault- Walcott 10- Buckthorn Removal-$1785.48.

Ayes: Courson, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.
SCOTT WMO PAYMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to recommend payment by Scott Water Management Organization for the following contracts:

WMO#13-40 Greg Jindra-12245 W 45 St. New Prague-Wheatland Section 7 – Filter Strip $23,400 Paid by Scott WMO


Scott Water Management Organization will issue checks for these practices and Rice SWCD will receive $875.00 per contract for technical and administration done by Ashley. Greg Jindra was not required to pay any earnest money down as his was not a structure. Ayes: Courson, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

SCOTT WMO EARNEST MONEY REIMBURSEMENT: Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve $500.00 earnest money reimbursement for Jim Cihak for the above Scott Water Management Organization contract. Ayes: Courson, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

SE MN WATER RESOURCES BOARD CONTRACT: Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Jerry Courson to approve the SE MN Water Resources Board contract as follows:

SEWRB14-001 Dan Misgen-17361 Roberds Lake Blvd-Faribault-Wells 15-Milk house waste - bark bed - $4000.00.

SRF Engineer Kate Bruss is designing. Ayes: Courson, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

AG BMP RESOLUTION REPRESENTATIVE: Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Jerry Courson to designate the district manager as the authorized representative for the Ag BMP loan program. Ayes: Courson, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

FARM BILL 2015 GRANT AGREEMENT: Motion by Jerry Courson, seconded by Dale Neirby to designate Steve Pahs to sign the 2015 Farm Bill Grant Agreement when it is received to shorten time to receive funding. Ayes: Courson, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

MN DNR OB WELL AGREEMENT FOR 2015: Steve discussed location and time spent reading the five observation wells. Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Dale Neirby to approve the 2015 DNR Observation Well Agreement. Ayes: Courson, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None Opposed. Motion carried.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS: Gary Wagenbach passed around a leafy spurge plant. Ashley said Trent and Kevin from Rice County are trying to put an overall spray into their budget. Wild Parsnip is on their radar. Gary Wagenbach said he is with the MN Dept of Ag stakeholder’s group. He mentioned LeAnn Buck and the Dept of Ag nitrogen water contamination issue. Jerry Courson will attend the BALMM meeting next week dealing with a forestry topic on the agenda. Dale mentioned news release about fall applications of nitrogen. Spencer said certain townships will be banned from
fall nitrogen because of solubility. Gary said LeAnn had MN Dept of Ag state maps based on groundwater sensitivity. Dale Neirby mentioned the large increase in pheasant population in South Dakota with fall seeding into Prairie Pothole Region. Jim Purfeerst said Hiawatha Valley RC&D is getting providers to do projects on an invasive species site in Rice County.

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

1. EQIP 2014: Tom handed out a sheet on EQIP 2014. We recently received preapproval of three out of 31 EQIP applications. MN has 22 million in EQIP funds but only one million dedicated to the cropland pool. Thus our three included one conservation activity plan and two waterway projects in the Driftless Area Land Conservation Initiative (DALCI).

2. CRP: Recent announcement from Washington that FSA will be able to accept CCRP applications. No general CRP this FY. Those general CRP contracts that expire 9/30/14 have one year extension option.

**FAIR BOOTH:** Fair booth could be on pollinators this year.

**DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT by Steve Pahs:**

No formal report was written. Steve said he’s swamped with WCA responsibilities, grant applications are coming up and he hopes to get Spencer’s Clean Water Fund grant funded this year. He thanked the board for the COLA.

**FARM BILL TECHNICIAN REPORT by Ashley Tabery:** Ashley said there’s been a shift in managing CRP as short grasses are good for honey bees. Gary said pollinator displays could be used at the Northfield Garden Club and Valley Grove Preservation Society.

Past Month:
- Construction: Estrem 4 basins of 15, Donkers 2 basin, Sherwin tile for WW, Klapperich WW
- Needs/Prelim Survey: Petricka basins/terraces, Ross basin, Lyman WW, Kuchinka WW, Rud Basins,
- Monitoring site check-up and run-off events
- Native plant sale pick-up
- Drill to multiple people
- Two presentations for Arcadia school on the District and Soils
- Pollinator training in Morris
- RIM application submission for Nielsen
- Buckthorn inspection for J. Langeslag and sign-up inspection for Douville
- Meetings with landowners and Board Conservationist on ravine erosion in CRWA
- Guidance to Marek’s on drainage issue

Upcoming:
- Finish up construction
- CRP status reviews and practice certification inspections
- Field day/tour
CRP estimates for re-enrollments
County fair display

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST’S REPORT by Spencer Herbert:

Over the past month I completed four total plans. Two were new MMP’s: Brent Lexvold (Goodhue) and John Huneke (Goodhue). I completed one MMP update for Matt Hanson (Rice). I also completed the nutrient management portion of a CNMP for Casey Leonhardt (Wabasha). These four plans cover a total of 2391.7 acres. Casey Leonhardt was the final plan that will be charged at the flat rate of $300, as his plan has been in the works since before the rates were changed. The other three plans were charged with the new acre based rates. I have also put significant work into a plan for Kuball Dairy Farm (Rice). I should have this plan wrapped up soon.

I spent some time working on CRWP contract work as well. I spent time reviewing aerial photography to identify and prioritize possible upland erosion reduction practices, along with identifying the landowners and operators connected with those farms.

I spent most of a day in Fillmore County with Dawn Bernau, as I will be filling in for her if needed when she is on maternity leave. She updated me on current producers and plans she is working on, as well as showing me where to find files, folders, producer info, etc. We also spent some time going over NMP goals for possible MDA funding and discussing ways to improve a future CWF grant application.

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE:

UPCOMING EVENTS: Area 7 SEMASWCD June 25 and Rice Co Fair

ADJOURN: Chairman Purfeerst adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

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

Board to discuss the upcoming tour and commissioner’s meeting after today’s board meeting.

Respectfully submitted by: ____________________________

Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

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Jerry Courson - Board Secretary