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

ABSENT: None

Chairman Gary Wagenbach called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

INTRODUCE BRIDGET EVER: Bridget Evers, our new district technician, was introduced to everyone. Bridget went to school at NDSU and Platteville, had numerous internships and most recently was the feedlot technician at Wabasha SWCD. Board welcomed Bridget.

SOIL HEALTH TOPIC: Travis Hirman handed out a U of M survey sheet and summarized grain yields with nitrogen fertilizer in first-year and second-year corn totals following alfalfa. Survey showed corn needed additional nitrogen in three out of 28 cases the first year and 14 out of 28 cases the second year. Number of cases, age of alfalfa, and texture of soil were also determining factors.

MINUTES: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the June 10, 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 Richard Cook, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the June financial report 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:

BISMARCK BUS TRIP AUGUST 5-7: Travel budget is not available, so NRCS employees will not be allowed to use work time to attend. There are ten people registered so far. Steve may put on website and may rent a van instead of a bus.

CTIC TOUR: The National Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) Tour will be August 11-13 in Goodhue and Rice County. Nutrient management, soil health and cover crops will be the topics at the Peterson site. The Dave Legvold farm will cover saturated buffer, Lester soil pit, education, and lunch. Goodhue will have dairy topics. Board meeting was rescheduled below. Check CTIC.org or MASWCD website for registration.
**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. In Rice County, the Salisbury structure and the Edgebrook Drive project will be the focus. A boat trip in Lake City will have the evening meal. Call or email registration to BWSR.

**COVER CROP RESOLUTION:** The Rice SWCD Cover Crop resolution was revised at the Resolution Meeting on June 17 and Ed McNamara will send a copy after it is revised. Area 7 had three resolutions, but just two passed. MASWCD deadline is July 21. Gary and Deb will follow-up.

**RESCHEDULE BOARD MEETING:** The August 12, 2015 board meeting was rescheduled to Monday, August 10th at 9:00 am.

**RESOURCE SPECIALIST POSITION:** Justin Fuchs has accepted the resource specialist position and will start July 20, 2015. Justin has worked as a paid GIS intern for Rice County Planning and Zoning and has watershed and aquatic experience. Tim Labs will help with WCA training. Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the hiring of Justin Fuchs as the Resource Specialist with a July 20, 2015 start date. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**RICE COUNTY FAIR BOOTH:** Pollinators and Soil Health will be topics. Amber Brossard from River Bend Nature Center has taken the lead setting up schedules. Jarett Spitzack will man the booth at times and others are welcome to do so also.

**LEGISLATIVE BUFFER STRIP/FUNDING STATUS:** All districts across the state will get a minimum of $100,000 based on workload. Balance of $11 million will be allocated in competitive grants. Largest funding in SWCD history. More information should be available at the July 23rd District Manager’s meeting. Suggestions for future direction: Create a buffer work group with Jenny Mocol, Planning and Zoning, and other players. Need maps. Work session with Rice County Commissioners. Will wait for rules/more information. DNR is in charge of enforcement. Put on August agenda.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RICE COUNTY FAIR BREAKFAST:** The Rice County Fair Breakfast will be Wednesday, July 22, 2015 from 7:30 to 9:15 am. Program to honor Ag achievements will be at 9:15 am. Outstanding Conservationists - Richard and Robert Sommers; Wildlife Enhancement Award winner - St Olaf College; and Forest Stewardship Award winner - Carleton College will be recognized. Everyone is invited to attend.

**2014 AUDIT ESTIMATES/BID APPROVAL:** About a dozen bid requests were mailed out and two were received – Michael Peterson and Clifton Larson Allen. Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Richard Cook to hire Michael Peterson Company for the 2014 audit for $2500.00. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.
MN DNR OBSERVATION WELL AGREEMENT: Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the MN DNR Observation Well Agreement for 2016. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Rice SWCD reads water table levels.

FY 2016 BWSR FARM BILL GRANT APPROVAL: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to authorize Steve Pahs to sign the FY 16 Farm Bill Grant Agreement. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

RELIANCE BANK CD: Current CD matures July 17, 2015. Current interest rates were reviewed. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to renew the CD at Reliance Bank when it matures for 25 months at .80% interest.

MASWCD GOVERNANCE 101 TRAINING: Board received a brochure on the MASWCD Governance 101 training scheduled for September 16 and 17 at Holiday Inn in St. Cloud. Board should register on their own if interested in attending.

BWSR FLOOD RELIEF C-S CONTRACT EDGEBROOK: Project is for a 400 foot Lined Waterway (armored waterway, rock and reinforced turf) on Edgebrook Drive between two houses below the current structure in Northfield. Area is near Knecht’s nursery. Steve Pahs met with engineering staff and Bridgewater Township people to go over necessary reviews. Pete Fryer will review again. Discussion on justifiable costs, financial oversite, gully erosion, 90 acre drainage, subdivision flooding, outlet to Heath Creek, etc. were discussed. Bob Gill will have a grade stabilization project close by done this fall.

Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Richard Cook to approve the BWSR Flood Relief Cost Share Contract #FR13-21 “if” it meets staff requirements– Bridgewater Township-Gary Ebling Chairperson- PO Box 246-Dundas, MN 55019 - BRI Section 2 – Lined Waterway- $85,251.60. Gary Ebling will sign the easement.

Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Richard Peterson and Gary Wagenbach. Nay: Jim Purfeerst. Motion passes with a four to one vote.

SUPERVISOR/OTHER REPORTS: There will be a general CRP signup. Rates depend on soils and you bid your own. CP3A (hardwood trees) is the highest rate. Biennial Wild Parsnip is not on the noxious weed list, causes blisters, and is spreading fast. Mowing, spraying, and spreading were discussed. Also brought up were soil loss limits and soil ordinance structure. Bob Duban is concerned about when there is a redetermination and then a buy-out for the 16.5 foot buffers. Farmers may wait. Steve said 16.5 feet must be permanent vegetation, can be hayed and is recorded on the deed. Some may have to implement buffer issue before ditch is redetermined. Steve and Dick will meet on SE corner of Circle Lake to check on Emerald Ash Borer.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. Reviewed our local EQIP priorities and geographical areas targeted in Rice County. Asked for board’s input on EQIP 16.

2. For EQIP 15 we recently approved 17 more applications for $300,000 +.
**DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT by Steve Pahs:**

Looking forward to Justin Fuchs starting WCA. Tim Labs will help train him.

We’ve been fortunate to be in the hiring process and have found two great new employees! As they begin their positions, there will be a fair amount of time spent training them, but I’m glad to have the help. Our intern, Jarett Spitzack, has been a good help and has been learning a wide variety of skills this summer. He will be here until August 14th. I’ve been working on anything and everything this past month. From ditch spraying and project management to WCA, budgets, state cost-share, and three tours to help with, it’s been crazy.

In the next few weeks, I will be doing more of the same, with focus on getting fall projects ready to go. We have not yet received any details on the funding increase passed in the legislative session, but this will be the single biggest monetary increase in our history. I encourage everyone to thank our state legislators for passing the funding increase.

**DISTRICT TECHNICIAN’S REPORT by Bridget Evers:**

- Training with Colin on engineering practices
- Going though state cost share files to know what projects are going on
- Learning CRP rules and starting to do checks on some of the contracts
- Helping Travis with the Drill program
- Went to the BWSR disaster recovery assistance program meeting
- Reviewing the Scott County WMO program

Upcoming:

- Cannon River Meeting
- Continuing with CRP contracts
- Soil health tour
- Working with State cost share inspections and the existing contracts for construction

**NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT UPDATE by Travis Hirman:**

- Reviewed applications for the Resource Specialist position and participated in the interview process.
- Continued to administer the drill program and have helped train Bridget and Jarett in its use.
- Completed paperwork required by MDA for NMI plots.
- Attended another meeting/training day for the nitrogen outreach program.
- Met with Progressive Ag in Plainview to discuss NMI plots that they are running. These plots will be incorporated into the outreach program. I GPS’d two of these plots and will perform site visits for five of them.
- Most of my time this month was spent performing site visits of NMI plots, which includes taking SPAD readings, stand counts, and general plot assessment. This will continue to take up a fair amount of my time until after corn has tasseled. The plots that I have visited, and will continue to visit, are located in the areas of Plainview, Kellogg, and Kenyon/Nerstrand.
OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE: Jim Purfeerst showed Jake Langeslag’s video on goats eating invasive plants.

ADJOURN: Chairman Gary Wagenbach adjourned the meeting around 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

_____________________________
Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

_____________________________
Richard Cook – Board Secretary