PRESENT: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Jim Purfeerst, Dick Peterson, Steve Pahs, Thomas Coffman, Travis Hirman, MCC Intern Brianna Egge, Justin Fuchs, Bridget Evers, and Debbie Skarupa. Also, Rice County Commissioner Jeff Docken.

ABSENT: Gary Wagenbach

Chairman Bob Duban called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

SOIL HEALTH TOPIC: Justin Fuchs showed an NRCS video entitled “Mix it Up – Managing for Diversity.” Diversity is important with cover crop seeds also. Manure adds to biodiversity. Some discussion.

MINUTES: Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the June 8, 2016 board minutes. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL/BILLS PAYABLE: Steve Pahs reviewed the financial summary. Waiting for Farm Bill agreement. Will use staff time for Buffer Implementation against District Capacity. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the June Program Summary and bills payable subject to audit. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: BUFFER LAW STATUS – Travis and Steve went to a BWSR meeting to go over the draft policies. Final map was released yesterday. Map errors in SE corner of Rice County were discussed. Pink means they will field check. The two square miles above, needs 1280 ac above before it starts, was also discussed. Comments submitted in June probably won’t get addressed until October or January. Tom asked if anyone had asked DNR Manager Dave Leuthe for clarification comments on buffer laws, mainly Description I (two square miles.) No. Discussion. Dick Peterson read minutes. More discussion.

Jim felt this was a good chance to stand up for farmers. Dick Peterson felt it would be good for staff to go out in the field with DNR area hydrologist. Tom wondered if there is a provision to correct map changes or once map is done, that’s it? Dick Peterson said DNR printout of History of Public Waters has decades of pubic waters. Jim felt landowners should be involved in this decision. Buffer information is not easily found
on website. Commissioner Docken concerned about letting DNR make all the decisions, as it is our job to represent the people. Once map is published, can it be changed? DNR claims maps are 90% accurate. What is done with landowner disagreements? Tom said most landowners don’t recall a meeting or hearing or letter regarding the DNR maps in the 70’s and now must get permits. Now is a new opportunity to get the maps right.

Travis Hirman explained the draft letter he plans to mail out with a map. He showed an example of Ditch #12 on the board. Discussion. BWSR will finalize policy in August, but may not provide policy on alternative practices. Alternative practices were talked about. Travis said when landowners respond to his letter, we can go to the site and adjustments can be made. Need to clarify two square miles. Ditch 23 was changed from 50’ to 16.5’ buffer. Jeff Docken was asked if the county will assume the enforcement authority. Tom Gile said County will receive a larger allocation for enforcement.

Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Richard Cook to mail out the buffer implementation letters as soon as possible. Discussion. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

There will be a Buffer Workshop on August 1st in Rochester.

**SEMASWCD RESOLUTION MEETING:** The SEMASWCD Resolution Meeting will be held June 29th at Stewartville. Was well put together meeting. Resolutions will now go to the convention.

**FARMER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST JUNE 11:** Town Square Media, owner of KDHL radio, hosted a Farmer Appreciation Breakfast at the gymnastics building at the fairgrounds on Saturday June 11. This has been held in Owatonna in previous years. There weren’t a lot of landowners in attendance towards the end when Travis spoke.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**C.W.M.A. VOUCHER PAYMENTS:** Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the following Cooperative Weed Management Area payment voucher:


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

Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the following Cooperative Weed Management Area payment voucher as follows:

CWMA#12-08 Daniel Zielske-Morristown-Buckthorn Mgmt.-$1,390.82

Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.
C.W.M.A. CONTRACT CLOSEOUT: Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to close out the 2012 Cooperative Weed Management Area BWSR grant which expired 06/30/16. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

REVISED 2017 BUDGET TO RICE COUNTY: Steve spoke on the $18,000 match from BWSR for $18,000 in additional county funding for costs of general operations. SWCD has extra work with buffers. $100,000 District Capacity Grant has stipulations for expenses. No motion needed.

FLOOD RELIEF PH#4 TOM SAMMON CONTRACT: Not complete. Item tabled until August 10, 2016.

FLOOD RELIEF C-S GILL PROJECT: Continued later in the meeting. See below.

FLOOD RELIEF C-S RAY LARSON VOUCHER: Discussion. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the Flood Relief Voucher payment as follows:

FRCS13-009 Ray Larson-4706 Lonsdale Blvd E. Northfield-Bridgewater Sec 03- Sediment Basin and Grassed Waterway $11,376.32.

More Discussion. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried. This is Phase 3 grant dollars.

FLOOD RELIEF C-S PH4 – GLEN HASSE: Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Richard Cook to approve the following Flood Relief Ph4 Cost Share Application:


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

HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS: Preferred One annual medical insurance policy renews on September 1, 2016. Steve talked to Cates & Ohme and can switch to a different carrier on January 1 to align with budget year. Deductible will increase from $1,750 to $2,000 H.S.A. with about a five percent increase. Blue Cross Blue Shield is cheaper for some insurance. Justin and Travis may come on our insurance soon. Discussion on September 1st vs January 1st renewal date. Would pay more for January switch.

Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the health insurance plan beginning September 1, 2016 at the most economical rate and the most beneficial for the staff. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

HERITAGE PARK URBAN RUNOFF IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: Steve said BWSR just approved this grant and he is waiting for a revised sub-recipient agreement from the City of Faribault so Rice SWCD will not be held liable for anything. Rice
SWCD will be grant administrator and receive about $4,000 for administrative costs. Project is for treating water from the water systems under the old City of Faribault shop by the river north of The Depot. Will be underground storm water there. We sign off on it, and engineer signs off on it. Jim asked about pollutants. Richard Cook said there is a dump there.

Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Jim Purfeerst that the Rice SWCD partner with the City of Faribault on the Heritage Park Urban Runoff Improvement Project pending review of the plan. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**SCOTT WMO #15-21 KEN FRANEK PAYMENT APPROVAL:** Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Richard Cook to approve the following contract for payment by the Scott WMO:

WMO#15-21 Ken Franek-3673 Kannebec Ave-New Prague- 1 sed. basin - $2,775.00

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

**SCOTT WMO #16-34 CURT OLSON APPLICATION:** Discussion on native grass planting for Curt Olson in Webster for 13.2 acres of native grass planting for Scott WMO.

Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to recommend approval of the Curt Olson WMO #16-34 Native Grass contract application as follows:

WMO#16-34 Curt Olson-4195 40 St. W. Webster Sec 4 Native Grasses – 13.2 ac $32,600.00


Discussion: Was in pasture, no cropping history, HEL by creek, 13.2 acres, CRP pasture rates vs WMO rates, receiving up-front payment, harvestable buffer payments, County Committee sets rates, etc. Commissioner Docken said it should not be row cropped.

Call for Vote again: Ayes: Richard Cook, Dick Peterson and Bob Duban. Nay: Jim Purfeerst. Motion carried.

No SWCD signatures or approval letter is needed because the soil loss ratio is high.

**APPROVE FLOOD RELIEF CONTRACT AMENDMENT ROBERT GILL:**
Project did not include cost of the upper basins in original contract. Discussion. Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Richard Cook to approve an amendment to increase the Robert Gill Flood Relief Cost Share contract #FR13-20 by $14,465.89 making the total $67,736.44. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.
APPROVE FLOOD RELIEF C-S CONTRACT # FR13-020 - PAYMENT VOUCHER #2 FOR ROBERT GILL:  Steve Pahs said we have paid out roughly $45,000.00 and $1,000.00 has been held back from the contract for turf reinforcement mat over the emergency spillway. Was designed to be a vegetative permanent mat. National NRCS Texas staff were here on Monday to look over the project for approval. Potential for flooding of neighboring basement if it blows out. Discussion.

Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the payment of $21,784.84 for the Gill flood relief project, pending concurrence from BWSR staff, as follows:

FRCS#13-20- Robert Gill 9425 Edgebrook Dr – Northfield Bridgewater Section 2 & 3 Payment #2 - $21,784.84.


SUPERVISOR/OTHER REPORTS:  Jim Purfeerst thanked staff for attending his Soil Health Open House and Jim was thanked for hosting the meeting. Richard Cook said McKenzie Creek is running brown and he asked Justin to put together a demonstration of where the problems are. When buffer letters go out, some areas may be rectified. Dave Legvold’s Twilight Tour had light attendance. Just soil health network was invited.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. **EQIP 2017:** Signup ends August 19, 2016. Help spread the word. Funds won’t be available for fall construction. Take Home Message: Plan Ahead.

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT by Steve Pahs: No written report received.

Steve went to Manager’s Meeting yesterday and discussed the new policy on erosion control and water management program Can now cost share on cover crops and reduced tillage. There will now be an option to receive a flat rate payment versus a percentage for practices.

In 2017, the SWCD could receive an additional $36,000. If the county pays $18,000, BWSR will match it with $18,000 for capacity building.) Steve will be looking into computer changes as NRCS may want $4,000 per computer ($20,000) as a work load exchange for IT support. May partner with Rice County as they are revamping their system. Might need new copy machine etc. NRCS is no longer supplying the vast majority of office supplies as it used to.

BWSR has a new training program for technical staff for Technical Approval Authority this fall. Could potentially fund a JPB tech based on increased feedlot work and decreased NRCS support.

Could buy Scott County’s six row interseeder for about $30,000. Can do 100-200 acres in one day. Herbicides discussed. Jim Purfeerst wondered about using the $36,000 for lakes. Monitor stations, hot field tests, hydro lifts, invasive species, and
shallow scrapes for wildlife USFW easements, and Milfoil spread on lakes were discussed.

**DISTRICT TECHNICIAN’S REPORT by Bridget Evers:**
- New CRP contracts
- CRP Checks
- State Cost Share projects Survey and Designs
- Surveying with Colin
- Bark bed milk house waste system with engineer from Goodhue
- Flood Relief projects
- Ditch Stuff with Steve
- State Cost share checks
- Outstanding Conservationist interview
- Scott WMO projects
- Soil health meetings put on by Steve
- CWMA checks
- WCA site with Justin

**Upcoming:**
- Survey’s
- Continue New CRP Sign ups

**NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT REPORT by Travis Hirman:**
- Completed an MMP update for Paul Strand in Kenyon. Turkey-948 acres.
- Received RUSLE2 training at NRCS area office.
- Ran a booth and spoke at the farmer appreciation breakfast at the fairgrounds.
- Submitted comments on the preliminary buffer protection map.
- Prepared for buffer mailings.
- Sprayed a couple of county ditches.
- Attended a presentation by BWSR on their new buffer law draft policy.
- Attended the Area 7 Resolutions Meeting.
- Looking ahead: we are still anticipating a July rollout of the final buffer map, at which point we will begin to send out letters.

**RESOURCE SPECIALIST REPORT by Justin Fuchs:**
- WDCP Training in Arden Hills June 6-10.
- Review Delineation for CR 1 Dundas.
- Review Delineation for Dundas Solar Garden.
- Review Delineation for Dundas along Cannon River for Dundas Lift Station.
- Meet with landowners about possible WCA Violation on Union Lake.
- Meet with landowner about tiling, draining and wetland issues.
- R.I.M. site checks.
- No-Till Drill rentals.
- DNR OB well checks.
- In contact with landowner about possible WCA violation on Phelps lake.
OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE: Most articles are being emailed.

ADJOURN: Chairman Duban adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

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Dick Peterson – Board Secretary