RICE S.W.C.D.
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday - August 10, 2016 - 9:00 AM

PRESENT: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Jim Purfeerst, Dick Peterson, Gary Wagenbach, Steve Pahs, Thomas Coffman, Leslie Diaz-Alvarez, Pathways Student Kalycya Hawkins, Travis Hirman, MCC Intern Brianna Egge, Justin Fuchs, Bridget Evers, and Debbie Skarupa.

ABSENT: None

Chairman Bob Duban called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

SOIL HEALTH TOPIC: Will be on September Board Meeting

MINUTES: Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the July 13, 2016 board minutes. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL/BILLS PAYABLE: Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to accept the July Financial 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:
FAIR AG BREAKFAST: Plaques were given out on July 20 at the Rice County Ag Breakfast to the following: Steve and Elaine Trnka for 2016 Outstanding Conservationist; Dave and Jeff Spitzack for Wildlife Enhancement Award; and Ron Maas for Forest Stewardship. Breakfast was well attended and live on KDHL Radio. Good local venue.

BUFFER LAW STATUS –Travis said he started mailings on July 29 and two-thirds have been mailed. Response has been weak – maybe 20 people so far. Landowner responsibility should be clear in letter. Gary, Steve, Travis, Richard Cook and Dick Peterson went to August 1st Buffer Meeting. DNR Project Manager said then, that the comment period on buffer maps is to correct accuracy problems, not for adding or subtracting lines off the maps. Need two square miles of drainage area. If landowner feels land is not public waters, needs to go to DNR themselves and SWCD should not get involved with it. Landowners and SWCD are welcome to go on the sites when DNR goes out. Changing the Protected Waters Map is outside the buffer mapping process.
More discussion. Travis said landowners will be measuring buffers themselves. Some wet areas are without water so won’t know where to draw line. Call one of three DNR hydrologists. There will be an incentive for the county to enforce. If county does not enforce, then BWSR will do it. Penalty will be stiff –maybe $500 per month. Other waters-have suggestions on what to include, but must be approved by state first. We must justify including additional buffers by 2017. There are not a lot of cases where additional buffer protection is needed. Discuss at future board meeting. Is there a map of Other Waters? Travis could make a map. Primarily using aerial reviews. We encourage landowners to ask for our help.

Urban levels of phosphorus are way down. Could put nutrient info in letters. Use factoids. Tom Giles, BWSR, had said maybe they will have more policy guidance on alternative practices later this month. Any vegetative material on banks is good to hold soil. County needs to decide if it will enforce by March 2017. Will know financial details later. Good to have work session with county commissioners and new administrator. Board thanked Travis for his work.

**SOIL HEALTH TOUR:** Steve handed out flyers for the September 8 Soil Health Tour at Jeff Jirik’s farm. Tom, Steve, Richard Cook, Bob Duban, and Gene Kuntz have been organizing. Will meet August 29 to finalize details. RSVP for meals by September 1st. Wagon ride tour will be eliminated as crops are still in. Milk from Dairy Association. Tables and Chairs from Nerstrand Fire Department, who will accept donations.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2017 FARM BILL ASSISTANCE GRANT:** Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Richard Cook to approve the BWSR 2017 Farm Bill Assistance Grant for $29,250.00. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**STATE C-S TOM SAMMON CONTRACT:** Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the following regular state cost-share contract:

CS15-05  Tom Sammon 2404 W. 230 St. Faribault Warsaw Sec 13 Sed. Basin - $3250.00

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

**SCOTT WMO 14-35 BRENT FUCHS VOUCHER:** Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve Scott WMO payment as follows:

WMO #14-35 Brent Fuchs 1447 Culver Ave Faribault Webster Section 4 Final Payment for Seeding $142.75.

Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.
HERITAGE PARK REVISED RECIPIENT AGREEMENT: Agreement was approved pending review at the last board meeting. Steve said revised recipient agreement is not available as City has not yet approved the project. Melissa King will be here for the Strategic Planning Meeting and we could ask her then. Table until the September Board Meeting.

BANK CD MATURES: Bank CD at State Bank matures August 26. Board received a list of rate options from various banks. Steve suggested 42 months. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to move CD to Reliance Bank for 42 months at 1.42% interest with no step up rate. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

2016 LOCAL DISTRICT CAPACITY: State has an additional $25,337 to add to the CWF $100,000 District Capacity. Steve recommended using $15,000 towards a vehicle purchase and $10,337 towards computer migration off the USDA network. Pantheon Computers will be here next Wednesday to look at our system and give us recommendations.

Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Richard Cook to sign the amendment to the BWSR District Capacity Services Grant for an additional $25,337.00 for acceptable use. Discussion. We don’t need to list what it is used for but do need to revise the work plan. Vote: Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

VEHICLE PURCHASE: Steve Pahs mentioned need for 4th vehicle and one that could carry more passengers. Steve reviewed state bid listing for a Chevy Traverse and a Ford Explorer. Discussion. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the purchase of a Chevy Traverse with brake package and the Ford Explorer, as an alternative. Discussion. Vote: Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

RICE COUNTY RESOLUTION #16-029 SOIL LOSS COMPLAINTS: Rice County signed Resolution #16-029 on July 26, 2016 designating Rice SWCD as Rice County’s agent for excessive soil loss complaints. (Resolution attached to the minutes.)

TECHNICAL APPROVAL AUTHORITY FOR STAFF: Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Richard Cook to approve Technical Approval Authority for Ecological Sciences for Bridget, Justin and Travis. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

RIM EASEMENT GRANT AMENDMENT: Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the additional $2,000 grant amendment for RIM Easement Implementation Grant. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

AMENDED JPB SUB-RECIPIENT AGREEMENT: Nutrient Management Grant is with Rice SWCD and Fillmore SWCD. Fillmore has more dollars and will transfer $27,000.00 to Rice SWCD so we both use the dollars at approximately the same time. Discussion. Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the
amended JPB sub-recipient agreement for an additional $27,000.00 from $80,000.00 to $107,000.00. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

MASWCD 2016 CANDIDATE PROSPECTUS: Board received booklet from MASWCD about potential officers at state and area level. Gary W. is on Nominating and Resolutions Committee.

SUPERVISOR/OTHER REPORTS: Jim Purfeerst saw more storm damage than expected from an airplane view. Damage seemed to be variety specific. Dick Langeslag hasn’t attended a Hiawatha Valley RC&D Meeting for a long time and was removed as a member. Put on September Agenda. Gary said Brad from CRWP is doing outreach. Dick P. said Forestry Sustainable Education will sponsor an upcoming one hour webinar on drones hosted by the MN Extension. Bob said Circle Lake Association is trying to get Lake Improvement District signage.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:
1. Practice Application: The job above Cannon Lake has been completed.
2. EQIP 17: Postcards were mailed out from our state office. Signup deadline is August 19.
3. Kalycya’s last full day will be next Monday. Just wanted to say we enjoyed having you this summer - best of luck.
4. Aerial Seeding Project is at approximately 1200 acres so far. I’ve emailed Cindy Hamilton at Midwest Ag-Air and they agreed to come up at the end of August or early September. So far, we have 11 producers on the list.

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT by Steve Pahs: No written report received. At JPB recent meeting learned a tech position will be added to the area and stationed either in Dodge Center, Rochester, or Austin Field Office. Dues will increase substantially from the current $500. Mn Conservation Corp intern Brianne Egge’s last week is this week. She thanked everyone for taking the time to teach her various things. Steve spending lots of time working on upcoming Jirik tour. Has meetings August 23, 24 and 25. August 23 will be CRWP tour with lunch in Mike Daly’s barn.

OTHER STAFF REPORTS: Leslie Diaz-Alvarez was a translator to Hispanic farmers in Austin last Saturday. Vegetable Co-ops are looking for NRCS assistance. Hmong farmers are supplying food to south metro schools. Gardening and pollinator plantings are exploding in the metro areas. Colin Williams mentioned it was nice working with Kalycya and Leslie and see young people still excited to learn and install practices to help the land.

DISTRICT TECHNCIAN’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
• Scott WMO projects
• Helped plant Cover Crop Plots
• Elink reporting

Upcoming:
• Survey’s
• Continue New CRP Sign ups
• Survey and designs for Cost share items and CRP program (wetland restorations)

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT REPORT by Travis Hirman:
• New MMP for ABCD Dairy completed (Lonsdale, 149 acres).
• Delivered no till drill to Rich Sommers.
• Attended Ag Hall of Fame breakfast.
• Site check of a portion of County ditch 32A.
• I spent time preparing letters for the buffer mailing and creating maps for each landowner adjacent to affected water bodies. The first letters have been sent; I will spend most of August working with landowners on their buffer situations.

RESOURCE SPECIALIST REPORT by Justin Fuchs:
• Meet with landowner about R.I.M. wetland embankment and culvert failing.
• Meet with landowner about CD 11A regarding ditch slope erosion and culvert washout.
• WCA site visit on Union Lake.
• Staff and Board Meeting.
• Rice County Fair awards ceremony.
• TEP meeting for second wetland delineation on same property, boundary application.
• Job approval for Ecological Technical Approval with Jim Fritz with NRCS.
• WCA site visit regarding installing a new culvert under Jackson Ave.
• R.I.M. site visits throughout the month, will finish site checks in beginning of August.
• Approval of several WCA applications.
• Look over Erosion complaints for Soil Ordinance.

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE: Most articles are being emailed.

ADJOURN: Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to adjourn.
Time: 10:05 am.

Submitted by: ____________________________________________________________
Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

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Dick Peterson – Board Secretary