PRESENT: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, Steve Pahs, Travis Hirman, Bridget Evers, Justin Fuchs, Teresa DeMars, Debbie Skarupa, Leslie Diaz-Alvarez, Melissa King from the City of Faribault and Rice County Commissioner Jeff Docken.

ABSENT: None

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

MINUTES: Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Tim Little to approve the July 12, 2017 board minutes. Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL/BILLS PAYABLE: Steve reviewed the financial statements. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the July Program Record and bills payable subject to audit. Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

BUFFER UPDATE – Travis reviewed alternative practices. Can provide some cost-share assistance. Flat rate cost-share is $300/acre at 75%. Could set up escalating pay scale for pollinators, grasses, etc. Will put together policy proposals next month. Maybe use a list of unfunded applications. Sixty percent of 87 counties are in compliance. Discussion. Buffer meeting will be Tuesday at 7:00 pm and Travis is also speaking at the Truck Stop on August 23 at 6:30 pm.

75th ANNIVERSARY - AUGUST 25, 1942: Tour is scheduled to start at the 4-H building, then to Prairie Creek Watershed for two examples of buffers, Jim Purfeerst’s for cover crops, Spitzack’s for RIM Wetland, and Krenz farm near Cannon Lake. Display and refreshments at 4-H building afterwards until 4:30 pm. Daily News special insert will be out August 16. Teresa will speak at Historical Society on September 14 and display will be at the Rice Co. Steam and Gas Days in Dundas over Labor Day week-end. Most rain gardens funded this year won’t be completed until next year. Richard Cook said there is a rain garden at the old St. Lawrence Church.

RICE CO. FAIR: The Best of the Best Rice County Fair breakfast was Wednesday, July 19. There was a much higher attendance than usual for the ten-year reunion which highlighted a past Rice SWCD supervisor and Governor Al Quie who is 92 years old and quite polished. All felt it was very well done. Teresa handed out a sheet of suggestions for next year’s fair booth and suggested an Urban Conservation Award be considered. Maybe we could donate a blue bird house. Board thanked Teresa for all she did.
**MASWCD GOVERNANCE 101 TRAINING:** SWCD Governance 101 training will be held September 14 and 15 in Bloomington. Mike and Tim plan on attending. They will register before the August 28 deadline.

**GOVERNOR DAYTON’S 25% BY 2025 WATER QUALITY GOAL:** Sheila Vanney has stressed supervisor attendance at upcoming meetings. Next meeting is August 16 in Mankato and Dick Peterson may attend.

**SFA DIRT RICH TWO-DAY SOIL HEALTH TRAINING:** Sustainable Farming Association had a two-day soil health training Aug 8 & 9 at the Rice County Fairgrounds and Pork Chop Ridge and Hanappe Ranch. Mike, Tim (one day) and Travis attended. Discussion was held on cover crops, the dead zone, multi-species, benefits of animal grazing, soil health, etc.

**STATE C-S POLICY REVISION:** Currently, seeding and mulching costs are not cost-shared, even though seeding is required. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Tim Little to include seeding and mulching in the cost-shareable amounts in the state cost-share program on all new contracts. Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**BWSR SPRING PARK GRANT CLOSEOUT:** Melissa King from the City of Faribault spoke on the status of the Spring Park Grant. Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Richard Cook to approve the closeout of the BWSR Spring Park Grant for $62,398.00. Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**SE SWCD TECHNICAL SUPPORT JPB $2,500 FOR MAWQCP:** Motion by Mike Ludwig, seconded by Richard Cook to approve the SW SWCD Tech Support JPB Agreement for $2,500.00 to promote MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program. Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**TIMOTHY HASSE TRUST FR COST SHARE PAYMENT:** Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Mike Ludwig to approve the following 2012 Phase 4 Flood Relief voucher payment at 90% cost-share:

FR13-22 Timothy Hasse Trust (Glen Hasse) 4 Antrim Terrace Edina Bridgewater Section 24 – five sediment basins and one waterway - $29,696.40.

Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**CS 17-01 CHARLES VON RUDEN COST-SHARE PAYMENT:** Motion by Mike Ludwig, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the following 2017 regular cost-share voucher payment at 50%:

CS17-01 Charles Von Ruden – 9975 Bagley Ave Northfield – Forest Section 1 – waterway reconstruction - $750.00.

Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.
**SE JPB TECH SUPPORT/RCPP $20,000 GRANT:**
Could receive $20,000 for beginning farmers for RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program) for feedlot related projects. Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Tim Little to approve the SE SWCD Technical Support JPB and BWSR/RCPP Lower Mississippi River Feedlot Management Sub-Agreement for $20,000 for feedlot projects in the Lower Mississippi Feedlot Management in MN C-S Policy. Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**SE MN WATER RESOURCES BOARD PAUL SCHEFFLER GRANT EXTENSION:** Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Tim Little to extend the SE MN Water Resources Board Grant Agreement to September 30, 2017. Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**PAUL SCHEFFLER SE MN WRB 16-01 CONTRACT VOUCHER PAYMENT:** Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Mike Ludwig to approve the following SE MN Water Resources Board voucher payment:

SEMN WRB 16-01 Paul Scheffler-18850 Fairbanks Ave Faribault Wells Sec 19 milkhouse waste - $5,192.16.

Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**CANCEL CS14-03 DAVID GROSS STATE COST-SHARE CONTRACT:**
Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Tim Little to approve the cancellation of the following 2014 state cost-share contract:

CS14-03 David Gross – 6420 French Lake Trl-Faribault Wells Sec7-Sed. Basin - $6,447.66

Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**CS14-06 FAR-GAZE FARMS ROBERT GILL STATE C-S CONTRACT APPLICATION:**
Steve Pahs explained why the project for Robert Gill was needed. Motion by Tim Little, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the following 2014 and 2017 state cost-share project:

CS14-06 Far-Gaze Farms/Robert Gill-10180 90 St E Northfield Bri Sec 3 – 1 sediment basin and 1 waterway - $7450.00.

Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**CS17-03 MIKE PETERSON/T. VALINSKI STATE C-S CONTRACT APPLICATION:**
Motion by Mike Ludwig, seconded by Richard Cook to approve the following 2017 state cost-share application:

CS17-03 Mike Peterson/T. Valinski-8187 Hall Ave-Nfld-Northfield Sec 2 - 1 waterway - $2,200.00

Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.
**SCOTT WMO #16-35 CURT OLSON PARTIAL WMO PAYMENT:** Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the following partial payment by Scott WMO:

WMO16-35 Curt Olson-4195 40 St. W-Webster-Section 4-Native Grasses-Partial payment $1,918.50

Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**ACCEPT BRIDGET EVER'S RESIGNATION:** Bridget has accepted a job with the MN DOT as a lead survey technician and will be closer to her home. She thanked the board for the opportunity to work here and will miss the people. Board thanked Bridget for everything she did here and congratulated her on her new position. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Tim Little to accept Bridget Ever’s resignation as of August 11. Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**HIRING NEW DISTRICT TECHNICIAN:** Steve will revise the job description to fifty percent Farm Bill Grant covering CRP, and 50% for practice basins and waterways and miscellaneous. Salary would be $21.00-$32.00 per hour depending on experience. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to start the hiring process for a new district technician. Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**SE SWCD JPB DUES PAYMENT INCREASE:** The SE JPB met a week ago and will have a shortfall in 25% match dollars. Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Richard Cook to support the SE SWCD JPB dues increase of $854.55. Ayes: Richard Cook, Tim Little, Mike Ludwig, Richard Peterson, and Jim Purfeerst. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**SUPERVISOR REPORTS:** Richard Cook commented on Best of the Best Awards Breakfast and thanked Teresa for her work. Dick Peterson thought Best of the Best Ag Program at the Rice County Fair was well done and well attended. Sarah Middleton is back at Zumbro Watershed Partnership and they are asking for county support. Tim Little mentioned a meeting with D. Simon and DNR Hydrology related to a county ditch system as well as a fixed structure that had failed. Level of Hatch Lake and Ditch 25 were discussed. Frank Gibbs had a smoke machine at the Freeborn SWCD Soil Health Day. Smoke was seen coming out the tile lines showing infiltration of the soil. Farm Fest, Dirt Rich two-day tours, and Discovery Farms were discussed.

Jim would like to see a teacher nominated for Teacher of the Year Award at the convention. Berendt Halvorson at Bethlehem Academy is starting an ag program and Pat DeGrood is a parent advisor. Jim Purfeerst is doing a cover crop field day next Wednesday from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Rice County Commissioner Jeff Docken said the county is working on the draft Buffer Ordinance. BWSR has a template on their website. High rise seeder, seed blends, invasive Palmer Amaranth, and county ditch spraying were brought up. Commissioner Docken said the county is spraying and will try and stay on top of it. Justin has two CREP applications and busy with WCA. Teresa is doing an e-newsletter.
ACTING D.C. REPORT by Leslie Diaz-Alvarez:

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP-EQIP)
- Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification - Funding pool
- Lower Mississippi River Feedlot Management in Minnesota - Funding pool
- Application acceptance deadline for FY 2018 funding will be on Friday March 2, 2018.
- NRCS has 4 new applications

Conservation Compliance/Planning (plans, tract splits, 1026’s)
- Received 2 AD-1026 requests this month and addressed 22 previous/current AD-1026 requests
  - Completed 6 - Maintenance Requests
  - Completed 8 - Small Area Exceptions (open land into production)

Client Gateway
- We would like to keep promoting the Client Gateway. This is a secure NRCS website which provides online access to conservation assistance for farmers and ranchers 24/7.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- NRCS accepts CSP applications on a continuous basis.
- The CSP helps you build on your existing conservation efforts while strengthening your operation, whether you are looking to improve grazing conditions, increase crop yields, implement no-till to reduce erosion or develop wildlife habitat by adopting CSP enhancements to achieve a higher level of conservation. The CSP is a 5-year contract.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- NRCS accepts EQIP applications on a continuous basis. Application acceptance deadline for FY 2018 funding will be on Friday, August 18, 2017.
- NRCS has 18 new applications and 7 deferred applications from 2017.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) - Restore, protect, and enhance wetland.
- NRCS accepts ACEP applications on a continuous basis. Application acceptance deadline for FY 2018 funding will be on Friday, August 18, 2017.
- NRCS has 1 new application

New updates
- Tim Wilson, Assistant State Conservationist (FO) accepted the State Conservationist position in Utah. Gary Watson will be the Acting ASTC for Area 4 and 6.
- I will be Acting District Conservationist in Rice Co. for 120 more days.

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT by Steve Pahs: Steve attended a BWSR listening session with staff and John Jaschke. Steve will present the 2018 budget to the county commissioners on August 15 at 8:30 a.m. and appreciates supervisor attendance. Richard Cook will attend. Our conservation tour is August 24th.
RESOURCE SPECIALIST REPORT by Justin Fuchs:

- Dirt bike track in Webster Township had wetland fill, restoration order was sent to owner that is willing to comply with the wetland restoration.
- Working with landowner who had previous wetland fill in Webster Township. Working with landowner on the restoration or replacement.
- Meeting with RIM/WRP landowner about construction bids and paperwork signing.
- Best of the Best awards at the Rice County Fair.
- R.I.M. site inspections.
- MDA Township Well Testing program reporting.
- Meeting with City of Faribault Water Quality Specialist regarding Aldi expansion.
- Delineation reviews for multiple solar gardens in Rice County.
- Rain Garden updates from area engineer about plans.
- Shoreline Restoration plan sent to landowner.
- Various WCA site visits and inquiries.
- First CREP 3 application

DISTRICT TECHNICIAN’S REPORT by Bridget Evers:
New CRP contracts
- Re-enroll CRP contracts
- CRP Site visits for re-enrolls
- State Cost Share projects Survey and Designs
- EQIP projects
- Scott WMO projects
- RCPP Projects
- Milk house waste system install final construction check

Upcoming:
I want to thank everyone for the experience I have had over the past 2 years. I will bring all my experiences with me to MNDOT as the Lead Survey Technician. This has been a great experience and will miss working with my Co-workers, Supervisors, and the Rice County Landowners.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST by Travis Hirman:
- Edited a few previously completed MMPs.
- Attended 4R nutrient management field day at Dave Legvold’s.
- Attended best of the best program at County fair.
- Various county ditch work.
- Developed cover crop plans for cost share program.
- Continued buffer law implementation.
- Looking ahead: Will hold a public meeting on the buffer law in August, and send out another mass mailing. I will also speak about buffers at a Farm Bureau meeting. I am attending the SFA soil health training that the district is sponsoring.

OTHER/ADDITIONAL STAFF COMMENTS: Thank you’s from 4-H award winners.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Rice SWCD Tour August 24.
**SOIL HEALTH TOPIC:** Justin Fuchs showed a video on growing crops artificially indoors by stacking planted trays vertically in a warehouse. Bowery was the name of the company in New Jersey and they are pesticide and herbicide free.

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Tim Little to adjourn. Time: 10:50 a.m.

Submitted by: 

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Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

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Board Secretary - Timothy J. Little