PRESENT: Robert Duban, Jerry Courson, Dale Neirby, Jim Purfeerst, Gary Wagenbach, Steve Pahs, Tom Coffman, Ashley Tabery, and Debbie Skarupa.

ABSENT: None

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

MINUTES: Motion by Jerry Courson, seconded by Dale Neirby to approve the July 9, 2014 board meeting minutes. Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL: County ditch and flood relief contracts were discussed. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the July program record and the bills payable subject to audit. Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

SOIL TOUR AUGUST 12: A Soil Health Cover Crop Tour was held at Jim Purfeerst’s on August 12. Board felt speakers did a good job of explaining concepts and farmer panel stories were interesting. Gary suggested putting speaker’s info on the website. Attendance was good (158), so there is a lot of interest out there. So far, there is not much difference in cover crop rows, but many are interested in seeing the results in December before the snow falls. Discussion was held on fertilizers applied in the fall. Jim Purfeerst thanked everyone and everyone thanked Jim for a great field day. Faribault Daily News had a front page article on the tour and Janet Kubat from Agri News was there.

RICE COUNTY FAIR: Tim Labs, Clyde and Bryan Eggum, and Judith Bechtum were honored at the ag breakfast. Ashley did a nice quiz and poster on pollinators. Rain garden looked better this year with added mulch. Valley Grove would like to use the pollinator poster. Gary passed around a brochure on neonicotinoids that will be distributed by the Department of Ag at the state fair. Insecticides were discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

STATE BANK CD MATURES 08/26/14: CD currently at State Bank matures on August 26, 2014. List of current interest rates was reviewed. Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Duban to renew the CD at State Bank for 24 months at .80%. Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

RICE COUNTY 2015 BUDGET STATUS: Rice County Board budgets will be handled with a committee and not formally presented this year, however, Steve was asked to be there. Steve asked board to attend also on August 19 at 9:00 a.m. in the big chambers room. Committee members are Tony Murphy, Galen Malecha, Dave Miller, Fran Windschitl, Mark Shaw, Christine Curtis and Kevin Schmidt. Deb to continue to send Rice County
Commissioners the draft board agendas. Steve could ask Administrator Murphy for a board member as a liaison. Board could contact commissioners before Tuesday.

**NUTRIENT MGMT SPECIALIST JOB OPENING:** August 8 was the deadline to receive job applications and only three were received. A temporary grant position can be difficult to fill with the grant money expiring soon. Fillmore has not received any job applications. Dawn took a job at the MN Dept of Ag also. Steve will call Personnel Committee to interview one person on August 22.

**AREA 7 MASWCD JOINT FALL MEETING:** Executive Committee and Ashley and Deb met. Joint fall meeting will be held September 22, 2014 at the Valley Grove Historic site. Business meetings will be held in the morning and educational tours in the afternoon. Hannah Texler will not be able to present, but DNR Forester Dick Peterson and Professor Mary Savina from Carleton College should be able to. Nominating Committee may call supervisors to fill positions. Save the date/registration form will be sent out.

**SEWRB FEEDLOT CONTRACT:** Motion by Jerry Courson, seconded by Bob Duban to approve an amendment to the MN Southeast Water Resources Board Feedlot VI contract to extend the date to August 1, 2015 to be able to get additional bids. The contract is as follows:

SEWRB14-001 Dan Misgen-17381 Roberds Lake Blvd-Faribault-Wells15-milhouse waste $4,000.00 Contract is now from Feedlot VI.

Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**MASWCD “STRENGTHENING YOUR SWCD” CONFERENCE:** Discussion followed. Motion by Jerry Courson, seconded by Bob Duban to provide funding to send one staff or one supervisor to attend “Strengthening your SWCD” MASWCD conference. Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**FLOOD RELIEF C-S PAYMENT JOHN STROUTH:** Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following 2013 Phase 2 flood relief cost share contract:

CSFR120209 John Strouth-18149 Alvey Trail Faribault, Cannon City Sec 9 – Two Terraces - $13,950.39.

Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**COST-SHARE VOUCHER PAYMENT:** Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Jerry Courson to approve the state cost share close out for 2013 and the following 2013 cost share payment:

CS130918-Dale Klapperich-23749 Albers Ave-Faribault- Waterway with Diversions- Walcott Sec 18 - $3600.00.
Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL:** Health insurance renews September 1, 2014. We have Preferred One through Cates & Ohme with a $1750 – 100 deductible. Rates are now figured at every year of age and have increased. District pays half of family coverage. Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Duban to authorize the health insurance plan with Preferred One Insurance. Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**OTHER/SUPERVISOR REPORTS:** Bob Duban went to the Joint Powers Board meeting and reviewed the funding. Two employees have taken jobs with the MN Dept of Ag. The Mn Dept. of Ag may fund two half time positions in another area. Will meet the end of August to discuss the MDA grants. Both full-time positions run out of money by the end of the year. Gary said Dakota SWCD is celebrating their 75th Anniversary – Rice SWCD started in 1942. He asked for topic suggestions for the MASWCD meeting. (Groundwater, EPA Rule Change.) May do public flooding presentation along the Cannon River towards the end of the year. Gary briefly mentioned “Algae in Lake Erie” handout. The City of Minneapolis draws water from the Mississippi River when the water level is low. Dale Neirby said one to three animal mortality deaths have occurred annually for many years due to algae bloom. Phosphorus, algae bloom, alum, carp, wind waves, and sediment in lakes were discussed. Jim Purfeerst said RC&D dues are paid by Rice County. Current projects are at Jake Langeslag’s, Fugle’s Mill in Rochester and one in Steele County. National Strip Till Conference in Cedar Rapids, Iowa is a wonderful conference. Co-ops in Dakota collaborate ownership of strip tillage equipment as a service to the county. Machine costs and the E-Coli at the Rice County fair traced to a petting zoo were discussed.

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

1. **EQIP 2014:** We have six more applications approved. This brings us up to 12 approvals, which are still half of normal. Hoping for state flood relief dollars to serve the increased demand.

2. Met with two producers last month who received my warning letter for having ephemeral gully erosion on HEL. Both are willing to cooperate.

3. We have several more farms to view for conservation planning, several WRP easements to field check, several plans and estimates to put together.

4. **CSP:** Recently received one pre-approved application.

**DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT by Steve Pahs:** He received a compliment on the cover crop field day. Good job promoting. Tim Labs is coming in one to two times a week. Steve would like to hire by the end of the year or beginning of 2015. Revenue will be less from ditch projects this year. Ditch chemicals spread from helicopters were discussed. Gary suggested factsheet about trees in ditches as trees can lead to de-stabilization of banks. Best to spray when trees are young. Steve will attend ditch inspector meeting in Fergus Falls on the 27th. CRWP River clean-up is September 20.
The past month has continued to be very busy. I have been doing a multitude of activities from budget work, field work, and meetings. I haven’t had as much time to spend on ditch projects lately, and some of that work will need to be concentrated on this fall to catch up. In the coming weeks, I will be working on starting a new employee, working on WCA with Tim, ditch work, district finances, flood relief projects and more.

Other activity this past month:

- Met with McGhie and Betts to review data on Spring Creek
- Pelant WCA issue resolved
- Attended a FEMA meeting on flood damage
- Met with Sharon Simon to address her feedlot concerns
- Worked on the Kluver farm for basin layout
- Met with the Anderson sisters for a basin layout
- Met with county staff on Hatch Lake outlet
- Updated flood relief lists
- Attended a BWSR meeting to discuss funding strategies
- Attended JPB finance committee meeting
- Attended JPB annual meeting
- Meeting at Purfeerst’s to plan field day
- Peach farm-erosion control planning
- Mike Hagerty drainage issue reviewed
- Viewed two erosion complaints with Rice County staff
- Held an EQIP local work group meeting

STAFF REPORTS:

FARM BILL TECHNICIAN’S REPORT By Ashley Tabery. Ashley spoke on what she learned about alternative side inlet structures at a field day. Debbie to email to board.

Past Month:

- Tour with Eggum’s on Conservation Award/take pictures
- Ag breakfast, prep and presentations
- Rice county fair booth prep and tabling during fair
- CPR training in Goodhue
- Drill to Peterson, Elwood, Reeck, & Furlong
- Buckingham/Hoefs planning/survey/design/contract work
- CRP eligibility checks for many including Tousignant, Glende, Brown, Trnka, Worsley, Pavek.
- Started planning/contracting work for the above CRP contracts
- Furlong construction (almost everyday something needs to be checked)
- Monitoring site data download, and weed clearing
- Waterway training for two days in Rochester
- Sherwin grassed waterway re-stake, construction prep
- Planning for SEMACDE fall meeting
• Needs on Lindbloom/Fargaze farm and estimate
• Soil health field day prep and day of work
• Candace Knudson site visit on buckthorn/invasives
• Flood relief planning work
• Link pass enrollment in St Paul
• Petricka pre-construction meeting

Upcoming:
• Finish CRP checks and all contracts
• RIM site inspections
• State cost-share inspections
• Construction on Petricka, Estrem, Hoefs, Larson, Sherwin
• Needs on many farms, work with Colin to divide
• Farmer’s market pollinator display- would like to, but have no free weekends.
• Fall meeting September 22nd

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you’s for sponsoring awards were received from three 4-H members. Mark calendars for September 22, 2014 SEMASWCD joint fall meeting at Valley Grove site. Dodge County field day is August 21. Dale Neirby spoke on hail damage in South Dakota.

ADJOURN: Chairman Purfeerst adjourned the meeting at 11:25 am

Respectfully submitted by:

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Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

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Jerry Courson - Board Member