RICE S.W.C.D.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 10, 2014


ABSENT: Jim Purfeerst

Vice Chairman Gary Wagenbach called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and introduced the people in attendance. Gary added Invasive Species Conference and Outstanding Employee Award to the board agenda.

MINUTES: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Jerry Courson to approve the August 13, 2014 board meeting minutes. Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby, and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL: Steve reviewed some items on the program record. Motion by Jerry Courson, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the August financial reports and the bills payable subject to audit. Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby, and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:
SE MASWCD AREA 7 JOINT FALL MEETING: Gary Wagenbach went over the draft agenda for the meeting. Doug Thomas from BWSR will speak on funding options and two legislators have been confirmed to discuss current issues. Gary would like a cover crop seeding mixture list.

NEW BUSINESS:
HIRE TRAVIS HIRMAN-NUTRIENT MGMT SPECIALIST: Travis is a Stevens Point graduate and from Rosemount. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dale Neirby to hire Travis Hirman for the nutrient management specialist position as a temporary full-time employee with a 12 month probation period starting at Range 21 on the pay scale. Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby, and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

RICE CO ATV/FEATHER LITE TRAILER/SPRAYER STATUS: The ATV, Feather Lite Trailer and sprayer owned by Rice County and used for ditches was stolen from the parking lot over Labor Day week-end. It had not been locked up. A police report has been filed. ATV was insured by Rice County but trailer was not. Security cameras, signs and lighting were discussed. A NRCS tailgate and gas have previously been taken from the parking lot.

REVISED 2015 BUDGET UPDATE: Steve passed out an updated 2015 budget sheet. We are slated to receive a 3% allocation increase from the county when other departments are getting a zero increase. Steve reviewed possible deficit figures. Vehicles should be ok, rent may increase, and we may get more flood relief technical dollars. Steve will meet with Tony Murphy to discuss further.
SE WRB#2014-1 VOUCHER PAYMENT DAN MISGEN: Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Bob Duban to approve an amendment to increase the payment cost of the Southeast MN Water Resources Board Feedlot project from $4000.00 to $5126.91 and approve the following voucher payment:

SEWRB14-001 Dan Misgen-17381 Roberds Lake Blvd-Faribault-Wells15-milkhouse waste bark bed - $5,126.91.

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

FLOOD RELIEF COST-SHARE VOUCHER: Motion by Jerry Courson, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following 2013 Flood Relief cost share payment voucher as follows:

FRCS#13-014 Ralph Michel-4707 Union Lake Trail-Lonsdale-Forest 6 – 2 sediment basins $5497.74. T&A amount is at $192.00.

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

CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT AREA APPLICATION: Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following Clean Water Management Area cost share assistance contract:


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

SCOTT SWMO#14-35 BREN FUCHS: Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the Scott WMO (Scott Watershed Management Organization) Contract as follows:

SWMO #14-35 Brent Fuchs 14447 Culver Ave Faribault – Sediment Basins- $22,875.00.

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

He has paid Rice SWCD $500.00 earnest money.

SCOTT SWMO#13-33 EARNEST MONEY REIMBURSEMENT: Motion by Jerry Courson, seconded by Dale Neirby to approve the reimbursement of $500.00 earnest money to Brice Buckingham for the Sand Creek Scott Water Management Organization (John Haefs) project. Rice SWCD will receive $875.00 T&A from Scott WMO. Scott WMO will pay Brice $12,082.73. Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby, and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

CLOSEOUT FORM FOR 2012 FLOOD RELIEF STATE C-S: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Jerry Courson to sign the elink closeout form for Flood Relief 2012 state cost share funds ($50,000). Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby, and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

BWSR STATE 2015 GRANT: The 2015 BWSR Grant has been received for $22,940 in Conservation Delivery, $3134 RIM Easements and $14,891 for state cost share, totaling $40,965.00. The 2014 and 2015 grants were approved together.
BWSR 2015 State Cost Share Rate:  Last year Jim Purfeerst suggested that if the cost share rate is lowered to 50%, more projects can be completed. Discussion followed. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dale Neirby to change the state cost share rate from 75% to 50% starting with the BWSR 2015 cost share grant. Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby, and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Clean Water Fund Nutrient Management Funding:  Our application last year was not funded and Clean Water funds for the nutrient management position will only carry us until early 2015. Do we seek a half time and partner with Department of Ag for two years specializing more on groundwater pollution and Karst areas of Goodhue and Wabasha counties? Steve will meet with Mn Department of Ag about funding a half time position. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dale Neirby to authorize Steve Pahs to apply for Clean Water Funds for nutrient management. Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby, and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

General Election November 4th:  Just clarifying - District Two candidates will be on the ballot for a two-year term instead of the normal four-year term as Jerry Courson was appointed to a two-year term after Dick Huston resigned.

Adopt-A-Hwy:  Adopt-A-Hwy clean-up along 9th Ave SW will be after the October 8th board meeting. Gary and Dale can’t attend.

BWSR Academy Oct 28-30:  Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Bob Duban to approve staff to attend the BWSR Academy at Steve’s discretion at Breezy Point October 28-30. Cost is approximately $50 per day for registration and $74 per day for lodging. Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby, and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Invasive Species Conference:  Gary Wagenbach is volunteering and therefore his registration is paid for. He is asking for mileage and per diem to attend this 2.5 day conference. Motion by Dale Neirby, seconded by Jerry Courson to approve $500 - $600 in expenses for Gary Wagenbach to attend the Invasive Species Conference in Duluth in October. Ayes: Courson, Duban, Neirby, and Wagenbach. All Aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Outstanding Employee Award:  Gary was wondering about nominating an outstanding employee for the December convention award. Discussion followed. Put on January and June agenda for further discussion next year.

Other/Supervisor Reports:  Jerry will attend BALMM meeting in October. Roberds Lake Sewer project is mostly complete with 90+ participation. Almost everyone is charged a similar rate. Bob Duban mentioned Circle Lake’s Fun Run fundraiser September 20th. Gary said CRWP is doing five year planning and budget is balanced. Valley Grove historic site has invasive spotted knapweed plant. He passed out brochure on early detection and distribution mapping system.
D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:
1. EQIP 14 – Our FY comes to an end September 30. Additional funds were made available to the statewide cropland pool. We obtained several applications approved in August and looks like we’ll end up with 20 contracts funded for approximately $367,000.

2. CSP – We are working on renewing CSP contracts. All chose to renew except one. Also had two new applications accepted, but applicants declined due to low payment.

3. Emergency Conservation Program. Rice FSA has been approved to conduct a sign-up for ECP. Anticipating a 30 day sign-up to start this month.

4. Purfeerst Cover Crop Demo. We met with South Central Technical College staff and Jim to discuss the plan this fall for yield testing on cover crop plots. Also, discussing crop insurance issues on June seeding of cover crop.

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT by Steve Pahs:
August has been busy with a variety of activities. We interviewed a candidate for the Nutrient Management Specialist and offered him the position. Travis Hirman will start on September 10th. I’ve been working with a few RIM projects-Schmidtke/Wagner, and Roskes as each are near the start of construction. I’ve also been doing several RIM easement inspections. We’ve been meeting with the MN Dept. of Ag regarding a potential partnership, and are getting close to an agreement to provide technical services for groundwater nitrogen BMP work. WCA workload has also picked up, with a few cases we are now working on. Tim Labs has been a great help in assisting with this work. For September, I will be working on submitting a proposal to extend the Nutrient Management position for two years with Clean Water Fund dollars. I’ll be training our new employee, working on some ditch projects, and following up on WCA cases.

FARM BILL TECHNICIAN’S REPORT By Ashley Tabery.
Past Month:
- Stake/survey/design Petricka flood relief basin project
- Farm Bill assistance webinar
- CRP site visit for many re-enrollments (approximately 20)
- Contracting and conservation plans for CRP (approximately 30)
- Drill to Sirik, Salaba, Pesta, Nicolai, and Scott
- Hoefs stake/survey
- Larson Franek grassed waterway re-stake and construction
- Clean Water Fund webinar
- MASWCD training in Alexandria (September 10th & 11th)

Upcoming:
- Ditch 33 meeting on September 11th to talk about buffers and CRP
- Finish CRP checks and contracts (5-10 remaining)
- State cost-share inspections
- Continue to move Nielsen RIM application forward
- Construction on Petricka, Salisbury/Bauer & Estrem
- Prepare for fall construction
• Needs on many farms, work with Colin to divide
• Fall meeting September 22nd

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE: Bob Duban asked Jeff Docken about ditch redeterminations. More ditch viewers have been hired.

ADJOURN: Vice Chairman Wagenbach adjourned the meeting at 10:25 am

Respectfully submitted by:

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Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

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Jerry Courson - Board Member