RICE S.W.C.D.
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday – September 14, 2016 - 9:00 AM

PRESENT: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Jim Purfeerst, Dick Peterson, Gary Wagenbach, Steve Pahs, Thomas Coffman, Travis Hirman, Justin Fuchs, Bridget Evers, Debbie Skarupa, Sarah Middleton, and Beth Kallestad.

ABSENT: None

Chairman Bob Duban called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

SOIL HEATH TOPIC: Travis Hirman showed an NRCS soil health video. Carbon issues, cropping sequencing, greenhouse gasses, side by side comparisons, and water retention were mentioned or discussed.

District Four Supervisor Candidate Beth Kallestad, now working for Mn Extension, and Zumbro Watershed Partnership Executive Director Sarah Middleton were introduced.

MINUTES: Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the August 10, 2016 board minutes with one correction about the drone webinar. 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 Jim Purfeerst to accept the August 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:
BUFFER LAW STATUS: There will be a Public Buffer Law Meeting tonight at 7:00 pm at the Faribault Public Works Building. All letters have been mailed out. Travis will present basic information and BWSR policy.

DNR person should be called directly for gray areas on protected waters. DNR has been consistent in saying it will not remove streams in PWI. Todd told Tom that the 1985 map is final. Discussion on two square miles. Board suggested “Frequently Asked Questions” handout be made for tonight with contact information for state politicians. If lines stay on some waterways, could sign off or alternative practice – if repaired would need to get a permit. Could discuss at state convention.
More discussion on CRP enrollment for ditch buffers, final BWSR policy sheets, CRP deadlines, approval process, acreage cap, CRP acreage cap resolution will be at December convention, DNR FAQ from their website, and shoreline 50’ buffer. Print DNR map with DNR phone numbers. Map may need to be worked out in the courts. More discussion on ditch #12, runoff runs parallel to the bank so need to treat area outside the bank. This won’t completely fix sediment problem.

We are required by law to submit our proposal to include other waters by June 2017. Have until 2018 to get list to county to incorporate into Water Plan. Staff to figure out which waters we want to include. Staff should do a list and bring to board. Don’t need to add any other waters. Addendum to County Water Plan to be approved by county. If in One Watershed One Plan, would need to incorporate into Water Plan. Jim Purfeerst asked that supervisors be included in the “Other Waters” discussion. Discussion. Steve would like to see private ditches that go into public ditches added as other waters.

BWSR Final Policy Sheets 1-7 were reviewed. Tom suggested copying two policy handouts for tonight’s meeting. BWSR can’t provide standards-local discretion.

BUFFER TOUR: About 40 people attended the Buffer Tour at the Mike Daly Farm in Northfield on August 23. Also had press coverage.

JEFF JIRIK SOIL HEALTH TOUR: The September 8 Soil Health Tour at Jeff Jirik’s farm near Millersburg was cancelled due to wet conditions. May do in December at Forest Town Hall. Jirik Farms may pay for YouTube videos. Tom emailed Julie Fox about doing videos. Will plan for next year’s tour now with a backup date. Bob D. will reserve Forest Town Hall for December 8.

VEHICLE PURCHASE: A 2017 Chevy Traverse has been purchased using WCA, District and District Capacity funds. Will get floor mats.

RICE CO. COMMISSIONERS AND NEW ADMINISTRATOR WORK SESSION: Steve met with new Rice County Administrator Sarah Folsted on Monday. She is from Renville County and has had good relationships between county and swcd. A meeting could be set up for the third Tuesday with county commissioners after election. Put on October agenda.

BWSR HERITAGE PARK RUNOFF AGREEMENT:
Discussion: Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the BWSR Heritage Park Runoff Sub-recipient Agreement. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

ONE WATERSHED ONE PLAN: Steve will meet with partners in early October and then do the work plan. Is early in the process.

PANTHEON COMPUTER FINDINGS: Steve met with men from Pantheon Computers about getting SWCD off the NRCS computer network. Proposal to get up and running is around $21,000.00 with annual maintenance costs of $825.00 per month. Blue Earth switched in 2009 with no regrets and spend a la carte for tech support. Goodhue SWCD switched and work with Goodhue County. NRCS may charge SWCD
$4,000 per computer which is $20,000 per year for five computers. Also is issue if federal shutdown occurs. Area 2 is setting up regional network and could expand statewide. Winona partnered with county for lower costs on ARC GIS. Discuss computer sharing with county. Everything on table now.

NEW BUSINESS

HIWATHA VALLEY RC&D MEMBER NOMINATION: Currently, Jake Gillen, Dick Langeslag and Jim Purfeerst are members from Rice County. Dick Langeslag is at-large member and has not attended for years. Discussion on RC&D projects. Trying to get 11 counties together to discuss 1W1P. Wants $3000 to fund the meeting. Put on January agenda. Gary said Area 7 SEMASWCD would like to see some representation on their board from Rice SWCD. Executive Committee meets three times per year. Discussion on One Watershed One Plan. BWSR proposed a contractor to help work with districts. RC&D wants to get four watershed districts together. Linda Dahl from SEMN Water Resources Board also discussed hosting a meeting to get partners together for 1W1P. Each county gives $300 in dues to Hiawatha Valley RC&D and balance is grant driven. We can decide as a county if we want to stay involved with RC&D. John Beckwith (retired NRCS) pursues grant writing.

DEAN SCHWAKE 2016 STATE C-S CONTRACT: Discussion. Motion to approve the following 2016 state cost share contract at 50% by Dick Peterson, seconded by Jim Purfeerst:

CS16-03 – Dean Schwake-12220 E. 190 St. Nerstrand Wheeling 23-24-waterway - $3375.00.

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

BWSR ACADEMY TRAINING: Motion by Dick Peterson, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve BWSR Academy training for all staff at approximately $103.00 each, plus lodging on October 25-27. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

JOINT SWCD SIGN WITH LESUEUR CO. Lesueur County asked if we’d like to put “Entering Rice SWCD” on one side of a sign on State Road 99 for $175.00. We currently have five signs. Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Jim Purfeerst, to proceed with an Entering Rice SWCD sign on #99 with LeSueur SWCD. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

NACD SOIL HEALTH NETWORK: Steve went over NACD Soil Health Network handouts. If someone is interested, then can join their network.

RETIREMENT OPEN HOUSE FOR BOB AND GARY: Discussion. Lunch, then cake and coffee at open house, November 9, 1-3:00 pm. Invite County Board, staff, other supervisors, CRWP, etc. Put on October board agenda.
**AREA 7 SEMASWCD FALL JOINT MEETING:**  Fall Joint Area 7 SEMASWCD meeting is September 21 starting at the Ed McNamara farm at 9:00 am. Carpooling was arranged. Executive Committee meets two to three times per year, with June Resolutions Meeting and Fall Business Meeting.

**NACD NATIONAL CONVENTION:**  The NACD National Convention will be January 28 – February 1, 2017 in Denver, Colorado.

**MCIT OPEN MEETING LAW HANDBOOK:**  With technology it’s easier to have emails that go to four board members without an open meeting being held. Handouts contained good information.

**DISTRICT CAPACITY FUNDS:**  Steve handed out District Capacity budget and reviewed. Discussion. Goodhue offered free drill rental and seeds. Trying to raise district capacity bar for districts that don’t receive much support from their counties. Can’t use a lot for equipment purchases. Don’t use funds to replace county funds. Unmet needs are 3.8 million statewide. Discussion. Options: Assist with implementation of buffer law with drill rent, extra state cost-share, outreach to unserved population, lake association projects, modernize web, Ameri-Corp for 10 months, CRWP outreach communication person, etc. Put together info sheet on what we’ve done in cover crops for Circle Lake Area. Nice to have money to enhance cover crop usage.

**SUPERVISOR REPORTS:**  Gary mentioned Master Waters Program article and that SE Area 7 needs board member liaison. Jim said Goodhue Soils Day was well organized. Richard Cook has invited people to the tour. Genesis is interested in cover crops. Bob said JPB Personnel Committee is looking to hire an engineer tech to work out of Rochester, Dodge or Mower. Had five applications with three interviews. Chris Nelson from NRCS will be the new tech.

**DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT by Steve Pahs:**  No written report received. Three staff are taking vacations in September and October. County Commissioners will review budget on October 4th. One Watershed One Plan Meeting on October 3rd. Redetermination notices were discussed. Successful Farming has an article on Dave Legvold.

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

1. **CRP Workload:**  We have been busy with developing conservation plans for 91 CRP participants that have a contract expiring at the end of the month. There are also 43 new sign-ups that need planning assistance. Thanks to Bridget for leading this task.

2. **EQIP signup for 2017 ended August 19th:**  We have 33 sign-ups in Rice that we will need to get planned by Nov 30. Several cover crop applications this year.
3. Rice County Cover Cropping:

   a. We began aerial seeding in the county last Thursday, Sept 6. They flew again on the 13th and will finish on the 14th. Over 1400 acres are being spread. On soybeans where we seeded Crimson Clover, Radish, and rapeseed, we saw germination in 2 days.

   b. We made a discovery this season that Cereal Rye inter-seeded into V5-V7 corn is not successful. The rye grows for 4 – 6 weeks, then dies out. Last year we thought this was due to residual pre-emerge herbicide but this year we saw rye dying on Round-up ready corn. Rye is obviously meant to be planted during the cool times of the year and its growth characteristic is to keep growing. It does not go dormant like Annual Ryegrass. The brassica’s inter-seeded with the rye are doing fine.

**DISTRICT TECHNCIAN’S REPORT by Bridget Evers:**

- New CRP contracts
- CRP Checks
- State Cost Share projects Survey and Designs
- Surveying with Colin
- Flood Relief projects
- Ditch Stuff with Steve
- State Cost share checks
- Scott WMO projects
- Waterway Training

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:**

- Attended the Buffer roundtable in Rochester-held by MASWCD & BWSR
- Strategic planning meeting
- Spoke at CRWP buffer field day-helped lead group through field
- Attended Goodhue’s cover crop consortium
- Performed some new crp contract site visits for eligibility (cp21-filter strip)
- The first round of buffer letters was sent out. Most of the month was spent responding to phone calls, buffer tracking, and in office planning with landowners.
- Looking ahead: continue to work with landowners who trickle in from the letters. Once the crops start coming off, I will be performing site visits for compliance checks/flagging. Also we will be holding an informational meeting on Sept 14th.
RESOURCES SPECIALIST REPORT by Justin Fuchs:

- Faribault Rifle and Pistol Club Wetland Delineation Review with new SE Region BWSR Wetland Specialist.
- Staff Meeting.
- Multiple Re-Invest in Minnesota easement site visits within the month of August.
- Pictometry Training through Rice County and South Central College.
- Faribault Rifle and Pistol Club Wetland Delineation Review (second site visit).
- I-35 LLC. Wetland Delineation Review (with Conservation Corp. intern).
- Strategic Planning Meeting and Board Meeting.
- DNR OB Well monitoring.
- Meet with landowner regarding surface water complaint.
- Meet with landowner about possible encroachment of Re-Invest in Mn Easement.
- Groundwater workshop Gustavus in St. Peter.
- Site visit meeting regarding Soil Ordinance.
- Deliver No-Till Drill to landowner for rental.
- Faribault Rifle and Pistol Club Wetland Delineation Review (third site visit).
- Meeting with landowner regarding WCA exemptions for seasonally flooded wetlands.
- I-35 LLC. Wetland Delineation Notice of Decision.

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE: Sarah Middleton said Zumbro Watershed Partnership is approaching counties to ask for funding. (Amounts vary based on land in the Zumbro.) They are hoping to receive $40,000 over six counties.

ADJOURN: Chairman Robert Duban adjourned the meeting at 11:55 am.

Submitted by: ____________________________
Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

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Richard Cook - Board Member