RICE S.W.C.D.
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2015 - 9:00 AM

PRESENT: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, Gary Wagenbach, Steve Pahs, Bridget Evers, Justin Fuchs, Tom Coffman, Nicole Schaffer, Debbie Skarupa, BWSR Board Conservationist Jenny Moccol-Johnson and DNR Area Hydrologist Todd Piepho.

ABSENT: None

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

INTRODUCE TODD PIEPHO: Board welcomed DNR Area Hydrologist Todd Piepho and thanked him for coming.

SOIL HEATH TOPIC: Nicole Schaffer did the slake test showing the board how soil clumps from convention till versus strip till dissolved in water. Strip till generally has more root structure, a stable aggregate and does not erode as quickly. Soil degradation chemistry, cover crops, and organic matter in warmer climates were also discussed. Thank you Nicole.

MINUTES: Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the September 9, 2015 board minutes. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL/BILLS PAYABLE: Financial statements were reviewed. Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the September financial report and bills payable subject to audit. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Rice County has 30 days to pass through WCA funds.

OLD BUSINESS:

BUFFER STATUS: Area DNR Hydrologist Todd Piepho said DNR will be putting together maps similar to the old public waters map. As of now, any public waters need to be planted with perennial vegetation (natives recommended) by November 2017. Waterways may be able to be measured from the center on top. Discussion. Tom hoping for review of old 1970’s maps and some changes made to some areas. In gray area until next July. “Public waters” versus “protected waters” terminology was brought up. Gary wants strategic scenario planned so we can do prep work and be ready to move. Justin has good GIS skills. Need to get message out to landowners so they can be ready in two years, but don’t know specifics. LeSueur County and Mower County sending out letters. FSA needs
CRP contracts signed before law is officially in place and then is just for one term – no re-enrollments. See Skip Langer’s notes on Olmsted buffer process. Implementation dollars should be coming by the end of this month and then can get info campaign and ID areas. See DNR website and search public waters map county by county for old black and white map. Beacon on mapview has protected waters. Ditch redetermination payments vs not paid was discussed. Can’t add 20’ to already established 30’ filterstrip. Other issues may come up when legislature starts up. Dwell on 95% without issues and make movement.

**MN AG WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM:** Receiving $6000.00 for preparation of Ag WQCP. Goal is to get ten applications per year. Intend to use $6000.00 for staff time for this effort.

**LCCMR SE MN COVER CROP/SOIL HEALTH INITIATIVE:** Dean Thomas out of Fillmore County is in charge of this. These are incentive dollars to do cover crops and the goal is to get covers on in the next two crop years. It is a small amount of dollars and acres, but we can put people in contact with Dean.

**SEMASWCD FALL JOINT MEETING:** The SEMASWCD fall joint meeting was held in Elgin. Ed McNamara is director for two years and Gary is assistant director for two years.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MASWCD RESOLUTION PACKET:** Board was mailed packet, signed master ballot, and will turn in votes before October 20.

**MASWCD CONVENTION DECEMBER 6-8:** Convention will be at the Double Tree December 6-8th.

Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to allow staff to attend the MASWCD Convention in December at the discretion of the district manager. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried

Steve to check with LeAnn or Sheila about inviting Representative Bly and Representative Brian Danielson. Bring donations if you have them.

Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Bob Duban to approve and invite our Outstanding Conservationists (Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sommers and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sommers) to attend Monday night’s banquet, Monday night’s lodging and Tuesday’s luncheon. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried

**RICE COUNTY BUDGET MEETING:** Steve passed out a revised budget and reviewed his proposed changes for the new revenues for 2016. Some possibilities were no-till drill purchase, Travis to opt out of Dept. of Ag grant, tech support for Bridget and purchase a Total Station survey equipment. Jenny suggested partnering with Planning and Zoning. Should get draft work plan in two weeks.

**CRWP VOLUNTEER SHEETS:** Cannon River Watershed Partnership Volunteer Referral Cards were available for anyone interested.
**FIRST UNITED BANK CHECKING ACCOUNT:** When we switched to First United Bank we were receiving higher interest and paid $22.00 in fees. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Dick Peterson to change checking account to a Small Business account with no interest and no fees except for $1.00 per month fee for copies of cancelled checks. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried. We could put some savings into 9 month CD at .6%.

**SCOTT WMO 14-53 DAN SULLIVAN:** Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following for Scott WMO payment:

SWMO #14-53 – Dan Sullivan 30095 151 Ave New Prague-Wht 4 – 1.4 ac Harvestable Filter Strip- $4,200.00 ($2100.00 paid by WMO after seeding now and $2100.00 paid after first status review.)

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

**SCOTT WMO CONTRACT #15-49 CHARLES SHIMOTA:** Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following Scott WMO Contract Application:

Scott WMO15-49 Charles Shimota-10750 30 St. W. New Prague Wheatland Section 9-6 waterways-$13,657.50. Cost share is at 75%.

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

**SCOTT WMO CONTRACT# 15-50 CHARLES SHIMOTA:** Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following Scott WMO Contract Application:

Scott WMO15-50 Charles Shimota 10750 30 Street W. New Prague, Wht Section 9 – WASCOB- sediment control basin - $3,702.00.

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

**SCOTT WMO CONTRACT APPLICATION JOHN SKLUZACEK:** Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following Scott WMO Contract contingent on Scott WMO approval:

Scott WMO 15-052 John Skluzacek 7375 Judge Ave Lonsdale Wheatland 28 – 2 terraces - $10,492.50. (No numbers received from WMO yet.)

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

**SCOTT WMO CONTRACT APPLICATION JOHN SKLUZACEK:** Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following Scott WMO Contract contingent on Scott WMO approval:
Scott WMO#15- 053 John Skluzaek 7375 Judge Ave Lonsdale Wht 28 – 2 Terraces-$10,492.50. (No number received yet from WMO.)

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

**STATE C-S CONTRACT APPLICATION KUBALL DAIRY:** Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the following state cost-share contract:

CS 15-4 Kball Dairy Farm 22156 Lake Ave Waterville 56096 Morristown Sec 8 -2 Sediment Basins - $3,262.50. 2015 State C-S is at 50% rate.

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

**STATE C-S CONTRACT APPLICATION DAVID GROSS:** Motion by Richard Cook, seconded by Dick Peterson to approve the following contract:

CS14-03 David Gross – 6420 French Lake Trail Faribault Wells 7 -Sediment Basin- $6,447.66

Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried. 2014 cost share rate is at 75%.

**DRAINAGE WATER MANAGEMENT GRANT APPLICATION-CD 33:** Steve discussed doing County Ditch 33 south of Nerstrand as a saturated buffer with a BWSR grant. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to encourage Steve Pahs to proceed with Drainage Water Management Grant Application. Ayes: Richard Cook, Robert Duban, Dick Peterson, Jim Purfeerst, and Gary Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried Site will be used as a demo.

**SUPERVISOR/OTHER REPORTS:** Richard Cook discussed the D. Krenz project and the neighbor’s flooding. Sediment basin should be finished this fall and will help slow the water flow. Soil loss in ditch and soil erosion ordinance were mentioned. Dick Peterson said the SEMASWCD Meeting in Elgin near the stream and cornfield was a good visual. Jim Purfeerst said he had a 13 bushel per acre increase in no-till even with white mold residue, but was not necessarily due to cover crop. Pulled nitrate samples. Spring crop appearance was discussed. Gary talked about being able to use drones in 1 to 1 1/2 years. Can use to inspect crops and highway departments are using to inspect bridges. Gary passed around a basalt rock he found that might be 2.8 billion years old, when this area was covered by water.
D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. We are presently taking applications for 2016 EQIP funds up until November 20. CSP signup for 2016 is continuous with no cutoff date announced yet. In December, we will be trained on the new CSP scoring and ranking system.

2. USDA is under a continuing resolution until December 11. If a shut down were to occur the, our office will be closed. This could cause a significant problem for SWCD operations. No access to computers.

3. Constructing of structural conservation practices are ramping up. The backlog of 1026 referrals from FSA to install tile drainage is presently over 100.

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT by Steve Pahs:

No written report received.
Steve attended Governance 101 training in St Cloud and got a lot out of it. Most staff attended the Soil Health Field Day on September 23. Steve met with Tony Murphy and Julie Runkel to discuss buffer strategies and soil erosion ordinance. Most of staff will be attending BWSR Academy in a few weeks. A lot of ditch projects going on.

DISTRICT TECHNICIAN’S REPORT by Bridget Evers:

- Needs with Colin
- CRP contract writing in Toolkit
- Scott County WMO projects
- Surveyed with Nikki and Colin
- 2 day Toolkit Training
- SE Area Meeting
- Cannon River Meeting
- Rain Garden Meeting
- Cover Crop Tour

Upcoming:
- BWSR Academy 10/27-10/29

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT REPORT by Travis Hirman:

- Obtained signatures for the second round of NMI contracts as we head towards harvest.
- Attended the Area 7 Meeting in Elgin.
- Attended a soil health field day in Clarks Grove, hosted by Freeborn Co. soil health team.
- Completed all basal stalk nitrate testing for my work with MDA. Roughly 80 samples were collected.
- Assisted MDA colleagues with comprehensive testing of NMI plots in Winona and Fillmore counties. This included basal stalk, whole plant, and residual soil nitrate testing.
Going forward: MDA workload will mostly consist of helping with harvest and obtaining the necessary data. Manure spreader calibrations and MMPs are likely to pick up in October and November.

**RESOURCE SPECIALIST REPORT by Justin Fuchs**

- Utleig Holdco Wetland Delineation Review for potential solar panel site.
- Meeting with Novak regarding a portion of property being converting to RIM.
- SE Area SWCD employee meeting.
- Re-define new boundary for Lonsdale RIM.
- Freeborn County Soil Health Field Day training.
- Wraps meeting at St. Olaf College.
- Faribault Foods Expansion Addendum Wetland Delineation Review.
- Utleig Webster Wetland Delineation Review for potential solar panel site.
- David wetland violation, restoration order sent.

**OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE:** Richard Cook wondering if Rice Co. Commissioners are in support of the buffers. Jenny Mocol-Johnson said there are clearly written instructions on how to document complaints. More buffer discussion.

**ADJOURN:** Chairman Gary Wagenbach adjourned the meeting at 11:16 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

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Richard Cook – Board Secretary