RICE S.W.C.D.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 11, 2013 – 9:00 AM


ABSENT: Jerry Courson

Chairman Dale Neirby called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M.

MINUTES: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the November 13, 2013 board meeting minutes removing “4-H” on page four. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Steve reviewed the financial report by line item. Bob Duban discussed MCIT session at the convention about shared employees and the Joint Powers Board structure. SWCD can ask MCIT and county attorney for legal advice. Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the November financial report and bills payable subject to audit. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

TOM GILE/BWSR SOIL EROSION ORDINANCE: Board welcomed BWSR Board Conservationist Tom Gile from Rochester who started about four months ago. Tom is handling Wabasha, Goodhue, Dodge, Steele and Rice Counties. Tom Gile felt there might be more funding available for developing the soil erosion ordinance next year and that BWSR has a sample model ordinance. Board wants time to get information. Bob Duban mentioned Circle Lake Association asked about a soil ordinance and the 50 foot state mandated buffer. Public waters need a 50’ buffer but protected waters map has inaccuracies and could be updated. County ditches are on DNR map but ditch law supersedes and one rod buffers are required unless ditch was improved after 1974. DNR mapping/updating, ditches, protected waters and inviting a person from another county with an ordinance were discussed.

Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Duban to set up a half day meeting, date to be determined, to discuss the details of developing a soil ordinance and to address the 50 foot buffer requirement. Jim Purfeerst was concerned with adding another ordinance without enforcing the current ordinance. Will be discussion for more input. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

The BWSR Soil Erosion Ordinance was tabled from the November 13 board meeting. Steve spoke with the Rice County Commissioners about developing a soil erosion ordinance.
Commissioners need more time to review background information before forming a position on this topic.

**BWSR CWMA GRANT APPLICATION:** Ashley met with Highway Department to develop standards for grant application. Wild Parsnip will be primary target. Grant application is due Friday.

**BWSR ZUMBRO RIVER WATERSHED PRAP:** Steve and Jim may go to a meeting in December, but Rice SWCD should have minimal involvement as not a lot of Rice County is included in the watershed. One purpose was to see if we are following the water plan and how to increase effectiveness. Tom Gile said an objective was to see if there is communication with counties downstream.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2014 BUDGET:** Steve handed out a three page handout and reviewed the 2013 and 2014 budget line by line. Five thousand dollars will be set aside yearly for a future truck purchase. Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approved the proposed 2014 budget. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:** Personnel Committee met and did employee reviews last week. Discussion followed. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the wage increases represented per the wage scale schedule. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Steve thanked the Personnel Committee for their efforts.

**CLOTHING ALLOWANCE:** Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve a $200.00 clothing allowance per employee for 2014. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**OPERATIONAL HANDBOOK UPDATE:** Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the Operational Handbook revisions subject to final technical edit. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**CROP ADVISOR TEST FEE:** Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Bob Duban to approve $75.00 for the certified crop advisor test fee for Spencer Herbert. Ayes: Duban, Neirby, Purfeerst and Wagenbach. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**STATE C-S FLOOD RELIEF AMENDMENTS:**

Motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following state cost share flood relief contract amendments:

CSFR110220 – Name change from Ken Becker to Hilary Caron-19540 Roberds Lk Blvd Faribault-Waterway with Flood Relief 2011 at 75% cost share.

CSFR13-012 – Fred Becker-9202 155 St E-Nerstrand WHG 4-Terraces -Increase amount by $4,681.98. Steve Pahs is district representative and cost share is 90%
CSFR121404- Chris Donkers -9625 150 St E Nerstrand Whg 4-Sediment Basin–overage increase amount by $1674.86 to $6,300.86. The additional $1674.86 will be taken out of 2013 Flood Relief funds at 90% cost share.

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

**STATE C-S FLOOD RELIEF VOUCHERS:** Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the following flood relief cost share pay vouchers and close out 2011 Flood Relief Grant:

CSFR110220 – Hilary Caron 19540 Roberds Lake Blvd – Faribault – Waterway - $2,773.65. Steve Pahs was the district representative and cost share was at 75%

CSFR110220 – MN BWSR refund slippage from Becker/Caron contract from 2011 Flood Relief Grant- $1078.69. Grant expires December 31, 2013.

CSFR13012 – Fred Becker-9202 155 St E. Nerstrand – Terraces - $11,881.98. Steve Pahs was the district representative and cost share at 90% ($7200.00 Phase #2-$4681.98 Phase #3)

CSFR121404 – Chris Donkers 9625 150 St. E. – Nerstrand-Sed Basin-$6300.86 $4626.00 was from 2011 Flood Relief Grant and $1674.86 was from 2013 Flood Relief Grant. Steve Pahs was the district representative and cost share was at 90%.

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

**APPROVE STATE COST SHARE VOUCHERS:** Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the following 2012 state cost share vouchers and close out 2012 to BWSR:

CS121332-Luke Simon-7474 LeSueur Ave-Montgomery-Wht 32-Sediment Basins $3103.50 Steve Pahs was the district representative and cost share was at 75% from 2012 funds.

CS 120916-J&P DeGrood Brothers-22501 Morristown Blvd-Faribault-Waterway $4897.50. Colin Williams was the district representative and cost share was at 65%. ($3,427.75 from 2012 funds and $1469.75 from 2013 regular cost share funds.)

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

**OTHER REPORTS:**

**SOIL HEALTH MEETING:** Tom Coffman and Spencer Herbert will be meeting next Tuesday at 4:00 pm at The Cheese Cave downtown to discuss soil health options. Board members were invited.

**MASWCD CONVENTION:** Nitrate sessions were informative, trade show exhibitors were good and auction raised about $6800.00 with the John Deere tricycle bringing in $425.00! Board signed thank you’s to Sema Equipment for the John Deere tricycle, Ag Star Financial for two lawn chairs and tool box, Tri-Lakes Sportsman’s Club for two wood duck houses and two blue bird houses, the Caves of Faribault for blue cheese circle, and Isaacson’s for toy tractor. Calendars with a picture from each district from Area 7 were handed out.
OTHER: All three cover crop resolutions passed. Spencer’s Dad made the news as Conservation Farmer of the Year for the state of Iowa. He has installed a bio filter with drainage water management. BALMM meeting is December 18. Board would like to see list of impaired waters from PCA. Bob said The Farmer Magazine had good articles on cover crops in the December issue.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:
1. Dave Copeland has been selected as our new Area Conservationist. He will begin duties in February.

2. Conservation Stewardship Program signup is underway and continues through January 17. We have sent news releases to local media outlets.

3. EQIP 2014 signups are underway. There presently is no funding until the Farm Bill is passed.

4. Jim Fritz, our Area Resource Conservationist, will be here Monday, December 23rd to work with Spencer, Ashley, Collin and Nikki on Ecological Job Approval Authority and becoming Certified Conservation Planners.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS: Bob Duban saved civility information from convention. Gary Wagenbach spoke on pheasant habitat loss in South Dakota and climate adaptation. Minnesota is number two behind California in highest insurance related losses.

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT by Steve Pahs:
Steve will discuss some projects with JPB Engineer Pete Fryer. No other formal report received.

FARM BILL TECHNICIAN REPORT by Ashley Tabery:
Past Month:
- Fred Becker- 5 basins and a repair, project complete
- Ken Sherwin- Waterway surveyed and designed, needs area office approval
- Dale Klapperich- Waterway and diversions surveyed and designed, waiting for contractor
- Estrem Farms- 15 basins surveyed and designed, issues with tile, working with area office and MN DOT on tile boring under Highway 246
- Hilary Caron/Ken Becker- Ken passed away, Hilary agreed to continue with waterway, project complete
- Tom Furlong- Trees not cleared on site, waiting for final plans from area office
- Chris Donkers- completed project that was started in 2012
- John Strouth- surveyed and designed, waiting on contractor
- Luke Simon- 1 basin, project complete
- John Ross- he is unsure of the plan, will present him with his options
- Ralph Michel- Surveyed and designed, waiting on contractor
- Mark Rydberg- assisted with project, near completion
- Eleanor Salisbury- grade stabilization structure may not happen, still need to stake/survey/design terraces and basins
- Amendments and payment vouchers for many projects.
- Drill to SEEDS Farm and then stored at County Shop.
- Equipment install and data collection at water quality monitoring site
- Meeting with Bob Gill, Ray Larson and Bridgewater Township on water issues and solutions
- Met with Anderson sisters on conservation opportunities on French Lake. Many basins present, just need minor maintenance.
- Meeting with Highway Dept and Zoning on priorities for CWMA application, wrote and submitted application through eLink.
- Website updates and repairs.

Upcoming:
- eLink reporting of all projects
- Needs and prep work for spring projects
- Promote CRP and RIM by sending out targeted letters
- Explore RIM options with Duffney’s
- 50ft buffer compliance with Degen’s
- Sand Creek project check in/billing to Scott WMO
- Winter 2013-2014 newsletter

**NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST’S REPORT by Spencer Herbert:**
Board Report for 11/7/13 through 12/4/13

Over the past month I completed a yearly update for Dale Spindler (Steele). I also worked with Dale to calibrate his new manure spreader. I completed a new plan and spreader calibration for Steve Kes (Rice). I completed two feedlot evaluations for Dan LaCanne (Rice) and Mike Weinandt (Rice). I received new manure analysis for Gary Lehnertz (Wabasha) and update his plan. I am currently working on developing a new plan for Dan LaCanne (Rice). I received new soil samples from Bob Heers (Steele) and will work to update his plan to show the new samples, along with completing his certification forms for EQIP. I have been in contact with Randy Bauer (Rice) regarding his certification forms for EQIP as well. In addition to the nutrient planning, I have been helping as needed in the field with survey and construction layout. I attended the first day of the MASWCD convention on 12/2. It was a good chance to network with people from around the state and attend sessions on various conservation topics.

Looking ahead: Plan to finish Dan LaCanne’s plan soon. I need to complete certification forms for Randy Bauer and Bob Heers for their EQIP plans. Peter Klapperich (Wabasha) is still working to complete harvest and fall work. He would like a plan when he gets the time to meet with me. There are a few producers in Rice County that want spreader calibrations done.
RESOURCE SPECIALIST REPORT by Collin Schoenecker:

Past:
- Read MN DNR Obwells.
- Met with Landowners about WCA issues.
- MASWCD Annual Meeting in Bloomington.
- Worked with landowners to complete their Replacement Order.
- Met with Wheatland town board about wetland issue.
- RIM/WRP closing for Robert and Julie Olson.
- TEP meeting.

Upcoming:
- Sent out Notice of Decision on two WCA sites.
- Meet with landowner about potential fill in wetland.
- Start gathering information for WCA 2013 Annual Reporting Form.

Review Tax forfeit land for Wetlands for Rice County

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE:

UPCOMING EVENTS:

ADJOURN: Chairman Dale Neirby adjourned the meeting around 11:20 a.m.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, January 8 at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

Board Secretary - Robert Duban