Rice Soil and Water Conservation District
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RICE S.W.C.D.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY – June 12, 2019 - 9:00 AM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:  Mike Ludwig, Tim Little, Dick Cook, Dick Peterson and Jim Purfeerst.
Others in attendance: Steve Pahs, Travis Hirman, Emmie Peters, Chris Schmidt, Jarett Spitzack, Jeff Docken, Teresa DeMars and Steve Breaker.

Absent: none

Chairman Dick Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. A quorum is present.

MINUTES: Motion by Tim Little, seconded by Mike Ludwig to approve the May 8, 2019 minutes. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL/BILLS PAYABLE: April program summary available, May is not. May bills payable reviewed.
Motion by Dick Cook, seconded by Jim Purfeerst, to approve the April program summary and the May bills payable, subject to audit. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: no old business

NEW BUSINESS:

NATE KUBALL – 19-RCPP-01 – APPROVE PAYMENT OF $506.25:
A motion by Mike Ludwig, seconded by Dick Cook to approve payment of $506.25 for Nate Kuball. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION: MAWQCP PROMOTION: Dennis Fuchs from Stearns SWCD has drafted a resolution which actively supports the efforts by partner organizations to increase incentives for MAWQCP-certified farmers, including but not limited to: reduced farm loan interest rates, reduced crop insurance premiums, reduced property taxes, premium priced products, green payments, pollution reduction trading credits, conservation compliance for USDA and other programs, lease terms, land appraisal practices, and other financial advantages.

A motion by Dick Cook, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to approve the resolution for MAWQCP promotion. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.
**WELL SEALING GRANT AGREEMENT:** FY2019 SE MN Well Sealing Sub Agreement between the Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation District and Rice SWCD. The purpose of this agreement is to protect drinking water by sealing wells in the most vulnerable groundwater areas of the region. Each eligible well owner is allowed up to 50% cost share up to $1,000.

A motion by Dick Cook, seconded by Mike Ludwig to accept the FY2019 SE MN Well Sealing Sub Agreement with Wabasha SWCD. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**COVER CROP CS RON WAGNER LC18-12, $4074.00, EXP. DATE 11/1/19 FOR YEAR ONE:**

A motion by Jim Purfeerst, seconded by Dick Cook to approve the Cover Crop CS contract for Ron Wagner #LC18-12, in the amount of $4,074.00. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**COVER CROP CS JEFF LACANNE LC18-11, $2625.00, EXP. DATE 11/1/19 FOR YEAR ONE:**

A motion by Dick Cook, seconded by Tim Little to approve the Cover Crop CS contract for Jeff LaCanne #LC18-11, in the amount of $2625.00. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**STATE CS # DEBRUZZI GRASSED WATERWAY:** tabled

**OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST – SELECT:** the nominees for outstanding conservationist award were reviewed.

A motion by Tim Little, seconded by Jim Purfeerst to select John and Debbie Becker as the 2019 Outstanding Conservationist Award Recipient for 2019. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

The nominees for The Wildlife Enhancement Award and the Forest Stewardship Award will be reviewed by the Board Chairman and SWCD Staff.

A motion by Dick Cook, seconded by Jim Purfeerst granting authority for the Board Chairman and SWCD Staff to select the Wildlife Enhancement Award winner and the Forest Stewardship Award winner after reviewing the nominees and their conservation practices. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**MN CREP OUTREACH AND IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM APPLICATION:** to obtain funding for Emmie to do CREP outreach under the new Farm Bill.

A motion by Dick Cook, seconded by Mike Ludwig to submit the application for CREP Outreach and Implementation funding. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**FY19 DRINKING WATER PROTECTION IN SE MN SUB-AGREEMENT:** FY2019 Drinking Water Protection in SE MN Sub-Agreement between Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District and Rice SWCD. Funding available for cover crop incentives and T & A.

A motion by Dick Cook, seconded by Tim Little to accept the FY19 Drinking Water Protection in SE MN Sub-Agreement. All aye. None opposed.

**GROUNDWATER LEVEL MONITORING AGREEMENT FOR FY2020:** this agreement is between MN DNR and Rice SWCD for collection of groundwater data thru well monitoring for State Fiscal Year 2020 (July 1 2019 thru June 30 2020). Previously 5 wells were monitored but 2 have been deemed inaccessible. Three wells will be monitored monthly (except winter months) at a reimbursement rate of $30 for each reading, about $720 annually.
A motion by Dick Cook, seconded by Tim Little to accept the FY2020 Groundwater Level Monitoring Agreement. All aye. None opposed.

**AREA 7 RESOLUTIONS MEETING JUNE 28TH IN STEWARTVILLE:** all area 7 SWCD’s will gather and present resolutions and vote on the ones to be submitted to the state. Board supervisor’s vote. District Manager and at least one board supervisor should attend.

**INTERSEEDER UPDATE:** the interseeder is complete and was used this week to seed 116 acres. All went well. Have approximately 400 left to seed. Some fields on the list haven’t been planted yet, or they had herbicides applied that are not compatible with the cover crop mix.

**SUPERVISOR REPORTS:**

Mike Ludwig: nothing to report.

Jim Purfeerst: seeded cover crop on conventional corn. Sprayed round up before planting and noticed the weeds were starting to show up when seeding the cover crop.

Dick Cook: 1W1P policy committee met. Started the 90 day review process for approval. Funds can be accessed after approval/completion. Looking at early 2020. What’s the status on the Woolen Mill Raingarden project? Contractor has been arranged and work should start in the next couple weeks.

Tim Little: was asked to speak at the annual CRW meeting. It went well. Mostly urban attendees with a few farmers. Danielle Isaacson from MWQ contacted Tim about a traveling exhibit which will be on display at Carlton College’s Weitz Center from June 20th to July 28th. Tim’s conservation story along with pictures will be part of the exhibit.

Dick Peterson: the 1W1P Zumbro Watershed kickoff meeting is June 13th.

**DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT:** Introduced new staff member, Jarett Spitzack. Been busy with meetings, planning fall field day with CRWP, getting the Interseeder going, ditch spraying. Still needs to work on 2020 budget.

**NRCS REPORT presented by Chris Schmidt, Soil Conservationist:**

**General:**

⇒ NRCS has a new contract employee in Faribault – Marlene Coon, she will serve all offices on the Customer Service Team 17, Tonja Trump is the new area office contract employee
⇒ Staff attended SE Area NRCS meeting in Oronoco June 5, new State Conservationist was in attendance

**Farm Bill Updates:**

**EQIP:**

⇒ 15 applications have been pre-approved, 1 left to obligate
⇒ MN has requested additional funds from NHQ

**RCPP-EQIP:**

⇒ 1 of the 2 applications was pre-approved

**CREP:**

⇒ CREP sign-up June 3 through August 23

**CRP:**
Continuous CRP sign-up June 3 through August 17, limited practice options

**WETLAND/HEL:**

⇒ Rice County has 5 drainage requests awaiting a certified wetland determination from the wetland team

**ACEP (WRP/RIM):**

⇒ Sticha WRP contracts need wetland restoration-planned for summer 2019, prescribed burn and seeding planned for June 2019, working on ownership change and contract transfer

**CSP:**

⇒ 1 application, June 21 deadline for ranking and eligibility

**Upcoming Events/Deadlines:**

⇒ CSP application pre-approval list release date of June 25

**STAFF REPORTS:**


Travis Hirman: now that the rains have stopped, the no-till drill is back out. Worked with staff from Dakota County on raingarden layouts. Previously sent 5 buffer non-compliant letters which have all been resolved. Sent out 4 new non-compliant letters last week.

Jarett Spitzack: spent a week training with Justin. Attended 2 day wetlands training in Zimmerman MN. Working on site checks and 1026’s and working with Steve on the interseeder. Continually learning.

Teresa DeMars: missed May meeting due to Envirotex. Great turnout and great representation from Rice County teams. Attended Northfield Earth Day Fair and the Cannon River Art and Watershed Festival. Interseeder was on display. Doing the “soil your undies” challenge – buried new underwear in 9 different fields in Rice County, conventional, no-till, cover, no cover, strip tills. Hoping to have the results on display at the county fair. Working on a Soil Horizon Display for school outreach. It will contain 5 different cores of soil. Downsizing the raingarden located by the conservation building at the fairgrounds. Prepping for the fair.

Commissioner Jeff Docken: suggested that if Steve is able to present the budget to the County Board the supervisors should attend as well as it might help the cause. Went to Japan. Saw no agriculture but found trip very interesting. Visited Daikin’s research and development.

Motion by Tim Little, seconded by Mike Ludwig to adjourn the meeting. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Time 10:58 am.

Submitted by: 

[Signature]

Sue Erpenbach – Admin. Assistant

[Signature]

Board Member – Richard Peterson