Rice Soil and Water Conservation District

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RICE S.W.C.D.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY – October 9, 2019 - 9:00 AM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:  Mike Ludwig, Dick Peterson, Dick Cook and Tim Little.


Absent: Jim Purfeerst

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

MINUTES: Motion by Tim Little, seconded by Dick Cook to approve the September 18, 2019 minutes. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL/BILLS PAYABLE: September program summary was reviewed. September bills payable reviewed.

Motion by Dick Cook, seconded by Tim Little to approve the September program summary and September bills payable, as presented, subject to audit. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

TRACTOR LEASE – POSSIBLE OPTIONS WITH RICE COUNTY HWY DEPARTMENT: the transportation committee met with the Rice County Hwy Department regarding a possible lease of one of their 150 horse tractors they use for mowing. Rice County requests insurance, which we carry. Their lease offer is comparable to what Matejcek’s Implement offered to us. Will keep options open

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. EOR invoices – approve payment - $20,554.01

A motion by Dick Cook, seconded by Mike Ludwig to approve the consent agenda items listed above. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

COVER CROP BWSR GRANT APPLICATION – FOLLOW UP RECOMMENDATIONS OR SUGGESTIONS: New grant opportunity with 1 million available. RFP open now. Grant would fund 4 to 6 projects for first time cover croppers. Total funding per project would be $125,000 to $250,000. It makes sense to be more of
a regional project, Cannon River Area. This money could provide more cover crop incentives, or a couple more interseeders throughout the area, or help build a database of cooperators in the county. No guarantee we would get funding. Requires a 10% non-state match. Not all counties in the Cannon River watershed are interested in participating. A total of 3 counties so far. October 24th is the deadline for application.

**FY20 LOCAL CAPACITY WORK PLAN:** suggestions on how to spend the FY20 local capacity money included; tractor lease, raingardens, along with technical services and education.

A motion by Dick Cook, seconded by Tim Little to approve the FT20 Local Capacity work plan. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**FY20 LOCAL CAPACITY AND BUFFER LAW GRANT: $146,927 – APPROVE:**

A motion by Mike Ludwig, seconded by Dick Cook to approve the FY20 Local Capacity and Buffer Law Grant. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**FY20 BUFFER IMPLEMENTATION WORKPLAN:**

A motion by Dick Cook, seconded by Mike Ludwig to approve the FY20 Buffer Implementation work plan. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**WORK ORDER CONTRACT #66-19-W001 FOR RIM:** this work order is to provide technical assistance on RIM easements.

A motion by Dick Cook, seconded by Tim Little to approve the Work Order contract #66-19-W001 for RIM. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**RELIANCE BANK CD RENEWAL:** one of two CD’s at Reliance Bank is up for renewal effective September 28th. We have 10 days to do something with it or it will renew at current rate of 1.2%. Would like to renew at 2.2% for 27 months.

A motion by Dick Cook, seconded by Tim Little to renew the CD for 27 months at 2.2%. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**2019 BUDGET UPDATE:** Steve presented preliminary numbers as to where we are at with the 2019 budget. We are close to being on budget. He will bring an updated budget to the November meeting. The 2020 budget will have a 2% COLA increase in it. 2019 did not.

**JOHN THOMAS #LC19-03 - $6741.00 – APPROVE CONTRACT:** this cover crop contract is for 74.9 acres, single species at $30/per acre.

A motion by Dick Cook, seconded by Mike Ludwig to approve the John Thomas #LC19-03 contract for $6741.00. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**SUPERVISOR REPORTS:**

Mike Ludwig: nothing to add.
Dick Cook: with every rain event more erosion occurs and the rivers and lakes get muddier. Lake level has been up and down all summer.

Tim Little: Mary from Carleton College has asked Tim to speak at an agricultural Field Day at Legvold’s. 8 schools registered to attend.

Dick Peterson: Zumbro 1W1P meeting on October 10th. Planning 3 community conversations over the next month, Oct 26th, Nov 7th and Nov 14th. Presentation by Barr Engineering & the Zumbro Leadership group.

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT: meeting with KEYC TV Mankato on October 10th regarding the Cannon River collaborative. Numerous meetings this month. Repair on a wetlands project. BWSR Academy Oct 29, 30 and 31 in Brainerd. 3 other staff also attending.

NRCS REPORT presented by Chris Schmidt, Soil Conservationist:

General:
  ⇒ Leslie Diaz-Alvarez has returned from her detail and will be assuming the day to day work in Rice County
  ⇒ CST is covering Carver and Scott counties

Farm Bill Updates:

EQIP:
  ⇒ 24 contracts have been obligated
  ⇒ 5 of 30 cover crop for prevent plant applications were pre-approved and obligated

RCPP-EQIP:
  ⇒ 1 of the 2 applications was pre-approved, has been obligated

CREP:
  ⇒ 2 CREP applications received and both were approved

CRP:
  ⇒ Continuous CRP sign-up ended August 23
  ⇒ Emmie completed all plans by the deadline

WETLAND/HEL:
  ⇒ Rice County has 15 drainage requests awaiting a certified wetland determination from the wetland team

ACEP (WRP/RIM):
  ⇒ Sticha WRP contracts wetland restoration work started a couple weeks ago, prescribed burn and seeding planned for Fall 2019, ownership change and contract transfer are complete

CSP:
1 application, it has been obligated

**Upcoming Events/Deadlines:**

- NRCS SE area all employee meeting scheduled for October 23
- End of the FY activities to complete include performance reviews

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Teresa DeMars: wrote a couple articles about our Conservationist award winner. Working on her tree and plant collection for Envirotex and other educational opportunities. Will be presenting at BWSR Academy the end of October. Upcoming presentation for 9th graders at South Central College for Career Exploration Days.

Travis Hirman: Spent a lot of time in Freeborn county completing their RIM checks. Also doing Buffer site visits.

Jarett Spitzack: Completed RIM checks for Rice County. Working on a couple wetland delineations.

Emmie Peters: working on last minute CRP sign ups and extensions. Pushing CREP.

Jenny Mocol-Johnson: shared some grant information and offered suggestions.

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Tim Little, seconded by Mike Ludwig to adjourn the meeting. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried. Time 10:49 am.

Submitted by: [Signature]

Sue Erpenbach – Admin. Assistant

[Signature]

Board Member – Richard Peterson