



## **Rice Soil and Water Conservation District**

2211 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave NW Suite 200 Faribault, MN 55021

Phone: (507) 332-5408 [www.riceswcd.org](http://www.riceswcd.org)

**RICE S.W.C.D.**

### **REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY – September 10, 2025 – 8:00 am**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Richard Peterson, Al Malecha, Roger Bongers

Others in attendance: Steve Pahs, Al Henderson, Teresa DeMars, Alan Kraus, Emmie Scheffler,  
Commissioner Charlie Peters, Commissioner Jim Purfeerst, Chris Schmidt NRCS, Taylor  
O'Bryan NRCS, Jenny Simek FSA

Absent: Gene Kuntz, John Larson

Meeting called to order at 8:00 am by Chairman Richard Peterson.

#### **August Board Minutes:**

A motion by Al Malecha, seconded by Roger Bongers to approve the August board minutes as written.  
All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

#### **August financial statement and bills payable:**

The district manager reviewed the financial statement and bills payable for August.

A motion by Roger Bongers, seconded by Al Malecha to approve the August financial statement and bills payable, subject to audit. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Project encumbrance report – information: this report was reviewed.

**CONSENT AGENDA: (payment approval):** No consent agenda items

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **A. Al Kraus – Haney workshop overview – 10 min:**

Al Kraus gave a very informative presentation and explanation about the Haney soil test and its benefits.

##### **B. Expiring 12-month CD with Reliance Bank – 9/23/2025 – action:**

A 12-month CD held at Reliance bank will expire on September 23, 2025. The initial value was \$53,289.72. Interest will be posted at maturity.

A motion by Roger Bongers, seconded by Al Malecha to renew this CD for another 12 months. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**C. Open money market savings account with Edward Jones - action:**

Eric Nelson was present and spoke to us about the benefits of a money market savings account. The money market account could be tied to the district checking or savings account for transfer of funds thru ACH. Interest from CD's could be deposited into the money market account. Money Market's are not FDIC insured, but the funds are invested in Federated Trust for US Treasury Obligations Stock (TTOXX). District Manager is asked to verify that this can be done with State funds.

No action taken.

**D. 2023 State Cost Share grant close-out – action:**

All funds have been expended and grant closed.

A motion by Al Malecha, seconded by Roger Bongers to close out the 2023 State Cost Share grant. All ayes. None opposed. Motion carried

**E. 2024 Buffer Law grant close-out - action:**

All funds have been expended and grant closed.

A motion by Roger Bongers, seconded by Al Malecha to close out the 2024 Buffer Law grant. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**F. Rice SWCD RCPP Soil health policy updated - action**

District manager is asking for a revision of some of the language in the RCPP policy. He would like to change the application review date from the 1<sup>st</sup> Business Day of the month to the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month or next business day if it's a Holiday. Also change the language from per contract or landowner to per entity.

A motion by Roger Bongers, seconded by Al Malecha to change the policy language as identified above. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**G. Fall interseeding program - action:**

Rice SWCD would provide custom interseeding after corn and soybean harvest at \$38 per acre. Two seed mixes are planned, tractor is rented and driver is secured. Seed tender would be rented and transported by SWCD truck, as well as fuel barrel for tractor. All associated costs are factored into the \$38 per acre fee.

A motion by Al Malecha, seconded by Roger Bongers to approve the fall interseeding program. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**H. Jack Volkert 25-RC-008, WASCOB - \$33,153.84 - action:**

This project is funded thru the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Organization. Two basins.

A motion by Al Malecha, seconded by Roger Bongers to approve the Jack Volkert 25-RC-008, WASCOBS for \$33,153.84. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

**I. WAGZ 2026 – 2027 voting – action:**

This on-line survey was completed in a work group session after this meeting was adjourned

**J. MASWCD Annual Convention Dec 1-3, 2025 – more to come - informational:**

**NRCS REPORT:**

Taylor O'Bryan presented the following report:

Chris Schmidt also shared some staffing changes as well as some area bondary changes. He is now covering Wabasha county.



September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## NRCS Report for the Rice SWCD Board Meeting

### **General:**

- ⇒ Taylor, Cody, Elenor and Lucas are working out of the Faribault Office
- ⇒ Chris is working out of the office a few days a week, will be in other offices in our team the rest of the time.
- ⇒ Taylor attended the Haney Soil Testing SWCD – was very informative and was a great chance to see what our producers are doing to increase soil health.

### **Farm Bill Updates:**

#### **CSP:**

- ⇒ FY26 Sign up deadline is October 31, 2025

#### **EQIP:**

- ⇒ EQIP FY26 Sign Up 1 deadline was August 1
- ⇒ Sign up 2 is open and taking applications
- ⇒ January 9<sup>th</sup> is our ranking Deadline

#### **CRP:**

- ⇒ 38 contracts selected and moving forward in Rice County to begin October 1<sup>st</sup>
- ⇒ We have completed all selected contracts in Rice County – a few may be pending for signatures.

### **WETLAND/HEL:**

- ⇒ Rice County has 28 requests awaiting HEL determination for new land from the compliance team
- ⇒ Rice County has 36 requests awaiting a certified wetland determination from the compliance team

### **Upcoming Events/Deadlines:**

- CSP sign up deadline Oct 31<sup>st</sup>
- Soil Health and Small Grains Field Day – Free event open to everyone
  - September 11<sup>th</sup>, 23005 Lewiston Blvd, Hampton, MN
  - Agency Staff – 9am -1230pm, Producers – 12:30pm – 4:30pm
  - To register – [z.umn.edu/SHSmallGrains](https://z.umn.edu/SHSmallGrains)

**FSA report prepared by Taylor Carlson:**

The following report was shared by Jenny Simek in Taylor Carlson's absence:



**Rice County, Minnesota**

2800 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue NW, Suite 500  
Faribault, MN 55021  
Taylor.Carlson@usda.gov  
(507) 332-7418 ext 108

TO: Rice County Soil and Water Conservation District Board

FROM: Rice County Farm Service Agency

SUBJECT: September 2025 Board Meeting

**Old Business**

**2023/2024 Supplemental Disaster Assistance**

- Supplemental Disaster Relief Program
  - Provide assistance to producers for necessary expenses due to losses of revenue, quality or productions of crops due to weather related events in 2023 and 2024.
  - Sign-up began July 10, 2025, for indemnified losses
  - *Target sign-up date of September 15, 2025, for uncovered losses*

**New Business**

**COC Elections - Candidates**

- The ballots will be mailed to eligible voters in November and will need to be returned by December 5, 2025.
- Rice County candidate(s): LAA 1- Daniel Pieper and James Duban

**CRP Participants**

- Management & establishment activities required to be completed in 2025 are due September 30, 2025. Paperwork is required to certify these practices.
- Emergency haying and/or grazing is NOT available during the 2025 fiscal year.

**Fall Seeded Acreage Certification**

- Producers must report fall-seeded crops by November 15, 2025.

**County Committee (COC) Meeting; Regular sessions are open to the public (0:15-0:30)**

- September 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM is the next Rice COC Meeting.

## **DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Have been spending a lot of time on the RCPP program. A lot of learning. Grateful for the cooperation from other agencies.

## **SUPERVISOR REPORTS:**

**Richard Peterson:** crops from Red Wing over to Mankato area are looking the best he's seen in a very long time!

**Al Malecha:** Attended the Lower Mn East WS meeting last week. Tour a couple stabilization projects.

**Roger Bongers:** recently had an opportunity to drive down to Winona. Crops between here and there are looking great!

## **Staff Reports:**

**Teresa DeMars:**

Past Month

- September newsletter
- CRWJPO Video Outreach Project
- CRWJPO Webinar Planning
- Website upgrades and compliance planning
- Haney Masterclass

Next Month

- CRWJPO Webinar Marketing
- CRWJPO Video Outreach Project
- BWSR Academy Presentation
- Website upgrades and compliance planning
- October newsletter

**Emmie Scheffler:**

This past month, I completed 5 CRP plans for NRCS and submitted one RIM application. I have been working on CRWJPO shifting down FY23 funds. I attended the MACDE quarterly board meeting. I am working now on engineering and CRWJPO tasks

**Al Henderson:** sent out another batch of Buffer letters a week ago. WCA delineations are picking up again.

**Commissioner Jim Purfeerst:** County approved the request for bids for structural repairs and roof of the Conservation building as well as new concrete. Treatment court costs about \$460,000 per year with the county picking up about 37% and state and federal funds cover the rest.

**Commissioner Charlie Peters:** Commissioners are sitting through Budget presentations. Attended the Lower MN East WS meeting and toured the stabilization projects. Very expensive projects. Could funding be used more upland instead?

## **OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE:**



**UPCOMING EVENTS:** keep checking our website for event information:

**September 5** Soil Health Field Day on Tom Cotter Farm by the Minnesota Soil Health Coalition, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.

**September 6** Food Health Field Day on Cotter Farms by Minnesota Soil Health Coalition 11:00 am- 3: 30 pm.

**September 6** Monarchs at the Mill by the Faribault Woolen Mill, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm in Faribault.

**September 9** Growing Resilience with local farmers by Clean River Partners, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm in Cannon Falls.

**September 13** All Things Oats & Oat Mill Tour by Practical Farmers of Iowa, 4:00 - 6:00 pm in Albert Lea

**September 13** Stewardship Saturday: Native Seed Collection at River Bend Nature Center in Faribault

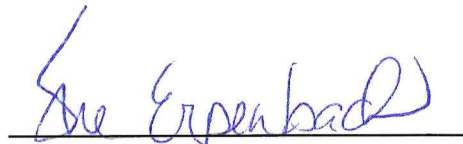
**September 27** National Public Lands Day at River Bend Nature Center, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in Faribault.

**October 2** Discover Silvopasture Workshop by University of Minnesota Extension, 1:00 - 4:00 pm, in St. James.

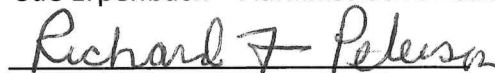
**ADJOURN:**

Motion to adjourn by Roger Bongers, seconded by Al Malecha. All aye, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 am.

Submitted by:



Sue Erpenbach – Administrative Assistant



Board Member –