



Rice Soil and Water Conservation District

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RICE SWCD – BOARD MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 19, 2009

Chairman Huston called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

PRESENT: Bob Borchert, Bob Duban, Wally Hildebrandt, Dick Huston, Gary Wagenbach, Steve Pahs, Tom Coffman, and Debbie Skarupa.

ABSENT: None

MINUTES: Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the July 15, 2009 board meeting minutes. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Motion was made by Bob Duban, seconded by Bob Borchert to approve the revised April and June Financial statements subject to audit. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. Motion was made by Bob Borchert, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the July Financial Statement and bills payable subject to audit. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach.

OLD BUSINESS:

NRCS WOMEN'S AG DAY: Donations can be dropped off at the Rice SWCD office for the NRCS Women's Ag Day being held on September 2, 2009 at Quarry Hill in Rochester from 8:30 to 1:00 PM for a cost of \$10.00.

2010 BUDGET MEETING: Steve Pahs met with the Rice County Commissioners on August 18 to present the 2010 budget request. He requested \$179,259.00, which is the same amount as 2009 with the 2.5% reduction. Steve Pahs mentioned the budget request sent to Rice County has a \$60,000 deficit. Discussion followed. None of the board members were able to attend, but Dick Huston will call and thank the commissioners.

JPB FORMATION: There has been no activity regarding the possible formation of a Joint Powers Board with all the SWCD's in the Cannon River Watershed. An advantage of a Joint Powers Board is that SWCDs in the watershed could search for funding as a group. Discussion followed. Board would like to see a proposal or more information.

NEW BUSINESS

AREA 7 MASWCD FALL MEETING: The Area 7 MASWCD fall meeting will be held at the Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch on September 16, 2009. Bob Borchert said Senators have been invited, but they will be in Washington DC on that date so he's hoping their representatives will attend. Motion was made by Bob Duban, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to cover the \$15.00 registration fee for all employees who want to attend. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach.

RESCHEDULE MEETING TIME: Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded Wally Hildebrandt to reschedule the September 16th SWCD Board Meeting to an evening meeting on the 16th starting at 7:00 P.M. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. County Commissioners may be able to attend an evening meeting.

NATIVE BUFFER C-S AMENDMENT: Motion was made by Bob Duban, seconded by Bob Borchert to approve Amendment #NB 2009-01 for a cost increase from \$288.00 to \$495.10 for Native Buffer cost-share contract# NB091226 – Joel Schema 2550 Cedar Lake Blvd - Faribault. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. Dave Rickert is the conservation district technical representative.

NATIVE BUFFER C-S VOUCHER: Motion was made by Bob Duban, seconded by Bob Borchert to approve the following cost-share voucher partial payment:

NB091226 – Joel Schema – 2550 Cedar Lake Blvd, Faribault – Wells Section #26-Native Grass Buffer – Critical Area Stabilization - \$ 337.60. Dave Rickert is the SWCD technical representative.

Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

MN WATERS RAIN GARDEN TRANSFER: Motion was made by Bob Borchert, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve a MN Water Rain Garden contract change as follows: Janet Lozen's contract was cancelled and a new contract for Rolf & Jill Tollefson for \$271.00 was added. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

MN WATERS RAIN GARDEN PAYMENTS: Motion was made by Bob Borchert, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the following rain garden payments:

Lucas Altwegg	565 Summit Ave	Dundas	\$456.01
Carmen Dorr	8601 173 rd Ct. W.	Faribault	\$162.64
Dennis Kjar	414 Manitou	Northfield	\$500.00
Candace Knudson	3821 220 th St.	Faribault	\$378.90
Karen Madera	2695 89 th Ct. W.	Northfield	\$196.48
Kathy Ness	2574 89 th Ct. W.	Northfield	\$277.84
Miki Thiewes	2570 89 th Ct. W.	Northfield	\$216.64
Marcia Walters	2650 89 th Ct. W.	Northfield	\$ 89.47
Joanna Rawson	119 Winona St.	Northfield	\$500.00
Eric Smisek	926 Western Ave NW	Faribault	\$500.00
Jill & Rolf Tollefson	2700 Canby Ct	Northfield	\$271.00
Mika Turner	307 Woodley St. W.	Northfield	\$490.55
Fred Wenthe	12890 Cyrus Trail	Faribault	\$500.00

Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Bob Duban suggested a tour in a year after the native prairie plants are well established.

DISTRICT CAPACITY AWARD: Steve and Board reviewed the District Capacity Application. Steve felt all categories should be pertinent to all the districts. Discussion followed. Gary Wagenbach asked to review, at a future meeting, the role of the SWCD Public Resource Information Officer position and legislative issues. Motion was made by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the District Capacity Award Application. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT GRANT SLIPPAGE: Motion was made by Bob Duban, seconded by Bob Borchert to approve \$2,755.65 Nutrient Management Grant slippage to be returned to the Joint Powers Board in Goodhue. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

STATE C-S VOUCHER PAYMENT: Motion was made by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following state cost-share voucher payment:

CS#080702 Richard Wille 11697 210th St. E Kenyon Grassed Waterway Richland Section 2 \$1409.20. The rock crossing portion of the contract was not done.

Tom Coffman was the district technical representative for this project. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

STATE C-S SLIPPAGE: Motion was made by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Borchert to approve 2008 state cost share grant slippage of \$1,388.25 to Mn Board of Water and Soil Resources and the 2008 close-out. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

BWSR 2010 GRANT AGREEMENT: Motion was made by Bob Duban, seconded by Bob Borchert to approve the 2010 MN BWSR Grant Agreement totaling \$45,446.00 and to approve the state cost-share funding level remain at 65%. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

TRI-COUNTY BUFFER CWL APPLICATION: Beth Kallestad from the Cannon River Watershed Partnership is targeting buffers on shoreland but CRWP can't apply for the funds. Steve felt Rice SWCD could be the fiscal agent and will get more details for the September board meeting. A buffer strip for the Steam & Gas Association along the Cannon River was discussed. Wally Hildebrandt will speak to Dwight Hildebrandt about considering a buffer strip along the road and the river instead of plowing right up to the river.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY: The Adopt-A-Highway signs are up along County Road 18 (9th Avenue South) in Faribault between County Road 39 and County Road 47, which is about a mile.

RICE SWCD SIGN INSTALLATION: Locations for "Entering and Leaving Rice SWCD" signs were discussed. Bob Borchert will look for options and Dick Huston will help install the sign.

HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN RENEWAL: Health insurance plan renews in September and various options were discussed. Motion was made by Bob Borchert, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the Preferred One 1500/100 plan with Deb at the same rate. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORTS: Gary Wagenbach passed out two draft business cards he'd made for the supervisors and asked the board for comments. State logo is not under copy write laws. Gary will revise cards for next meeting. Wally Hildebrandt attended the state RC&D meeting. Dry fire hydrants near lakes and rivers were discussed.

D.C. REPORT BY TOM COFFMAN:

1. 2009 Food, Conservation & Energy Act:
 - A. EQIP 09: One additional contract was funded since last month's meeting.
 - B. Three WHIP applications are approved and funded for a total of \$15,130. All are forestry practices.
 - C. Conservation Stewardship Program is a new program and we are currently involved with a signup through September 30. A local meeting was held last Thursday with three people attending. Federal Register Handout on program purpose and the Producer's Self Screening Checklist Handout were distributed. After the meeting a PowerPoint on CSP will be shown.
2. Office Space Update:

Building owner, Ron Carlson, was contacted recently about remodeling our space. He is waiting for RD's meeting here in Faribault on September 11 to see if RD State Director makes a decision on staying here.
3. Women's Day September 2. Please pass the word. If brochures are needed, let us know.
4. John Nicholson dropped off a plaque for me to present to Steve Pahs for his efforts in the Area 7 Health & Safety Award.

AREA 7 HEALTH & SAFETY AWARD: Tom Coffman gave Steve Pahs an Area 7 Health and Safety Award for his efforts in organizing First Aid and Defibrillator Training for the area employees. Thank you Steve.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT: C.S.P was discussed. Steve said Biofuel Working Lands Initiative has been narrowed to six sites. Dave Rickert has looked at one site, but it won't work. People are on a waiting list with more funds being applied for. Dave will be setting up a tour in the future.

Since the July board meeting, work has been focused on budgets, grant opportunities, drainage ditch projects, and the Elfering wetland restoration. The budget presentation to the Rice County Commissioners is set for August 18th. Reviewing the budget and preparing the presentation is a part of a timely process I've been working on. As mentioned, there has been some ditch work on CD 9. We removed some beaver dams and sediment buildup, and Adam and I have done some surveying of the channel to determine future needs and identify areas of trees that need removal. The Elfering wetland restoration is under way now. All of the structural work has been completed and the site is now waiting for the seeding and establishment of the native vegetation.

I attended a meeting with MPCA staff to discuss the future of JPA partnerships in the Stormwater Program. The general message was that it was a great success that the legislature did not fund and the MPCA will focus on other projects now as directed by the legislature.

Other activities this past month:

- Attended a Working Lands Initiative meeting in Jordan on August 11th.
- Attended the SE SWCD Tech. Support JPB annual meeting July 30th
- Preparing District Capacity Award application
- Preparing Outstanding Conservationist award application
- Exploring the possibility of another rain barrel workshop
- Updated district website

Upcoming activities include a loss control review with MCIT, Women's Ag Day in Rochester on September 2nd, and a MASWCD Education Committee meeting.

DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT:

- ✿ Four Observation Well Readings taken
- ✿ Continued CREP and RIM/WRP easement processing including state cost-share vouchers for seeding and wetland restorations.
- ✿ Completed RIM, CREP, and RIM/WRP easement annual status reviews.
- ✿ Spent part of a day manning the Rice County Fair booth
- ✿ Took some vacation time off
- ✿ Processed an Ag BMP loan program application
- ✿ Wetland Conservation Act Activities:
 - Checked a WCA violation site for compliance and issued a satisfactory restoration letter.
 - On site with landowner and BWSR staff on an older wetland banking application on what needs to be accomplished to get the wetland credits deposited.
 - On site reviews of two projects with the Walcott Township road maintenance contractor on a waterway cleanout and road ditch erosion along a drainage ditch.
 - Wrote up a WCA Replacement order on a housing development that never finished replacement requirements. Wetland Enforcement Officer will sign and deliver.
 - Several reviews on proposed wetland excavation requests.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST'S REPORT:

- Attended new employee's and supervisor's training in St Cloud.
- Staffed the fair booth one afternoon.
- Entering nutrient plans into e-Link for the grant reporting.
- Traveled to Waseca, met Todd Piepho, NRCS technician, along with a local dairy farmer. Helped Todd put together a CNMP plan.
- Brought no till drill back to highway dept. shop.
- Met with Jeff Johnson going over his nutrient plan.
- Cleaned out c:drive on my computer in order to run the encryption.
- Participated in the CTIC teleconference on making nutrient management a priority.
- Ran manure calculator for Keith Root in Waseca.
- Traveled to Minneapolis for LincPass credentials.
- Worked in Steele Co. 2 days surveying and preparing spraying equipment.
- Delivered O'Reilly and Lohman plans to Josh Finsgard in Goodhue.
- Ran MinnFarm for Steve Johnson.
- Met with Jeff Beckman to update plan.

Nutrient Plans Started, Revised, or Completed Last Month:

- Dallas Luhman (Wabasha)

- Doug Bosma (Freeborn)
- Bill McMillin (Wabasha)
- Jeff Johnson (Rice)
- Jim Balfe (Rice)
- Sanborn Bros (Rice)
- Steve Arndt (Steele)

July Ditch Services:

- Checked CD9 and 25 on tree issues and cleaning out possibilities.
- Surveyed CD 9 for clean out needs.
- Went to Fleet Farm to look at ATV sprayers. Researched sprayers on the computer.

STORMWATER/DISTRICT TECHNICIAN'S REPORT:

I have been working with raingarden applicants on completing their raingardens and completing site visits at completion. The raingardens that I have seen thus far have turned out as planned and are great examples on how raingardens can be a beautiful addition to a landscape. I have been working with open lot participants to find those interested in technical assistance to correct feedlot pollution problems and be compliant with Open Lot Agreement requirements. I have been completing weekly water testing for CRWP. Over the past month I have attended several trainings for CRP, CSP and MASWCD orientation. I have included some comments below on some of the take home messages from the MASWCD orientation.

MASWCD Orientation Lessons Learned:

- One if the themes of the event was looking to the future. Before SWCD's look for potential funding they need to have clear priorities. The board should be determining those priorities and determining how the SWCD's can meet those priorities. Staff should complete work and find funding for those priorities.
- One of the oppotunities for SWCD's is to develop more specialized staff that work on a regional scale.
- Funding is a concern; there is a flood of money available in a variety of sources. Funding is more likely to be awarded to those that are good at showing what they do.
- The objectives of SWCD's have changed over time; right now we are moving in the direction of addressing water quality.
- It is important to develop relationships with the public (i.e. wildlife groups, lake associations, etc) and with elected officials. These relationships are important and shouldn't only be used when we need something.

Accomplishments Include:

- Completed weekly water testing at four sites for the Cannon River Watershed Partnership
- Attended MASWCD Orientation in St. Cloud
- Listened to a CRP teleconference on updates to CRP
- Attended Rice Creek Protection Plan planning meeting
- Helped to set up fair booth
- Manned fair booth during Rice County Fair, answering questions about the booth and raingarden

- Attended Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) training in Owatonna in preparation for upcoming sign-up

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you notes from 4-H award winners, newspaper and NRCS newsletter articles.

ADJOURN: Motion was made by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Duban to adjourn. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, Huston and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Time: 2:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Debbie Skarupa – Secretary

Rice SWCD Boardmember