

RICE S.W.C.D.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 16, 2009

PRESENT: Bob Borchert, Bob Duban, Wally Hildebrandt, Gary Wagenbach, Steve Pahs, Tom Coffman, Adam Arndt, Danielle Waldschmidt, John Nicholson from NRCS, and Debbie Skarupa.

ABSENT: Richard Huston

Vice-Chairman Bob Borchert called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

MINUTES: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the November 18, 2009 board meeting minutes as circulated. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

FINANCIAL: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve the November Program Summary and Bills Payable subject to audit. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Wagenbach. All aye -None opposed - Motion carried. Budget deficits were discussed as some districts up north are combining due to finances.

OLD BUSINESS:

MASWCD ANNUAL CONVENTION: Bob Borchert, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Duban, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Huston, three members from the Tri-Lakes Sportsman's Club, and Adam Arndt attended the December 7-9 MASWCD convention in Duluth. Resolution vote tallies were passed out and discussed. Bob Borchert said the next two years will be the most challenging financially, that we have ever seen.

GREEN ACRES/RURAL PRESERVES: Land values, sales and green acres were discussed. SWCD personnel will be certified to write conservation plans, but it is the assessor's job to answer tax questions. Adam Arndt reviewed the training he received at the state convention on Rural Preserves. Tim Labs is at a training session today. We could have 1500 applicants over two years so it will be an extra workload, but we are allowed to charge landowners for the conservation plans. Steve will put together options for the next board meeting.

INVASIVE SPECIES WORKSHOP: Danielle spoke on the Invasive Species Workshop that was held November 21 at the River Bend Nature Center. They toured different buckthorn sites at the RBNC, saw a manual weed wrench demonstration and had herbicide application information. Danielle is trying to target farmers will Buckthorn on their line fences. She said 15-20 people attended the workshop.

NEW BUSINESS:

FORESTRY DAY: Rice, Goodhue and Dakota SWCD's are combining to hold a Forestry Day on February 19 in Northfield. Locations were discussed. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to support the cost of donuts for the Forestry Day to be held on February 19. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

STATE COST-SHARE CONTRACT SCOTT MARIK: Scott Marik has been paid 75% of the grant, but has not finished the project. A deadline extension of January 21, 2010 was granted because of the weather. Concerns were discussed. Steve Pahs will contact Scott Marik, and if the project is not completed we will need to take action. Item to be put on the January Agenda.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING EMPLOYEE REVIEWS: Wally Hildebrandt and Richard Huston of the Personnel Committee met with Steve Pahs on December 11 for personnel reviews and the committee recommended holding 2010 salaries at the 2009 rates. SEMASWCD will expand supervisor training at the spring meeting. Discussion followed on salaries and water conservation and usage.

2010 BUDGET: Steve Pahs passed out and reviewed the 2010 revised budget reflecting the Rice County allotment of \$179,259. The budget is bare bones without extras and no money for capitol outlay. Two of the district's vehicles are aging. Bob Duban recommended talking to Rice County Government Center about their trade-in/leased vehicles. Landfill has a heavy duty truck. Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to accept the revised 2010 budget as presented. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. The state nursery will remain open.

STATE COST-SHARE VOUCHERS: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve the following state cost-share voucher:

CS#090108 Tim Little 11811 Canby Ave Faribault Bridgewater Sec 8 –Sediment Basin - \$1966.25.

Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Wagenbach. This practice does meet the high priority definition, 65% is the approved c-s amount with approximately 10% T&A.

Motion by Bob Duban, second by Wally Hildebrandt to approve the following state cost-share voucher:

CS#090414-Tim Little (Sanford Site) 11811 Canby Ave Faribault Forest Sec 14 Sediment Basin \$1239.55.

This practice does meet the high priority definition, 65% is the approved c-s amount with approximately 10% T&A, and slippage will be returned to the 2009 cost-share funds.

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

PERSONNEL 2010 SALARIES STEP & COLA: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Duban to approve a 0% step increase and a 0% salary increase for 2010 based on the Personnel Committee's recommendation. Vice Chair Borchert asked the treasurer, Wally Hildebrandt, to assume the duties of the chairman. Bob Borchert felt cost of living increases are never a guarantee, but it was important to maintain step increases. Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to amend the motion to substitute 3% step increase where applicable instead of 0% increase. Step increases per the wage schedule are: 1 to 5 years – 5%; 6 to 10 years – 3%; and 11-15 years 2%. Bob Borchert withdrew his motion. Discussion followed. Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to amend the motion by substituting the step increase per the wage schedule in place of the 0% step increases. Vote on motion: Ayes: Bob Borchert: Opposed: Bob Duban and Gary Wagenbach. Motion died. Discussion followed. Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to accept the Personnel Committee recommendation of 0% step and 0% cost of living increase for 2010. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

FIVE-YEAR BUDGET PLAN: A five-year budget needs to be added when we adopt the Rice County Water Plan as the Rice SWCD Comprehensive Plan. Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Gary Wagenbach to approve the five-year budget. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN RESOLUTION 200902: Bob Borchert read the resolution to accept the Rice County Water Plan as the Rice SWCD Comprehensive Plan. Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Duban to accept the Rice County Water Plan as the Rice SWCD Comprehensive Plan from January 1, 2010 through 2014. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS 101: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Duban to approve expenses for supervisors and staff to attend the Legislative Process 101 held January 14 in Mankato and January 15 in St. Paul. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

WALLY HILDEBRANDT AWARD: Wally Hildebrandt was nominated to take over a term for George Fausch starting way back in January of 1960 and was presented a 50 year pin and a 50 year plaque from Acting Chairman Bob Borchert. Bob Borchert said Wally was the first MASWCD president to be elected as an independent. Wally was there when Area 7 Mn Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts first started and was Area 7 director for nine straight years. He was also state president at MASWCD for two years. Board, staff, and John Nicholson all voiced appreciation for Wally Hildebrandt's long-term service and dedication for conservation of natural resources on the local, state and national level. Thank you Wally! Wally Hildebrandt and Steve Pahs were on KDHL's AM Minnesota this morning talking about all the changes Wally has seen in his 50 years.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS: Gary Wagenbach said the budget passed by CRWP last Monday was \$419,000 with a \$10,000 surplus. They have hired Lisa Carey as an experienced fundraiser. Gary did an eight session course for seniors on Cannon River history. Rain gardens for urban areas are getting great responses. Bob Duban said the Tri-Lakes Sportsman's Club was impressed with the state convention and that shelter belts in the Thief River Falls area are less prevalent because of an increase in no-till usage. Bob Borchert will be meeting with the SEMASWCD executive board the end of January to put together an education session for the SEMASWCD spring meeting.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. CSP: Out of the ten applicants, six have been preapproved. At this point, we are doing field checks and hope to have contracts completed by the end of January.
2. Local Seed Source Legislation Update: This was discussed at our recent Plant Materials Committee meeting. U of M extension staff testified on the legislation on how there was not scientific basis to require local ecotype seed within 25 miles of the county. State law will stay the same, however, BWSR will change its interpretation of the law coming up with a sequencing of guidelines for use of native vegetation.
3. Fall construction went right up until the blizzard last Wednesday.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT: The office has been in the field quite a lot as fall projects get wrapped up. I have overseen the Petricka project and have done some drainage ditch surveying along with Danielle and Adam. I have also been looking into a new ATV for the ditch program because the old one is not starting well, needs tires and a CV boot. I will be asking the county board to replace it

soon with a new ATV, and I have checked with a few local dealers for pricing. Other activity has focused on end of year reports, employee reviews, office rearrangement, and planning for 2010.

In January, the board will need to address the Rural Preserves Program and determine procedures on conservation plan writing, approval, and charges. More will be discussed at the December meeting.

Donations for the newsletter are very short. Several contractors have told us that 2009 has been a very tough year and they don't have the funds to sponsor the newsletter. We will still send it out in early January, and it will contain our tree order form as well.

PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT:

- ✿ Observation Well Readings taken and reported.
- ✿ RIM, CREP and RIM/WRP easement processing.
- ✿ Attended pictometry computer training at the Government Service Center.
- ✿ Wetland Conservation Act:
 - Met with Wells Twp. officials on a wetland-culvert violation and wrote up a restoration order.
 - Attended a Technical Evaluation Panel meeting and viewed two wetland areas at the Big Woods State Park for bridge replacement projects.
 - Viewed a potential public waters/wetland complaint area on Roberds Lake with the DNR Conservation Officer.
 - Viewed some wetland issues and projects in the City of Lonsdale with a contractor and staff.
 - Viewed county C.U.P. applications for any wetland impacts.
 - Viewed a wetland replacement monitoring report on The Village housing development.
 - Lots of miscellaneous WCA questions and issues were addressed.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST'S REPORT:

Construction check on Werner sediment basins.

- Lay out, surveying, and construction check on Petricka sediment basins.
- Lay out and surveying sediment basins on Arneson's and Turek's with Kelly Oliver.
- Lay out and surveyed sediment basins and tile main on Flemming's with Tom.
- Lay out, survey, design, and check out sediment basin on Tim Little's.
- Lars Polson spreader calibration.
- Stake and survey tile main with Tom on Vesledahl's.
- Basin check-out survey on Turek basins.

Nutrient Plans Started, Revised, or Completed Last Month:

- Bruce Tatge- Rice
- Lars Polson- Wabasha
- Amanda Langeslag- Rice

November Ditch Services:

- Checking CD 9 for clean out and surveying needs.
- Surveyed CD 9 with Steve and winterized sprayer.

FARM BILL TECHNICIAN'S REPORT: I have been working on the Cooperative Weed Management Grant to complete buckthorn control, a workshop, volunteer day and a weed management plan. An invasive species workshop was held on November 21, 2009 at River Bend Nature Center. There were about 15 people at the event to learn about invasive species, treatment options, equipment information, herbicide information and landowner testimonials. Participants also toured River Bend

Nature Center to see control activities at River Bend. I completed a grant proposal to extend the CWMA. This proposal would partner with Scott County to control buckthorn. I have started work on the Farm Bill technician duties working in Steele and Waseca Counties. Right now I am learning the ropes of the practices and duties. I have identified locations for CRP and I am working on some proposals.

Accomplishments Include:

- Worked on Rice NRI
- Held Invasive Species Workshop
- Completed grant for Rice-Scott CWMA for buckthorn removal
- Completed MN Waters Grant for raingardens

JPB MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT: Not received.

HOLIDAY LEAVE: Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Duban to approve one-half day holiday pay on Christmas Eve day for SWCD employees. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE:

ADJOURN: Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Duban to adjourn. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Wagenbach. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.
Respectfully submitted by:

Debbie Skarupa – District Secretary

Rice SWCD Board Member