

RICE SWCD BOARD MEETING
February 20, 2008 – 7:00 PM
MINUTES

Chairman Duban called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

PRESENT: Robert Borchert, Robert Duban, Wally Hildebrandt, Richard Huston, Gary Wagenbach, Tom Coffman, Steven Pahs, and Nicole Lehman.

MINUTES: Motion by Bob Borchert, second by Gary Wagenbach to accept the January board minutes as printed. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

FINANCIAL: Motion by, Wally Hildebrandt, second by Bob Borchert to approve the December 2007 Program Summary and Bills Payable subject to audit. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

RIM Easement Violation Status: The Board of Water and Soil Resources sent a letter to the RIM owner stating the need to follow the restoration order. The owner contacted Dave Peterson, BWSR and stated that they intend to comply with the order. A meeting will be set with the owner, Dave Peterson, and Tim Labs to review the order.

Feedlot Ordinance Status: The County Commissioners approved the parcel size reduction from 15 acres down to 5 acres. No other news was known at this time.

Ditch Inspector Status: Steve Pahs informed the board that Rice County is seeking proposals to do the ditch inspection work. The board discussed the idea of developing a proposal for the SWCD to do the inspections. In addition, the board felt that a memorandum of understanding be written to explain the roles and responsibilities if we decide to enter into a contract with Rice County. Motion by Dick Huston, second by Gary Wagenbach to submit a proposal to Rice County for carrying out the duties of the ditch inspector. All aye- None opposed- motion carried.

Audit Report 12-31-2006: Tabled until next meeting

MASWCD Day at the Capitol: Duban, Huston, and possibly Wagenbach to attend. Staff attending is Pahs and Waldschmidt.

DNR Dock Advisory Committee: Board felt that this is not an issue for SWCD's to comment on. No action taken.

Cooperative Weed Management Area Grant: Nicole discussed the program with the board and discussion about where and how to set up a CWMA proposal took place. Discussion was held on defining a specific geographic area in the county versus defining the whole county. A specific area talked about was the Cannon River Wilderness Area owned by Rice County. The board felt the staff should make the decision on which way to apply. Motion by Dick Huston, second by Gary Wagenbach to submit a proposal for the development of a CWMA. All aye, none opposed. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Stewardship Materials Order: Board members requested materials for the upcoming soil stewardship week. Duban-500, Borchert-250, Hildebrandt-150, Wagenbach-150, Huston-100

Board Diversity NRCS handout: Tom Coffman passed out a handout on board diversity and gave a brief overview of the subject.

Registration Area 7 SEMACDE Mtg. March 11th: Motion by Dick Huston, second by Bob Borchert to pay registrations for all employees who would like to go. All aye, none opposed. Motion carried.

Area 7 MASWCD Mtg. April 1st: Bob Borchert asked all board members to try to attend this meeting.

2008 Dues Payable: SEMACDE \$10.00 per person, MACDE \$20.00 per person. Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Bob Borchert to pay dues for all employees. All aye, none opposed. Motion carried.

Supervisor address and email on website: The board discussed adding address and email information to the supervisor page on the Rice SWCD website. All agreed with having this information available to make them more accessible to the public. No official action taken.

2007 Annual Report: Motion by Bob Borchert, second by Wally Hildebrandt to approve the 2007 Annual Report. All aye, none opposed. Motion carried.

2008 Supervisor Election Process: the board discussed briefly the upcoming election. Steve Pahs mentioned that our website contains information on how to become a district supervisor. Wagenbach, Duban, and Huston all have terms that expire at the end of 2008.

4-H Awards Sponsorship for 2008: The board would like to continue support of projects related to conservation. Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Bob Borchert to fund the same awards as last year. All aye, none opposed. Motion carried.

NRCS Memorandum of Understanding: The board reviewed the 11 different working agreements between NRCS and Rice SWCD and had no comments. No action taken.

2008 Legislative Bus Tour: Discussion on when to have a tour, where to have it, and what to showcase took place. One idea is to highlight work of each staff person. Buffers, GIS demos., nitrogen reduction demo were all suggested. Board to discuss further in March.

CRWP contract for water sampling: Cannon River Watershed Partnership asked us to sample three streams near Faribault from April thru October. A maximum compensation of \$3000 is offered. Motion by Dick Huston, second by Gary Wagenbach to enter into a contract with CRWP for water sampling. All aye, none opposed. Motion carried.

CREP Easement Cancellation: Gary Schlossin has asked to cancel his easement due to personal reasons. Legal fees were paid for by the SWCD to process this contract. It is also noted that a great deal of staff time and district expenses were incurred to prepare the easement. Motion by Dick Huston, second by Bob Borchert to seek repayment from Gary Schlossin for legal fees incurred. All aye, none opposed. Motion carried.

CREP Easement Status-Schmidtke Group: The Schmidtke Group has been in the process of a wetland restoration. One key piece of land owned by Robert Pirkl has been unable to be included in the project. Without it, the quality of the restoration will be compromised. The board discussed ideas for making a final attempt to convince Mr. Pirkl to participate. Dick Huston will contact Kenard Schmidtke about visiting with the Pirkl's.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS: Gary gave handouts to the board on expansion of the dead zone. CRWP has the following list of current projects going on: Drinking Water Testing Lab, River Friendly Farmer Program, Low Impact Development Techniques in Local Ordinances Training, Citizen Stream Monitoring, Surface Water Assessment Project in the Upper Cannon and Spring Brook watersheds.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. **EQIP:** Presently we have 33 participants contracted for \$225,000.

11	Forestry Practices
11	Ephemeral gully erosion
4	No-till
2	Grazing/Pasture Management
2	Nutrient Management Initiatives
2	Feedlot Related
1	Organic Conversion

2. **Cover Crops:** NRCS employees in Area 7 recently met in Rochester. Guest speaker was Andy Hart from Olmsted County. He has been demonstrating aerial rye seeding on soybean/corn/sweet corn/silage ground, then fall and spring grazing. He's calculated a \$60.00 return/acre. Used Scott Churchill out of LeSueur. He has access to cost share dollars and is looking for more participants. Let me know if you can think of anyone interested in Rice.

3. **R.C.& D:** Jeff Koster has rescheduled his visit here to next board meeting date – March 19, 2008. Tentative schedule is:

9:00 AM	Visit with staff
9:30 AM	Tour County
11:00 AM	Meet with Local Council
1:00 PM	Meet with Board

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT by Steve Pahs:

BWSR Performance Review and Assistance Program: Last year the MN Legislature passed a measure to create more oversight of SWCD's by BWSR. The measure seeks to review the way SWCD's are implementing their programs and identify areas that need improvement. Then, BWSR will work with the SWCD's to make those improvements. We have not received any details yet on this program. I will let you know when something significant develops.

Eastview Addition Case: Danielle and I met with MPCA staff to discuss the case. Details of what will now happen can not be released publicly. Once the regulated party receives notice of any action it will become public and I will share it with the board.

The 2005 Chevy Truck has a payoff balance of \$8,457 as of December 31, 2007. We have been paying \$325/month to the State Bank of Faribault since we purchased it in May of 2005. After much discussion, we are going to try to pay off the balance and include it in 2007 activities.

Other activity this past month:

- Attended the annual SRF JPB meeting in Rochester. No new changes to report in the JPB.
- Organized and held a meeting to gain support for building a rain garden demonstration project at the Rice County Fairgrounds. Carmen Dorr, master gardener, will assist with the plan.
- Attended Upper Cannon Area Partnership meeting in LeCenter.
- Attended BWSR meeting in Rochester to get updated on the new items in the RIM program and the Cooperative Weed Management Area program.
- Meeting with Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust representative to review the services they provide.
- Working on many of the feedlot projects that Ron Maas started. I hope to line up several that want cost-share assistance for small fixes.

Coming up in the next month, we will meet with our legislators at the capitol, host a contractor's open house, and have an area 7 employees meeting. Also, CRWP will host a meeting on low impact development, and preparation for the tree sale will be done.

The 2008 Rice County Pheasants Forever banquet will be held March 8th at the Eagle's club in Faribault. The address for purchasing tickets is: <http://ricecounty.pheasantsforever.org/>

DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT by Tim Labs:

- ⊗ Completed state e-ink reporting of all State Cost-Share projects and Wetland Conservation Act activities
- ⊗ Completed the 2008 Ag BMP loan program application and 2007 Annual Report
- ⊗ Started to complete several RIM easement and ownership changes and provided files to new owners.
- ⊗ Assisted several landowners with Windbreak and Wildlife Tree Planting Plans.
- ⊗ Wetland Conservation Act:
 - Reviewed file on the Martin Ahlman wetland violation for a court appointment. Court case was postponed.
 - Held a Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) meeting to discuss the Granneman/Lechtenberg Replacement Plan application in Section 34 of Wells Twp. Application was approved to impact 7000 square feet of Type 2 wetland.
 - The Woodley Street application in the City of Northfield to impact 4,055 square feet of Type 2 wetland was also approved.
 - Reviewed the Spring Creek Park Wetland Replacement Application in Northfield and discussed concerns with vegetation in the wetland with neighboring landowners.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST'S REPORT:

- Attended FLEval Training and entered Rice county soils into the FLEval program.
- Reviewed CNMP plans with Al Meyer, Jon Huseth, and Paul Nibbe.
- Met with Kevin Krusie, Tom Coffman, and Al Meyer to review Meyer's plan and discuss high rates of P and K application.
- Attended Winter Crop Days at the Waseca Research Station.
- Attended National Pheasant Fest.
- Reported my completed plans into e-Link for the Clean Water Grant.
- EQUP status review.
- Spreader calibration for Dan LaCanne and completed a Manure Management Plan for him.
- Working on a map that contains all of the Nutrient Plans that I have completed and the acres they cover.

Nutrient Plans in Progress or completed:

- Dale Spindler (Steele)
- Jon Schmidt (Steele)
- Dan LaCanne (Rice)
- Jon Huseth (Goodhue)
- Jeff Beckman (Goodhue)
- Allan Deml (Steele)
- Dennis Samuelson (Goodhue)
- Reviewed Al Meyer plan (Rice)

CREP BUFFER TECHNICIAN'S REPORT:

- Continue to maintain regular contact with landowners enrolled in the CREP and assist them through the easement process. Rice SWCD had 13 CREP II applications submitted to BWSR; however Gary Schlossin (Wheeling Township, Section 32) recently decided to cancel his CREP II contract (4.0 acres). Currently, Rice County has a total of 239.4 acres enrolled in buffer strips, hardwood tree plantings and wetland restorations under the CREP. I am also in the final stages of processing the RIM Conservation Easements. Most of the CRP Contracts have been approved, now I am waiting for the final easement documents to arrive from the BWSR so they may be recorded.
- Attended the following elementary schools in Rice County to help children learn about soil and water conservation:
 - Lincoln → talked with three 5th Grade classes
 - Sibley → talked with two 2nd Grade classes
 - St. Dominick's → talked with the 4th and 5th Graders
 - (talked to ~ a little over 200 children)
- Attended the Roberd's Lake Party on January 17, 2008 to discuss the findings of the Assessment that was completed on the lake. Also received a copy of the Final Report for the SWCD office.
- Attended the National Pheasant Fest at the River Center in St. Paul on January 18, 2008.

- Assisted with updating the SWCD's master list of CRP Contracts, and the NRCS with filling folders for approved CRP Re-enrollment/extensions that were offered in 2007.
- Talked with organizations within the County who may be interested in forming a Cooperative Weed Management Area. So far, St. Olaf, Carleton, CRWP, the Rice County Weed Inspector, the University of Minnesota Extension, DNR Forestry, and River Bend Nature Center and the Big Woods State Park have expressed interest in forming a partnership of this nature, however their level of commitment is yet to be determined. The Board packet has more detailed information on the BWSR's request for a CWMA (Cooperative Weed Management Area).

MPCA STORMWATER TECHNICIAN'S REPORT:

I have been working on keeping case files up to date and organizing program data. I have been working with other staff on district activities.

Accomplishments Include:

- Updated and organizing case files for the stormwater program
- Conducted construction site inspections
- Attended Site Management Certification Training from the University of Minnesota
- Meet with Rice County Fair Officials about a plan for a rain garden at the County Fair Grounds
- Worked with NRCS staff to put together a newsletter and open house for contractors
- Put together a presentation on sediment and erosion control for permit holders
- Taught 2nd and 5th graders about water conservation

OTHER CORRESPONDENCE:

ADJOURN: Motion by Dick Huston, second by Bob Borchert to adjourn. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Time: 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Steven Pahs – Acting Secretary

Rice SWCD Board Secretary