

**RICE SWCD BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2008
MINUTES**

Chairman Duban called the meeting to order at 1:09 PM.

PRESENT: Robert Duban, Wally Hildebrandt, Dick Huston, Tom Coffman, Steven Pahs, Nicole Lehman and Danielle Waldschmidt. Jenny Mocol-Johnson arrived at 2:00 PM.

ABSENT: Robert Borchert and Gary Wagenbach.

MINUTES: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Dick Huston to accept the December 19, 2007 board minutes as printed. All aye – None opposed – Motion carried.

BILLS PAYABLE: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Dick Huston to approve the Bills Payable. All aye – None opposed – Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

RIM EASEMENT VIOLATION STATUS TO DAVE P. AT BWSR: No further updates at this time.

RICE CO. FEEDLOT ORDINANCE STATUS: County Board will discuss Feedlot Ordinance at next meeting on February 8, 2008.

WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT LUNCH: Wildlife Enhancement Award plaque was given to Mr. & Mrs. Ben Rezac from Lonsdale at a lunch at Cloud 9 today. Steve will follow up with an article for the newspaper.

RICE COUNTY WATER PLAN UPDATE: Jenny Mocol-Johnson discussed the process to update the County Water Plan. The Board would like to see new members to the advisory board and has agreed to help.

APPROVE ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Dick Huston to approve the Annual Plan of Work. All aye – None opposed – Motion carried.

DITCH INSPECTOR STATUS: Eric Schrader has quit his position as the county ditch inspector. The County Commissioners will be discussing the status of the position on January 22, 2008. Ron Maas has the backing of the Board for the position. Steve and Tom will discuss the position with the County Commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS:

ROTATE SUPERVISOR POSITIONS: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Dick Huston to approve the supervisor positions for 2008 as follows:

Chairman	-	Robert Duban
Vice-Chair	-	Richard Huston
Treasurer	-	Robert Borchert
Secretary	-	Wally Hildebrandt
Public Relations & Information Officer	-	Gary Wagenbach

All aye – None opposed – Motion carried.

DESIGNATE 1ST UNITED BANK AS OFFICIAL DEPOSITORY: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Dick Huston to designate 1st United Bank as the official depository. All aye – None opposed – Motion carried.

APPROVE IRS MILAGE RATE- \$.505: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Dick Huston to approve IRS mileage rate at \$.505. All aye – None opposed – Motion carried.

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION PREVIEW: Steve showed the Board a presentation on a summary of District activities. Suggestions were noted for improvements and additions.

NOMINATE EXTENSION FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Dick Huston to nominate the Chuck Shimota's as Extension Farm Family of the Year. All aye – None opposed – Motion carried.

MN FARMERS UNION-PLAT BOOK SALE AND ADVERTISEMENT: The Board discussed placing an advertisement in the Rice County Plat Book and selling them at the office. Dick Huston made a motion, Wally Hildebrandt second to sell Plat Books but not place an advertisement in the Book. All aye – None opposed – Motion carried.

MASWCD DAY AT THE CAPITOL: Bob Duban and Dick Huston would like to attend the MASWCD Day at the Capitol. Steve will contact the other Board members to see who is interested in attending.

DECEMBER 31, 2006 AUDIT REPORT: The audit report will be tabled until the next meeting.

DNR DOCKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC): The Board will review the materials given by Steve. Discussion will be tabled until the next meeting.

COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT AREA (CWMA): Nicole discussed a grant opportunity for a Cooperative Weed Management Area. Ideas for the grant were discussed. Dick Huston made a motion, Wally Hildebrandt second to pursue the CWMA grant. All aye – None opposed – Motion carried.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS:

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. EQIP: Continue working with 37 applicants. Fifteen have approved contracts.
2. WHIP: Announced last week that there will be funds for WHIP. There are 19 different practices eligible for cost share.
3. Payment request for contribution agreement between NRCS and SWCD was recently submitted, \$3261 will be paid by NRCS to Rice SWCD for EQIP field work that Ron Maas completed last fall. There is \$500 left on the agreement. Steve has agreed to perform ten EQIP status reviews to earn this remaining balance.

4. Plant Materials: As Chair of the Area 7 Plant Materials Committee, I attended a statewide meeting last month. I wanted to show you some of the publications Plants Materials gets published in Bismarck: Rain Gardens, Grasses for the Northern Great Plains, Fugle's Mill, etc. Also, discussion was held on the new state statute defining native prairie and using improved varieties.
5. MINN FARM: Kelly, Adam and myself recently attended a training session on MN FARM which is a new program developed at the U of MN to evaluate pollution potential of feedlots. This replaces the existing program called FLEVAL.
6. RC&D: New coordinator, Jeff Koster, will be in Rice County Wednesday, February 20, 2008 and would like to meet with the local council (Dick Langeslag, Jake Gillen and Wally Hildebrandt) and then you folks for the afternoon board meeting.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT by Steve Pahs:

In the past month I have been working on a case development form for the Eastview Addition development in Faribault. This document will be used by MPCA to determine if any fines or penalties will be issued for repeated non-compliance with erosion and sediment control. We meet with MPCA on January 17th to present the case. The last week of the year I was ill and not able to come to work. I have been working on the WRB Feedlot II grant and report, and have been finishing up year-end tasks. Nicole, Danielle, and I have been doing classroom presentations and will continue to do so this month. I attended a Erosion and Sediment Control Inspector course on January 9th.

In the next month I will be setting up a meeting to discuss the plans for the conservation building rain garden project, prepare the annual report, and work on the water plan. I will also be doing some feedlot work as time allows.

DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT by Tim Labs:

- ⊗ Five Observation Well Readings
- ⊗ Started to enter Wetland Conservation Act and state cost-share activities into the E-Link reporting system.
- ⊗ Working on updating RIM easement ownership changes.
- ⊗ Scott LaFavre RIM easement violation progress with Dave Peterson of BWSR.
- ⊗ Wetland Conservation Act:
 - ✓ Reviewed and approved a "No Loss" application for Barb Quinell on the Gene Kasa estate property in Section 20 of Northfield Twp.
 - ✓ Reviewed and approved a "No Loss" application for the City of Faribault on the new proposed soccer complex south of the Faribault Junior High School.
 - ✓ Reviewed a year three wetland monitoring report on the Sage Electrochromics wetland replacement site.
 - ✓ Review of the Martin Ahlman violation file from 2004 as I have received a subpoena to appear in court for a jury trial on this case.
 - ✓ On site reviews of several driveway/housing locations for wetland issues for Planning and Zoning.

BUFFER TECHNICIAN'S REPORT by Nicole Lehman:

- Continue to maintain regular contact with landowners enrolled in CREP and assist them through the easement process. Currently, Rice SWCD has 13 CREP II applications submitted to BWSR (282.7 acres) that are in various stages of paperwork. Thanks to all the hard work and some late evenings with FSA, it seems as though all of the CRP Contracts will be approved. I am also in the final stages of processing the RIM Conservation Easement. Once the CRP Contract is approved, and I have received the final easements document from BWSR the easements can be recorded.
- Organized CREP II file folders and completed the paperwork for the RIM Conservation Plans.
- Prepared a Hydrologic Cycle poster board for 5th grade students that describes the hydrologic cycle, and highlights the transport of water from your home to the river. Prepared a summary with the main ideas from the poster board to use for a classroom discussion.
- Helped with general office housekeeping, cleaning and filling.
- Met with PF and requested cost-share assistance for the purchase of native grass seed. The seed will be used on two wetland restorations (Sevcik and Wegner) that are enrolled in CREP under a perpetual easement. Assistance was requested specifically for areas where fields were not eligible for cost-share through CRP due to cropping history. The cost of native grass seed (a wet mixture that has more specialty grasses) has increased over the years and cost-share from RIM alone is not enough to purchase the desired mixture, so PF will determine if the landowners are eligible.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST'S REPORT by Adam Arndt:

- Onsite with Tom Coffman reviewing a tile layout.
- Met with Jeff King to review two completed plans.
- Attended December board meeting.
- Met with Scott Clementson in Goodhue to review his NM Plan and discuss up coming cropping year.
- Onsite with Jon Huseth in Goodhue to start NMP.
- Surveying sediment basins with Kelly Oliver.
- Working on self training of ArcMap computer program.
- Attended Pictometry training class.

Nutrient Plans in progress or completed last month:

1. Jon Huseth (Goodhue)
2. Pat Bauer (Rice)
3. Oran Clemmensen (Rice)
4. Dale Spindler (Steele)
5. Fred Grote (Rice)
6. Dennis Samuelson (Goodhue)

MPCA TECHNICIAN'S REPORT by Danielle Waldschmidt:

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

Accomplishments Include:

- Updated and organizing case files for the stormwater program
- Attended MPCA video conference on Storm Water Permit
- Attended Erosion/Sediment Control Certification Training from the University of Minnesota
- Developed a plan for the rain garden at the County Fair Grounds
- Developed an education plan for elementary schools
- Taught 2nd and 5th graders about water conservation

OTHER:

ADJOURN: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Dick Huston to adjourn. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

D. Waldschmidt-Acting Secretary

Acting Board Secretary