

RICE S.W.C.D.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2010

PRESENT: Bob Borchert, Bob Duban, Wally Hildebrandt, Steve Pahs, Tom Coffman, Adam Arndt, Tim Labs, Lisa Eadens and Debbie Skarupa.

ABSENT: Gary Wagenbach and Richard Huston

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

Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the agenda. Ayes: Borchert, Hildebrandt and Duban. All aye -None opposed - Motion carried.

The board welcomed Lisa Eadens, the Zumbro Watershed outreach coordinator. Lisa is working in the Olmsted SWCD office and spoke about her position and the Zumbro Watershed.

MINUTES: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve the December 16, 2009 board meeting minutes. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, and Hildebrandt. All aye -None opposed - Motion carried.

FINANCIAL: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the bills payable subject to audit. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, and Hildebrandt. All aye -None opposed - Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

FORESTRY DAY: The Rice, Goodhue, and Dakota Forestry Day will be held February 19 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Culver's in Northfield. Registration fee of \$5.00 covers lunch. Rice SWCD will pay for morning rolls. Lake City DNR is putting together the program.

GREEN ACRES/RURAL PRESERVES: Tim Labs spoke on the new property tax program, Rural Preserves, which is designed to provide tax relief for vacant 2B rural non-ag land such as woodland, wetland, pasture, etc. Non-ag land does not produce a commodity. Rice County assessor will determine what is eligible and give SWCD an aerial photo. We need to keep a list of approved plan writers. Rice SWCD must approve the conservation plan regardless of who does the plan and can set up a fee for writing the plan or to just approve the plan. BWSR has a conservation plan program, but staff will need to walk the land. Land must be enrolled for ten years with a five year notice to get out of the program and then must pay back three years of taxes. Sign-up deadline is May 1, 2011 for taxes payable in 2012.

BWSR criteria options are as follows:

Option 1 –

- Post secondary degree in natural resource field such as natural resource management, forestry, soils or other related field determined adequate by the SWCD.
- At least two years professional experience in natural resource field
- Completion of BWSR CMP training.
- Submission of brief resume outlining qualifications and payment of any associated fee.

Option 2 –

- Existing planner certification programs may fulfill the requirements and presentation of up-to-date credentials shall be considered adequate. Consideration should be given to assure the certification type matches the resource type the plan will cover. Certification programs include: Certified Stewardship Plan writer, as approved by the Forest Stewardship Committee, for the Forest Stewardship Program as required by Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA) and 2c Managed Forest Land programs. Mn Tree Farm Inspector certified by the MN Tree Farm Committee. Technical Service Providers are registered with the Natural Resource Conservation Service. A fee schedule was discussed and was tabled until the February meeting.

Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Duban to approve BWSR's Option 1 and Option 2 (as stated above) for certification plan writer criteria. Ayes: Borchert, Duban and Hildebrandt. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Plans will be approved at a board meeting. Green Acres land values are determined by four agricultural counties in SW Minnesota.

Bob Duban and Wally Hildebrandt would like to meet with the county assessor along with Steve Pahs and Tim Labs.

NEW BUSINESS:

RIM GRANT: Tim Labs said RIM T&A expenses are about \$11, 417 in the red as of December. The easements are time consuming and the \$4,020.00 we received was not nearly enough to cover the duties of the program. Dollars will never be recouped and will need to be taken out of District funds. Tim suggested the board write a letter to BWSR explaining the grant is not covering program expenses. Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Duban for Tim and Steve to collaborate on a letter to BWSR regarding RIM easement administration costs. Bob Borchert will sign it.

EQIP STAKEHOLDER AND LOCAL WORK GROUP MEETING: No-one attended the meeting except the five or six local work group members. Last year 15 of the 30 applicants were approved. High priority concerns were listed. Nine questions were written to get additional points. Rice County has the Cannon River Watershed (includes the Straight River), the Zumbro Watershed and the Minnesota River Watershed

2010 SUPERVISOR POSITIONS: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following rotation of supervisor positions:

Chairman`	Bob Borchert
Vice-Chair	Wally Hildebrandt
Treasurer	Gary Wagenbach
Secretary	Bob Duban
Public Information Officer	Dick Huston

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

IRS MILEAGE RATE: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve the IRS mileage rate of \$.50 per mile for 2010. Ayes: Borchert, Duban and Hildebrandt. All aye -None opposed - Motion carried.

OFFICIAL DEPOSITORY: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to designate 1st United Bank as the 2010 official depository. Ayes: Borchert, Duban and Hildebrandt. All aye -None opposed - Motion carried.

2010-ANNUAL DUES: Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve payment of the following 2010 dues:

MACDE	\$ 100.00	MASWCD	\$2750.00
NACD	\$ 775.00	Envirothon Donation	\$ 175.00
SE JPB Support	\$ 500.00	SEMASWCD (Area7)	\$ 500.00

Ayes: Borchert, Duban and Hildebrandt. All aye -None opposed - Motion carried. MASWCD dues formula is based on tax valuation within the county. Bob Borchert will check on and report back at the next board meeting. Three districts aren't paying dues due to financial hardships. Some are disbanding.

NEW FSA DIRECTOR: Cory Christenson stopped in at 1:50 PM to meet the board. Cory grew up on a farm in the Windom area and has worked in Benson, Mankato, Preston and Fillmore. Cory invited the board to stop in at FSA anytime they have questions.

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

CS#091202-Eugene Werner-3104 Millersburg Blvd E Dundas- 3 Sediments Basins- \$3,726.13

Steve Pahs was the designated conservation district technical representative. No other funds were applied to this 2009 FY practice which met the high priority definition.

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

STATE COST SHARE EXTENSION:

Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve the final extension for Scott Marik feedlot completion date as follows:

FCS080818-Scott Marik-17691 LeSueur Ave-Kilkenny-SHV 18 - ag waste management system completion date extended to June 30, 2010. Letter will state project MUST be completed or action will be taken. A partial payment has already been made. Michelle Schaefer approved this final extension already. Reminder to be sent to him around April 1st. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, and Hildebrandt. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

RICE COUNTY FARM FAMILY OF THE YEAR: In the past we have nominated our Outstanding Conservationist of the Year, however, this year it was the Tri-Lakes Sportsmen's Club and nomination needs to be for a farm family. Staff to put together a list of suggestions for the February board meeting.

SE MN WRB FEEDLOT IV GRANT: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the SE MN WRP IV grant agreement. Grant runs from January 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. Two-thirds of grant must be spent on feedlot fixes and one-third on T&A. Ayes: Borchert, Duban and Hildebrandt. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

SEMASWCD AREA DIRECTOR'S MEETING: Bob Borchert said dues were not increased and they expect to lose money this year.

AGRI-NEWS SUBSCRIPTION: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Duban to approve renewal of the Agri-News magazine the two-year price of \$59.95. Agri-News does a good job of covering our resource issues. Ayes: Borchert, Duban and Hildebrandt. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

NRCS FOIA 1619 COMPLIANCE: SWCD employees have signed an Attachment C stating they will not give out sensitive landowner information that they have access to. NRCS is now asking the supervisors to sign a Freedom of Information Act form before March 1. Item to be put on the February board agenda.

DECEMBER 31, 2008 AUDIT REPORT: Board was mailed copies of the December 31, 2008 financial audit report.

DAY AT THE CAPITOL: Day at the Capitol will be held on February 18. Bob Borchert will attend the briefing on February 17 so may be absent at the board meeting. Bob Duban, Wally and Steve will attend on the 18th. Steve will set up the schedule. Board will finalize plans at the next board meeting.

MASWCD MAILING: Resolution results were in mailing. Bob Borchert said at the MASWCD meeting in St. Cloud that the following are the priority topics for 2010:

1. Identification of proactive ideas to assist MASWCD in responding to anticipated State of MN budget challenges - immediate and long-term.
2. Clarifying priority agenda items/topics for upcoming stakeholder discussion with AMC,MAWD,BWSR.
3. Role Clarification: BWSR, Districts, MASWCD (area directors, staff) when facing district capacity crises/challenges.
4. Expanding Conservation Capacity programs and funding.
5. Emergency Resolution Commandment: Statewide Dialogue.

Bob Borchert would like a list of who is not being served as far as runoff for in-town landowners.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS: Bob Borchert handed out MASWCD 2010 legislative platform sheets. RIM/WRP, wild rice lakes, biomass equipment expense, ethanol, and environmental issue costs in the D.O.T. were discussed. R.C. &D. annual meeting will be January 25.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. EQIP facts 2009-2010: Handouts summarizing the EQIP program in Rice County and a summary of payments made by the program throughout Area 7 were passed out. New practices for EQIP 2010 are High Tunnels and Drainage Water Management.
2. CSP: Two more applications were preapproved since the last meeting. We've been busy field verifying CSP applications. One out of the eight left to field check, then contract writing will begin

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:

The end of December through mid-January has been busy with lots of year end reports and plans. Several grants we are involved in require reports and billings at the end of the year. It is also time to prepare the annual plan for 2010. Tree sales have begun to pick up recently, and with the newsletter

going out in mid-January, we expect many orders to follow soon. I have been doing some ditch work on CD 9. A section of trees were removed and I have been spraying the stumps to prevent re-growth. I am also working on preparations for the classroom visits this spring.

The Rural Preserves program is still being figured out and it sounds like not many districts have set policies on it yet. Key elements we need to refine are who writes the plans, who approves them, and how much, if any, do we charge for the service?

There has been a lot of activity with other partners lately. CRWP, Scott County, and Steele and Waseca SWCD's to name a few. It definitely appears we are headed in a new direction when it comes to planning and working together across county lines.

The office is now under construction and will likely interfere with our work for a while. We will be moving lots of furniture and equipment during the process.

Coming up are several meetings in the next two months, tree program activity, some ditch inspection work, and a few workshops.

DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT:

- ✿ Used some vacation time over the holidays.
- ✿ Attended Rural Preserves/Green Acres training in Rochester
- ✿ Attended monthly Plat Review meeting at Planning and Zoning
- ✿ Attended Upper Cannon River Watershed Project Informational Meeting in Waterville.
- ✿ Continued RIM, CREP, and RIM/WRP easement processing.
- ✿ State eLink reporting of all state cost share and Wetland Conservation Act activities for 2009.
- ✿ Started the 2010 Ag BMP Low Interest Loan Program application.
- ✿ Reviewed and commented on state D.O.T. WCA application for wetland impacts as part of the Highway 19 project.
- ✿ Continued working with DNR Enforcement to gain compliance with a WCA replacements plan on a housing development on Circle Lake.
- ✿ Final approval of a wetland delineation in the Big Woods State Park as part of a trail project.
- ✿ Various other WCA issues.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST REPORT

- Wrote article on nutrient management issues for district newsletter.
- Jon Grant feedlot evaluation.
- Richard Wille feedlot evaluation.
- Certification forms for Steve Matthee's CNMP.
- E-link reporting for a Nutrient Management Grant.
- Created and mailed letter to producers encouraging them to update their nutrient plan.
- Traveled to Freeborn County and went over Doug Bosma CNMP with Ed Moffett.

Nutrient Plans Started, Revised, or Completed Last Month:

- Lars Polson- Wabasha
- Richard Wille- Rice
- Jon Grant- Rice
- Steve Matthees- Goodhue
- Charles Bisek- Rice

- Doug Bosma- Freeborn

November Ditch Services:

- None

FARM BILL TECHNICIAN'S REPORT:

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 have sent out several proposals for CRP. I have been working with these landowners to answer any questions and have been contacting others for follow up.

I have also been working on identifying sites for the current RIM Reserve sign-up. The sign-up is for sites that are located adjacent to public waters that are enrolled in CRP. Letters were sent out to landowners who have potential RIM sites in Rice County. Landowners have been contacting the office about RIM and I have been following up with other landowners.

Accomplishments Include:

- Participated in WLI teleconference
- Completed proposals for CRP
- Worked with landowners that are interested in CRP
- Identified sites for the current RIM Reserve sign-up
- Worked with landowners who have an interest in the RIM Reserve sign-up

ADJOURN: Chairman Robert Borchert adjourned the meeting at 3:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by

Debbie Skarupa – Admin. Assistant

Robert Duban – Board Secretary