

RICE SWCD BOARD MEETING
July 17, 2008 – 3:30 PM at Dick Huston's Home
MINUTES

Chairman Robert Duban called the meeting to order at 3:40 PM.

PRESENT: Robert Duban, Wally Hildebrandt, Richard Huston, Tom Coffman, Steven Pahs, and Debbie Skarupa.

ABSENT: Robert Borchert and Gary Wagenbach

MINUTES: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Dick Huston to approve the June 17, 2008 board minutes as mailed. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

FINANCIAL/BILLS PAYABLE: Steve Pahs talked about the negative balances in WCA, RIM and the Farm Bill/Pheasants Forever grants. WCA and RIM have been running in the negative since the state budget deficit in 2003-2004 when we did not receive our entire allocation. Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Dick Huston to approve the transfer of funds from District dollars to the following fund balances: \$3,816.09 to RIM, \$15,051.38 to WCA and \$17,806.46 to the Farm Bill/Pheasants Forever grant. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Dick Huston to approve the June Program Summary and Bills Payable subject to audit. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

DITCH INSPECTION STATUS: Steve Pahs felt we received minimal complaints on spraying. Bob Duban felt they did an accurate job on the spraying with a good brush kill.

SUPERVISOR ELECTIONS: Robert Duban, Richard Huston and Gary Wagenbach were the only candidates who filed for the supervisor positions.

RAINGARDEN DEMONSTRATION PLOT: Danielle gave her first presentation today during the fair. Raingarden and pavers look nice. Willow Creek and Colbert Landscaping were great to work with and did it all on a volunteer basis. Rice SWCD will pay for the 1.5" of sub-base rock and PatioTown donated two tons of trap rock. Dick Huston said Ron Holmblad might volunteer some help in the future, if asked.

RAIN BARRELS FOR RESALE: Steve Pahs has made eight rain barrels and he proposed to sell them to the District. Steele SWCD purchased some from a vendor for \$40.00 and resold them for \$49.00. Material costs are around \$20 and Steve puts in around an hour of time. Motion by Dick Huston, second by Wally Hildebrandt to purchase five rain barrels from Steve Pahs for \$40.00 each and resell them for \$50.00. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

RICE COUNTY FAIR: Bob Duban felt displays were nice. The nutrient value poster for manure was interesting and educational.

HEALTH INSURANCE: Steve Pahs discussed current and 2009 health insurance rates. Health Savings Plan deductions are pretaxed and stay in individual accounts to be used for medical expenses. Steve recommended the 1100-100 plan. Once the \$1100 deductible is paid, the balance of yearly expenses are covered. Discussion followed. Motion by Dick Huston, second by Wally

Hildebrandt to go with the 1100/100 medical insurance plan as of September 1, 2008. SWCD will pay full deductible in September and half in January. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

APPROVE 2009 BUDGET: Steve went over the dollar amounts. He asked Rice County to transfer ownership of the two trucks to the SWCD. We will no longer be able to pay \$.25 per mile. Fran said we could lease trucks through the County based on the IRS mileage rate. Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Dick Huston to approve the 2009 proposed budget. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Budget will go before the Rice County Commissioners on August 26th at 9:00 AM.

REVISED COMMITTEE LISTING: Assigned Committee listing for 2008 was revised and mailed out.

REVISED AREA 7 RESOLUTIONS: Minor revisions were made to the resolutions from the Area 7 Resolutions Meeting and mailed to MASWCD.

NEW BUSINESS:

AG HALL OF FAME:

Bob D, Wally H and Dick H. attended the first Chamber AG Hall of Fame Breakfast posthumously honoring Lincoln Paulson, Warren Liebenstein, Darryl Haag, and Dean Curtis for their long-time conservation efforts. Twelve special awards were given to farms in the same family for 150 years or more. Chamber will have a formal nomination form in 2009.

STATE COST-SHARE VOUCHERS: Motion by Dick Huston, second by Wally Hildebrandt to approve the following cost-share payments subject to the completion of seeding of the projects:

CS#080502 William Heyer-7067 230th St-Morristown-Two sediment basins-Morristown Sec2 - \$1289.93

Steve Pahs was the designated Conservation District Technical Representative. No other funds are being applied to this 2008 FY practice, meeting the high priority definition does not apply to this practice, 65% is the approved cost-share amount and \$128.99 will be the approximate T & A amount. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

CS#080502 Keith Rossow-8145 220th St - Morristown-One Sed. Basin-Morristown-Sec2-\$1497.60

Steve Pahs was the designated Conservation District Technical Representative. No other funds are being applied to this 2008 FY practice, meeting the high priority definition does not apply to this practice, 65% is the approved cost-share amount and \$149.76 will be the approximate T & A amount. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

I.R.S. MILEAGE RATE INCREASE: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Dick Huston to approve the increased I.R.S. mileage rate of \$.585 effective July 1, 2008. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

POSTER CONTEST PARTICIPANTS: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Dick Huston to approve mailing the five fifth grade poster contest participants each a \$3.00 Dairy Queen gift certificate. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

EDWARD JONES CD: The Edward Jones CD matured July 11 for \$32,486.42 at 5.2%. CD was renewed at \$32,000.00 for 12 months at 3.9%. Edward Jones only takes flat thousand dollar amounts so \$486.42 will be mailed to district.

MASWCD MEDIA AWARD: Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Dick Huston to support the nomination of Janet Kubat from AgriNews for the MASWCD Media Award for 2008 from Area 7. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

MASWCD PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT NOMINATIONS: Wally Hildebrandt has been president in the past when he was nominated off the floor as an independent. Discussion followed. No nominations at this time.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS: Wally Hildebrandt mentioned the upcoming RC&D Waste to Energy incinerator tour and Assisi Heights organic gardens tour in Rochester.

D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:

1. **CRITICAL FEED USE:** USDA announced the cessation of taking signups for using CRP acres beginning August 1st for haying or grazing. A District Judge ruled they improperly went about conducting this signup.
2. **EQIP:** MN has just received 7 million in EQIP funds to use for writing new conservation contracts.
3. **WHIP:** We just received \$12,000 in cost share funds to use for Rice County's Cannon River Wilderness Park.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT by Steve Pahs:

We received a new copier on July 8th and have a week to decide whether or not to keep it. So far, it appears to be a good machine. I have been working on the budget for 2009-we have a significant budget deficit to overcome for next year. I also have been preparing our new stormwater conservation area at the fairgrounds. Willow Creek Concrete and Culbert Landscaping donated their materials and labor to install about 300 square feet of permeable pavers at the conservation building. I went to Patiotown in Burnsville to pick up some donated chip rock, and we have a \$200 expense for some crushed rock used as sub-base for the pavers. I rented a dump trailer for the project as well.

Other activity this past month:

- Cheryl Olson feedlot project completed
- Working with Pete Hope and Scott Marik feedlot projects
- Attended a BALMM meeting in Preston on nutrient management
- Onsite with Pete Fryer to Mark Trcka's to discuss feedlot plans

Upcoming activity includes working at the fair, finishing several grant reports, and final preparation of budget for 2009. I will also have a few days off near the end of the month.

Steve going to a Switchgrass Biomass meeting in Shakopee on the 29th. Methane gas digesters were discussed.

DISTRICT PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT BY TIM LABS:

- ⊗ Five Observation Well readings taken.
- ⊗ Attended the monthly Plat Review Meeting at Planning and Zoning office.
- ⊗ Completed state cost share contract status reviews on all completed in first year, fifth year and ninth year.
- ⊗ Started RIM Reserve yearly field reviews.
- ⊗ Listened to a teleconference on the new RIM/WRP easement sign-up taking place now.
- ⊗ Completed various CREP easement processing on several easements.
- ⊗ Wetland Conservation Act Activities:
 - In field viewing several potential wetland violations as a result of a DNR Enforcement airplane check in Rice County.
 - Had several discussions with BWSR staff on the J&J Power Sports WCA appeal of their replacement order. No decision by BWSR yet.
 - Reviewed a report to fix a wetland flooding problem on neighbor's property next to Sakatah Shores development in Morristown Township.
 - Viewed several driveway permits for wetland concerns.
 - Attended a retirement and get together for Dave Peterson from BWSR in Rochester.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST'S REPORT by Adam Arndt:

- Completed CWRP water sampling every Tuesday morning.
- Helped in the construction of a rain garden at the Rice County fairgrounds next to the conservation building.
- Traveled to Goodhue County on two occasions for farm visits.
- Traveled to Freeborn County to go over Bob Nelsons CNMP with Ed Moffet.
- Delivered and set up drill as needed.
- Attended the BALMM meeting in Preston.

Nutrient Plans in Progress or Completed last Month:

- Mark Trcka (Rice) CNMP, EQIP
- Scott Marik (Rice) CNMP, EQIP
- Francis Smisek (Rice)
- Brian Skluzacek (Rice)
- Ron Wegner (Rice)
- Randy Bauer (Rice) EQIP
- Keith Knutson (Goodhue)

- Lowell Tangen (Goodhue)
- Darryl Floam (Goodhue)
- Mike Fogla (Rice)

June Ditch Services:

1. Follow up on a phone call about trees blocking water flow on ditch 4. Inspected county ditch 4 for down trees, did not find any blockage.
2. Followed up on phone call about a beaver dam on ditch number 9, discovered 2 dams about 500 yards apart in the county ditch.
3. Met with Larry Jeunager to look at possible options for taking out beaver dams on ditch 9.
4. Went up in airplane with Allan Ross to look at possible blockage on ditch 32 that are affecting his land. Didn't see a whole lot, I will have to walk that stretch of the ditch.
5. Met with Joe Simon to get a bid on removing the two beaver dams. He faxed a quote of \$350.
6. On site with Joe Simon to remove the beaver dams.

MPCA STORMWATER TECHNICIAN'S REPORT by Danielle Waldschmidt:

I have been completing inspections and meeting with permit contacts to address issues on inspection reports. I have been working with the MPCA on several construction sites that have severe violations from the NPDES requirements on enforcement actions. I have also been working on the raingarden at the Rice County Fair Grounds. The raingarden installation is complete but I am working on the finishing touches. I am putting together a workshop on alternative stormwater management systems, mainly raingardens for the fair. I have been working with the Planning and Zoning Staff to put together a workshop on NPDES requirements.

Accomplishments Include:

- Updated and organized case files for the stormwater program
- Conducted construction site inspections
- Worked with Contractors/Owners/Site Contacts to get their construction site activities in compliance with the NPDES/SDS
- Reviewed SWPPP's for compliance with the NPDES/SDS
- Worked on enforcement cases with the MPCA
- Attended MPCA enforcement forum in St. Paul
- Attended meeting with City of Lonsdale to discuss working together to improve compliance with NPDES/SDS requirements

OTHER CORRESPONDENCE: J.P.B. Reports

ADJOURN: Motion by Dick Huston, second by Wally Hildebrandt to adjourn. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Time: 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Debbie Skarupa – Secretary

Wally Hildebrandt - Board Secretary