

**RICE S.W.C.D.**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**OCTOBER 21, 2009**

**PRESENT:** Bob Borchert, Bob Duban, Wally Hildebrandt, Richard Huston, Steve Pahs, Tom Coffman, Adam Arndt, Danielle Waldschmidt and Debbie Skarupa.

**ABSENT:** Gary Wagenbach

Chairman Dick Huston called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

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

**FINANCIAL:** Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the September Program Summary and Bills Payable subject to audit. Steve Pahs said auditor suggested zeroing out RIM negative amounts if they will be not reimbursable. Interest rates were discussed. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All aye -None opposed - Motion carried.

**TRI-COUNTY BUFFER CWL APPLICATION:** Beth Kallestad from Cannon River Watershed Partnership is preparing the tri-county Clean Water Legacy application.

**UPPER CANNON IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT:** LeSueur County was denied funding because they currently have a grant for assessment so they must wait one year for an implementation project.

**URBAN STORMWATER BMP'S:** Steve Pahs said the Urban Stormwater BMP's on the Cannon River were denied because we don't have an assessment.

**MOU WITH SCOTT COUNTY:** Danielle Waldschmidt is working on a Clean Water Legacy project doing assessment needs for Wheatland and part of Webster Township.

**ADOPT-A-HWY:** Ditches were cleaned on September 30 by Bob Borchert, Gary Wagenbach, Dick Huston, Danielle Waldschmidt, Adam Arndt and Debbie Skarupa. Ditches run on either side of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 17<sup>th</sup> Street SW to County Rd #39.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**NEW FSA DIRECTOR:** Cory Christenson was at training today, but will be introduced at another board meeting.

**BWSR FARBILL ASSISTANCE GRANT:** Discussion followed BWSR will be paying for 75% of a Farm Bill Assistance Grant for Danielle Waldschmidt to work a third of the time in Rice, Waseca, and Steele SWCD's. Rice, Steele, and Waseca will pay \$3,000 to \$5,000 each as their portion of the position. Main workload will be on grass-based conservation programs like Working Lands Initiative and Native Buffer Program with some restrictions. Motion by Bob

Duban, seconded by Bob Borchert to approve the BWSR Farm Bill Assistance Grant. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All aye -None opposed - Motion carried.

**HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN REQUESTS:** Current Personnel Policy does not address this issue. Steve Pahs believes employees should be in or out. Discussion followed. Currently, the district pays for single coverage and one-half of the family coverage. Two people prefer to pay for their own policy. Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the recommendation for discussion. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Discussion followed.

Motion by Wally Hildebrandt seconded by Bob Borchert to state that people who choose not to participate in the district health insurance policy can't be reimbursed for more than what the district would pay for their current premiums and no more than the cost of the other policy. They are allowed to purchase their own insurance. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All aye -None opposed - Motion carried.

**OFFICE RENTAL LEASE:** Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Duban to sign a new rental lease agreement with Ronald F. Carlsen Enterprises for 869 square feet of space at \$16.25 per square feet equaling \$14121.00 per year effective October 1<sup>st</sup>. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All aye -None opposed - Motion carried. NRCS will be paid for March through September.

**BUDGET 2009 AND 2010:** Steve Pahs handed out excel sheets and discussed the current 2009 budget status and possible scenarios for 2010.

**MN WATERS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP:** MN Waters Association sponsored \$5000 towards the rain garden projects that Danielle Waldschmidt facilitated this year. Bob Borchert would like to enter Danielle's rain garden work for a Minnesota Horticulture award. Danielle said Mn Waters said the grant was award worthy because of the many volunteers used. Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Borchert to approve payment of the \$50.00 annual membership dues to Mn Waters. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All aye -None opposed - Motion carried.

**COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT GRANT EXTENSION:** Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Bob Borchert to approve the Cooperative Weed Management Grant extension from January 15, 2010 to June 30, 2010 giving contractors additional time to finish some work in the spring. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt, and Huston. All aye -None opposed - Motion carried. Buckthorn removal was discussed.

**STATE C-S CLOSEOUT CWL FUNDS 2008:** Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to sign the final state cost-share closeout figures for the 2008 Clean Water Legacy funds. Close out was approved on the September agenda and just needs a signature. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt and Huston. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

**STEWARDSHIP MATERIALS:** Bob Borchert is trying to get clarification on whether it is legal for government entities to purchase stewardship materials. Question was raised in the metro area. Bob Borchert will put \$100 of his own money towards the purchase if need be. Discussion followed. Item to be reviewed again in February or March before inserts are purchased.

**SE MN WRB FEEDLOT C-S CONTRACT:** Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the SE MN Water Resources Board Feedlot III cost share application for:

WRB2009001 James Dietz 3303 197 St. E. Faribault Cannon City Sec 28 Filter Strip - \$2513.00

Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt and Huston. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Steven Pahs will be the conservation district technical representative. State cost-share funds are also being applied to this 2009 FY practice. This practice does meet the high priority definition and 65% is the approved c-s amount with approximately 10% T&A.

**STATE COST-SHARE APPLICATIONS:** Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following state cost-share contract:

CS090220 – James Dietz 3303 197 St. E Faribault Cannon City Sec 28 Sediment Control Basin - \$5580.00

Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt and Huston. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Steven Pahs will be the conservation district technical representative. This practice does meet the high priority definition and 65% is the approved c-s amount with approximately 10% T&A.

Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following state cost-share contract:

CS090414 - Tim Little (Sanford Site) –11811 Canby Ave-Faribault Forest Sec 14 Sediment Control Basin-\$ 3266.90.

Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt and Huston. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Steven Pahs will be the conservation district technical representative. This practice does meet the high priority definition and 65% is the approved c-s amount with approximately 10% T&A.

Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following state cost-share contract:

CS090108 – Tim Little – 11811 Canby Ave – Faribault – Bridgewater-Sec 8 – Sediment Control Basin - \$1966.25.

Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt and Huston. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Steven Pahs will be the conservation district technical representative. This practice does meet the high priority definition and 65% is the approved c-s amount with approximately 10% T&A.

Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Bob Duban to approve the following cost-share contract:

CS090708 – Harvey Edel – 11797 Kasota Trail – Kilkenny – Shv 08 – Terrace - \$3207.00

Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt and Huston. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Steven Pahs will be the conservation district technical representative. This practice does meet the high priority definition and 65% is the approved c-s amount with approximately 10% T&A.

**MASWCD ANNUAL CONVENTION:** The annual MASWCD convention will be held in Duluth on December 6<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup>. Bob Duban will get addresses of the two couples who may be attending from the Tri-Lakes Sportsman’s Club. Bob Borchert will be staying Tuesday

night and the MASWCD will be covering his expenses as area director. Bob Borchert is working on chartering a bus for area supervisors and staff. Cost would be approximately \$100 per person if 25 people sign-up. Bob Borchert said area needs to provide a basket for the auction. Auction item to be discussed at the November board meeting. Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve costs of supervisors and employees to attend the state convention in Duluth. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt and Huston. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

**WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT AWARD LUNCHEON:** Discussion followed. Bernie and Sally Rosckes are the 2009 Wildlife Award recipients. Luncheon to be arranged for 11:30 at Joe's Sports Café on November 18. A plaque has been made.

**NRCS "AND JUSTICE FOR ALL" POSTER:** Tom Coffman reviewed the NRCS poster "And Justice For All" with the board.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING:** Steve Pahs will contact Personnel Committee members Wally Hildebrandt and Dick Huston to schedule a date.

**MASWCD RESOLUTION DISCUSSION:** Board members individual ballots were received and will be added to the original ballot vote sent to MASWCD before October 31. Original ballot will be mailed to Gary Wagenbach for his signature.

**DNR CONSERVATION PARTNERS LEGACY GRANT:** Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Duban to approve Jim Jirek's DNR Conservation Partner's Legacy Grant application. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt and Huston. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

**SUPERVISOR REPORTS:** Biomass mowing demonstration on state land was discussed. Equipment is expensive and uses steel belted forestry tires. Willow trees as recyclable biomass, ditch cleaning, CREP payments, and increased wildlife were discussed. Wally Hildebrandt asked for project ideas for RC&D before November 30. RC&D will coordinate and write grants for local sponsorship.

**NRCS CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT – NRI:** NRCS may have a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) Contribution Agreement option available to SWCDs that want to collect inventory data on NRI sample points. SWCD would need to contribute 50% of the time which would take approximately three to five days.

**DC REPORT by Tom Coffman:**

1. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) informational meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup> was poorly attended. No landowners, but Jerry Groskreutz, Brad Carlson, Steve Pahs, Tom Coffman and Jim Wilson were in attendance. In Rice County we had ten applications before the September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. Four are for private forestland and remainder are for crop or pastureland. At this point, we are completing the conservation measurement tool questionnaire with the applicants prior to the end of the month deadline.
2. Fall construction is off to a slow start. Soybean harvest is approximately 10% completed and corn 1%. Just yesterday, we were able to begin design surveys for scheduled conservation practices.
3. RC&D Projects were requested by Chairman Wally. I want to encourage board members and staff to be cognizant of potential RC&D projects in Rice County.

## **DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Fall work is now slowly starting as the crops are harvested. We have several conservation projects that we are hoping to get done this fall, but it looks more like many will be delayed due to the late harvest and early winter conditions. I have been meeting with the SWCD managers of Steele and Waseca to work out the details of a shared technician. It appears that this will become a reality very soon.

Other activity this month:

- BWSR grant update meeting in Rochester Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>
- Feedlot visit to Glen Spitzack
- Feedlot visit to Milo Krenik
- Feedlot visit to Al Friedges
- Farm visit to Jerry Olson for cons plan review
- Feedlot visit to Pete Hope for needs
- Survey and design Gene Werner basins
- Assist Adam with Petricka basin designs

The next month will be a combination of field work and looking at the available grant opportunities. With the likely change in Danielle's position, we also need to reevaluate the programs she has been doing and decide if additional temporary or part-time staff would be advantageous.

Adam and I have been doing some ditch inspection work this past month on CD 32A and CD 25. We removed a ¼ mile of trees on CD 25 and sprayed the stumps. Also sprayed new growth on CD 32A where trees were removed in March. I toured the Koda Energy facility in Shakopee to learn how the use of grasses will work in their facility. The two older trucks have needed some maintenance this month, but we are still at or below projected vehicle expenses for the year. There have been more talks with surrounding districts about the best way to leverage funds on a watershed basis. Instead of creating a new JPB, we are going to see if we can expand the SE MN Water Resources Board to include all the counties in the Cannon and use that entity to apply for grants.

I attended the annual MASWCD Education Committee meeting on September 2<sup>nd</sup> in St. Paul. The group reviewed current education plans for staff and supervisors. Also looked at training and education needs for the future. I will be reporting on this at the Area meeting.

Last, I continue to work on the current and future budget. At present, it looks like we will be about 30K in the red by year's end. There are some possible projects that will offset that number some, but the reality is we are still going to lose money this year.

## **PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- Observation Well Readings Taken
- Continued CREP and RIM easement processing. Cost share vouchers were also completed.
- Closed out FY2008 cost share program with Michelle Schaefer from BWSR
- Attended monthly plat review meeting at Planning and Zoning
- Wetland Conservation Act:

- Held a Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) meeting on the Aldi Warehouse wetland replacement site.
- Held a Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) meeting on the Circle Lake Development replacement plan and proposed banking application.
- Completed a survey on a wetland that is used for fish rearing and then lowered to flush fish into Cody Lake. Survey was needed to determine compliance with WCA and to settle a neighbor complaint.
- Completed a site visit in Walcott Township to view a wetland violation. A cease and desist order was issued and a restoration order was completed.
- Various other wetland issues were completed.

**NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST’S REPORT:**

- Traveled to Goodhue and Wabasha, Lars Polson, Dennis Samuelson, and picked up soil samples for Gary Lehnertz in Plainview for nutrient planning.
- Attended Area 7 meeting in Stewartville.
- Spreader calibration for Dale Spindler.
- On site with Wade Schulz at Milo Krenik feedlot, going over possible fixes with Milo and his son.
- On site with Steve Pahs to set up sediment basins on Gene Werner’s.
- Picked up no till drill from Goodhue farmer and brought back to co. shop.
- Designing Petricka basins.
- Presented plan to Jeff Beckman.
- On site with Steve Pahs at Glen Spitzak’s, surveying feedlot fix. Also surveyed Krenik feedlot.
- Designed Krenik feedlot fix.
- Worked with Purfeerst on watershed map for a private ditch.

**Nutrient Plans Started, Revised, or Completed Last Month:**

- Lars Polson (Wabasha)
- Dennis Samuelson (Goodhue)
- Gary Lehnertz (Wabasha)
- Jeff Beckman (Goodhue)
- Dale Spindler (Steele)

**September Ditch Services:**

- CD 30 determining clean out needs and tree removal.
- Viewed JD 6 ditch crossing that is being disputed.

**DISTRICT STORMWATER TECH REPORT:**

I have been working on the Cooperative Weed Management Grant to complete Buckthorn control, a workshop, volunteer day and a weed management plan. I am also working on compiling information for the Sand Creek Watershed CWP on the technical feasibility and social acceptability of sediment and erosion control practices in the Sand Creek Watershed. I have been working with open lot participants to find those interested in technical assistance to correct feedlot pollution problems and be compliant with Open Lot Agreement requirements. I have been completing weekly water testing for CRWP through September. Water sampling has completed for the season.

**Accomplishments Include:**

- Completed weekly water testing at four sites for the Cannon River Watershed Partnership

- Completed shoreland restoration plan
- Attended Area VII meeting in Stewartville
- Completed Clean Water Partnership grant application
- Attended meeting with local stormwater officials to determine stormwater needs for Cannon River Watershed
- Met with Jim Wilson, Angela Yuska and Emily Hutchins from the DNR, Joe McGough, Wade Schulz, Trent McCorkell at Rice County and Barbara Hurley at River Bend Nature Center regarding completing buckthorn removal and completing a workshop
- Attended BWSR grant information session in Rochester
- Met with Marla Watje, Dan Arndt and Steve Pahs regarding Farm Bill Technician position
- Met with feedlot operators with Pete Fryer on feedlot improvement projects

**JPB MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT:** Not received.

**OTHER/CORRESPONDENCE:** Bob Borchert will look into a location for the SWCD sign. Invasive Species Workshop will be on November 21 at the River Bend Nature Center. Adam's radio interview went very well. Staff will attend BWSR Academy November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Bob Duban, seconded by Bob Borchert to adjourn. Time: 2:55 PM. Ayes: Borchert, Duban, Hildebrandt and Huston. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Debbie Skarupa – District Secretary

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Rice SWCD Board Member