

**RICE SWCD BOARD MEETING**  
**1810 30<sup>th</sup> Street NW - Faribault**  
**September 17, 2008**  
**MINUTES**

Chairman Robert Duban called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM and thanked Richard Huston for presiding over the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting in his absence.

**PRESENT:** Wally Hildebrandt, Robert Borchert, Gary Wagenbach, Robert Duban, Steve Pahs, and Debbie Skarupa

**ABSENT:** Richard Huston and Tom Coffman.

**MINUTES:** Motion by Wally Hildebrandt second by Bob Borchert to accept the August 20, 2008 board minutes as printed. All aye – None opposed – Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT:** Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Bob Borchert to approve the revised June, the July and the August Program Summaries subject to audit. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

**BILLS PAYABLE:** Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Robert Borchert to approve Bills Payable subject to audit. All aye – None opposed – Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**RICE DITCH INSPECTION SERVICES STATUS:** Steve Pahs said work has picked up and SWCD is getting bids and surveying county ditches. Seeing a lot of dead trees falling into the ditches and some culvert replacement. Discussion followed. Gary Wagenbach asked if records are available to the public when spraying is done or the recent history of ditch areas. Helicopter pilot has marked map, otherwise, few recent records are available at this time. A landowner does not need permission to spray their own ditch if they use approved chemicals, unless they want reimbursement. What information is available to the board and landowners about spraying? Put on October agenda.

**BUDGET PRESENTATION:** Steve Pahs presented the 2009 budget request to the Rice County Commissioners on August 26. None of the supervisors were able to attend. Pick-up ownership and expenses were discussed. Add as an agenda topic next month

**AREA 7 MASWCD FALL MEETING:** Bob Borchert, Bob Duban, Wally Hildebrandt and Dick Huston attended the fall meeting at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch in Stewartville. Nice to support the ranch, its programs for disadvantaged, and the victor instead of victim spirit. New positions as of January 2009 will be: Director – Robert Borchert, Co-Director – Jim Gebhardt and John Jaeger as Secretary/Treasurer. Board will be Ralph Breuer, Mark Ihlenfeld, Doug Meyer and Vic Ormsby. One from each district was discussed as a change to the by-laws. A new program being developed in MN on SWCD provided goods and services is available on-line. Getting meeting registration dollars early may help with registration cost shortfalls. Attendance was good with 62 supervisors and staff and 3 guests for a total of 65.

**ETS FIELD DAY AT MIKE PETERSON'S:** Steve Pahs, Adam Arndt, Tom Coffman and Kelly Oliver attended the strip till demonstration by Mark Bauer in Northfield. Equipment is being produced in Faribault for mass production at the north side of the old Nutting Truck Company.

**STRIP TILLAGE DEMONSTRATION:** Adam Arndt attended the Morgan Ad strip till demonstration this month in Medford.

**ADOPT-A-HWY:** Rice SWCD has completed the three-year contract to clean two miles along County Rd #11 so need to decide who wants to continue cleaning the road ditches. Rice County has installed signs for others along different roads, but Rice SWCD signs were never installed. Bob Borchert will check into possible suggestions such as County Rd #18, County Rd# 45, or County Road #86. Table until the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**ENTERING RICE SWCD SIGNS:** Dick Huston received a cost estimate of \$465 for a green and white plastic sign or \$310.00 each if two are purchased. These are 4' x 4', printed on both sides and are made of recycled milk jugs, so will not rust. LeSueur and Goodhue County area somewhat interested in sharing the signs. Priorities are Hwy 60 west, 246 east of Nerstrand and Hwy 99 west. Will need landowner permission. Olmsted County Hwy. Dept. put up Olmsted SWCD sign at no cost. Table until October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**PRETAXED H.S.A. AUTHORITY:** Item was tabled at the August 20 board meeting. Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Bob Borchert to allow the Rice SWCD to offer their eligible employees a Healthcare Saving Account Plan as of September 1, 2008. This will be a high deductible plan and employees are allowed to pay a portion of their deductible pretaxed, meaning that portion is not subject to federal, state, social security or Medicare tax deductions. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**CARLTON SWCD RESOLUTIONS FYI:** Carlton SWCD added two resolutions which are also included in the MASWCD Resolution Packet. Resolutions were discussed. The state education committee is primarily concentrating on the Envirothon. Wally felt there should be eight people on that committee. Gary suggested forming an allegiance with the State Environmental Education Agency. Reasons for nonparticipation in the Poster, Mural, and Video Contest were mainly no interest from the teachers and no interest from school administration. MASWCD Convention auction profits and getting conservation education into school districts were discussed.

**MASWCD RESOLUTION PACKET:** Board members received their packets and will bring in their voting ballot to the October 20<sup>th</sup> board meeting for discussion. The original ballot is due at the MASWCD by October 31<sup>st</sup>. Some resolutions were discussed. Put Resolution Pkt. on agenda next month.

**STATE COST-SHARE CONTRACTS:** Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Bob Borchert to approve the Anthony Gillen/Leonard Prescott state cost-share contract. Discussion followed. Circle Lake Association is paying for part along with EQIP and the Tri-Lakes Sportsman's Club. Tony Gillen is the renter. Steve said Leonard Prescott knows this is the maximum amount the SWCD will pay. Bob Duban said Tom Coffman told the Circle Lake Association that it won't stop all the water. Fred Wenthe knows we cannot pay for anything beyond where the basin is.

Motion made again by Wally Hildebrandt, seconded by Bob Borchert to approve the following state cost-share contract:

CS#080421 Anthony Gillen – 13687 Culver Trail – Faribault Forest Sec21 – 5 Sed. Basin/Outlet \$3598.00. Steve Pabs is the designated Conservation District Technical Representative. EQIP 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 \$359.80 will be the approximate T & A amount.

All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

**STATE COST-SHARE VOUCHER:** Motion by Robert Borchert, second by Gary Wagenbach to approve the following State C-S voucher:

CS#080328 -Robert Gnerer – 10820 130<sup>th</sup> St. W. Montgomery– Erin 28 –Sediment Basin - \$806.63.

Steve Pabs was the designated Conservation District Technical Representative. Clean Water Legacy funds of \$2688.75 with zero T&A was also applied to this 2008 FY practice (See below). Meeting the high priority definition does not apply to this practice, 15% is the approved cost-share amount, and \$80.66 will be the approximate T&A amount. All aye – None opposed – Motion carried.

**CLEAN WATER LEGACY STATE COST-SHARE VOUCHER:** Motion by Robert Borchert, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve the following Clean Water Legacy State Cost-Share Contract:

Robert Gnerer- CWL#2007-10280 130<sup>th</sup> St. W. Montgomery – Erin Section - Sediment Basin Partial - \$2688.75

Steve Pabs was the designated Conservation District Technical Representative. State cost-share funds of \$806.63 with \$80.66 in T & A was applied to this 2008 FY practice. Meeting the high priority definition does not apply to this practice, 50% is the approved cost-share amount, and there is no T&A amount with the Clean Water Legacy contract.

All aye – None opposed – Motion carried

**MPCA AUTHORITY:** Motion by Wally Hildebrandt, second by Gary Wagenbach to authorize Steve Pabs to approve the next MPCA grant extension. MPCA agreement ends November 1, 2008, but all current contracts will be extended until March 2009. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

**FIRST AID TRAINING:** Steve Pabs set up first aid training with Gold Cross in Rochester for October 21 and 30. Red Cross rates were higher. Defibrillator training will also be included for a cost of \$28.00 per person. Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Borchert to approve staff attending the first aid training on Oct 21 or 30. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

**NRCS COMPUTER/IT PAYMENT:** Motion by Gary Wagenbach, seconded by Bob Borchert to authorized the payment for computer and IT services to USDA NRCS, not to exceed \$9000.00.

Payment covers October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried.

**KIDS HEALTH DAY:** Rice SWCD will be participating in Kid's Health Day at Washington Rec. Center on September 27 from 11:00 to 2:00 PM. Wally suggested bringing rain barrel and interesting rain facts. Steve suggested a float for parades on urban conservation. Gary, Bob D. and Bob B. offered tractors. Parades were discussed.

**NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT GRANT TRANSFERRED:** Motion by Bob Borchert, seconded by Wally Hildebrandt to approve the transfer of \$2,000.00 from the JPB Nutrient Management Specialist grant to the JPB - Fillmore SWCD Nutrient Management Specialist. All aye - None opposed - Motion carried. Adam Arndt is working less than full-time on this grant.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:** Wally Hildebrandt will try to set up a tour at the Faribault Energy Park (power plant) at 1:00 PM on October 15 right before the next board meeting. Gary Wagenbach passed around a US Forest Service Invasive Species booklet and will contact the DNR about getting a similar one for Rice County. Winona County will be having a 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour on September 19 (Four districts combined to make one SWCD.) Valley Grove Historic Site Social is this Sunday afternoon.

**D.C. REPORT by Tom Coffman:** Tom is at NRCS Area Meeting today.

**DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT by Steve Pahs:** Clean Water Legacy grant dollars available for restoration projects tied to TMDL's. All but the NW corner of Rice County is in TMDL in the lower Mississippi. Adam Arndt's position is good through June 2010 and we will apply for one more year through June 2011. LCMR proposal is offering buffer initiative in Sand Creek and Porter Creek for \$200 per acre and hay can be taken off it. NRCS minimum is 33' buffer.

The past month has been very active with field work. I have been involved in numerous feedlot control projects and some erosion control practices. Adam and I have been doing much more drainage ditch work lately, with several cleanout projects coming up. We are now on a new health insurance plan with a Health Savings Account. It will take a few months to decide if we like it or not.

Other activity this past month:

- Stipulation Agreement meeting in St. Paul for the Eastview Addition. I met with PCA staff and the regulated parties to discuss the penalty and what is still needed for compliance. One other case involving JJ Powersports has also resulted in a fine for non-compliance. A wetland violation is also ongoing with this site.
- Presented the 2009 budget request to Rice County Commissioners and included a request to transfer ownership of the two trucks to the district.
- City of Northfield Land Development Code meeting on August 28.
- Tillage field day attended on September 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Surveyed CD 32 and 23 for cleanout needs.
- Area 7 meeting
- Updated website

- Purchased 3 season jackets for staff to help promote the district and provide a professional image.
- Coordinated a First Aid/CPR training session for Area 7 employees.

Upcoming activity includes a TMDL conference in Mankato, attending the Circle Lake Association meeting to discuss TMDL's, and attending the Kid's Health Day event in Faribault. Fall projects are starting soon, and many general management tasks are in need of attention. If the board approves the sign purchase, I will organize the effort to install them.

**PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT by Tim Labs:**

- Observation well readings completed
- Completed RIM easement status reviews
- Continued processing the new CREP easements
- Completed State Cost Share vouchers
- Attended monthly Plat Review meeting at Planning & Zoning
- Onsite meeting on the Scott LaFavre RIM easement in Webster Township with Tim Fredbo from BWSR and landowner discussing the corrective actions plan that has been complied with the deadline. BWSR will send out a letter discussing again what needs to take place.
- Wetland Conservation Act:
- Attended two days of wetland training in Mankato
  - Onsite meeting on the Martin Ahlman wetland violation site looking at and discussing various replacement options.
  - Onsite at the Circle Lake Estates development with Jerry Anderson looking at a wet swale that he wanted to fill
  - Looked at a couple of driveway sites for Planning & Zoning for possible wetland impacts

**NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST'S REPORT by Adam Arndt**

- Completed water sampling each Tuesday morning.
- Moved and set up no till drill as requested by landowners.
- Made site visits in Wabasha to: Jim Ditterich, Jary Holst, and Steve Luhmann to start nutrient plans.
- Worked with Mark Bauer on his Nutrient Plan also helped out with his field day. Gave a short talk on Nutrient Management at the field day.
- Completed a spreader calibration for Ron Keller.
- Updated Steve Johnson's NM plan.
- Met with Steve Pahs and Tom Wenzel from BWSR at Allan Ross' to discuss some options to correct his standing water problems and also keep Elfering's property eligible for wetland restoration.

**Nutrient Plans In progress or Completed Last Month:**

- Jary Holst (Wabasha)
- Jim Ditterich (Wabasha)
- Steve Luhman (Wabasha)
- Steve Johnson (Rice)
- Terry Schwichtenberg (Rice)

- Jon Hill (Rice)
- Mark Bauer (Rice)
- Ron Keller (Rice)

**August Ditch Services:**

- Onsite with John Skluzacek looking at need repairs to ditch 25.
- Met with contractors to get quotes for opening CD 32 on Elfering’s property up to Roger Ross’ property.
- Surveyed CD 32 from Allan Ross’ property line down stream 3,400 feet to determine if a clean out is needed. We determined it is needed and will be looking for bids in the following weeks.
- Met with contractors to repair culvert on John Skluzacek’s driveway crossing.

**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 Fairgrounds. With the raingarden installation completed, I have been working on maintaining the raingarden. I am working with the DNR to gain more information on completing a shoreline improvement demonstration project and the DNR shoreline grant program. I have also been working on a grant application with Minnesota Waters for raingardens education and implementation.

**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

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Gary Wagenbach, second by Bob Borchert to adjourn. All aye – None opposed – Motion carried. Time: 3:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

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Debbie Skarupa  
Administrative Assistant

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Wallace Hildebrandt  
Board Secretary