

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 20, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 in the Conference Room of the Ag Center Building, 809 8th St. S.E., Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Those present were supervisors Duane Grossman, Tony Beck, Don Lefebvre, Kathy Stenger, Jerome Flottesch, County Commissioner Barry Nelson, Dist. Administrative Asst. Ginger Flynn and Jen Wentz, Dist. Technician Dean Hendrickson, Ag Inspector/Shoreland Specialist Marsha Watland, and guest Dave Sobieski.

The meeting was called to order at 8:07 a.m. by Chairman Beck

Minutes—February 20 regular meeting minutes and March 7 special meeting minutes were presented for approval. Supervisor Flottesch noted a correction to the February 20 minutes. The back page should read “that interviews will be held on March 18” and not the week of March 18.

Motion (Lefebvre, Flottesch) to approve the February 20 minutes as corrected. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Motion (Flottesch, Stenger) to approve the March 7 special meeting minutes as sent out and received by the Supervisors. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Financial reports—the financial reports and bills payable were presented.

Motion (Flottesch, Stenger) to approve the financial statements and payment of bills. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Vouchers—the 1st quarter Supervisor’s vouchers and extra meetings were presented.

Extra meetings were:

Jan. 31—Handbook development and review—All

March 7—Special meeting and Committee meeting of the Whole—All

March 13—Red River Valley Conservation Service Area JPB Mtg—Jerome

Upcoming meetings in March to add for those attending:

March 25—Interviews for Administrator position

March 28—Annual Weed Meeting in Callaway

Motion (Lefebvre, Grossman) to approve and authorize payment of 1st quarter Supervisor’s vouchers once all meetings are completed for the quarter. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Ginger and Brad visited the safety deposit box at Bremer Bank and feel it is no longer needed. We have a fire proof safe in the office and no longer need storage for computer disc back-up. The Supervisors felt the safety deposit box could be discontinued and instructed staff to follow up with bank to cancel the box.

With staff receiving the health benefit in different ways the supervisors clarified that eligible reimbursements to employees can be paid when presented if the employee has a balance in their benefit package at the time the payment is requested.

The District will pay Ginger's medical insurance reimbursements incurred through March. This will include bills for services in March that may arrive in April, assuming a balance is left in her medical benefit account.

Bank Signature Cards—new bank signature cards were signed by Duane Grossman, Brad Grant, and Jen Wentz.

Reports—

District Technician—Dean Hendrickson reported on the following:

- Discussed his recent attendance at the Pipeline Safety meeting re: diesel fuel hazards and emergency response tactics when lines are hit and erupt
- Tree orders completed and still working on designs
- Sediment Basins for the future have some complicated designs but working them out
- Ag in the Classroom—Frazee was canceled due to weather this week
- Attended an Irrigation meeting in Osage sponsored by East Ottertail. Talked about better water management.

District Conservationist—Ed M. was not in attendance but a report was given by Brad Grant and Dean Hendrickson regarding the following:

- Recent buzz over Soil Health—organic matter and microbes that have been depleted drastically. Cover crops can help and has been practiced near Bismarck, ND with great results.
- 12 EQIP and AWEP contracts of \$90,000 total with \$6,000 encumbered for 2013. Sequestration efforts haven't affected anything yet. Furlough talks have ceased for now. Rice Lake project. Anchor Road project, working on wetland replacement plan.
- Jeff Norby is completing designs for Jeff Haverland re: sediment basins in Stinking Lake. Haverland will not complete two jobs that have grant money and AWEP funding attached to them. We will probably request help from Bemidji. Wetland Restoration projects will need assistance.

Co Ag Inspector / Shoreland Specialist—Marsha Watland reported on the following:

- Annual Becker Co Township Weed Inspector training next week March 28 in Callaway. Becker County Highway Dept. and U.S. Fish and Wildlife are among those on the agenda.
- Attended the County Ag Inspector meeting last week in St. Cloud. Pesticides and pesticide applications were discussed. MDA changes have been good and trainings are moving forward smoothly.
- NAWA – National Ag Weed Association will be hosted in Fargo, ND in 2014.
- Will be meeting with DNR officials tomorrow on weed issues
- Cooperative Weed Management meeting—discussed tansy management and handouts to be used. Available funding regarding recreation trails. Hounds tongue area to be controlled and will need assistance with collection. DNR has three grants available. Minimum of \$5,000 and max of \$50,000. She would like to request the maximum and have the funds in hand by 2014. In-kind funds will be used by townships and other sources. Native plantings and buffer zones, replanting and reforestation into the woods. CWMA expertise will be used. Northeastern Becker County is the area in question. Brad's opinion was given to Supervisor's.

Motion (Flottesch, Stenger) to authorize administration to write and submit the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program grant. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

- Nature Meets Design seminar will be held in Ottertail at Thumper Pond on April 27.

- Meadowlark Institute grant (authorized in February) will be finished by tomorrow. Art of Hosting in Community in Practice meetings to be held for lakeshore owners during separate sessions. Maximum grant available is \$3,000. We will be asking for around \$2,600.
- A Shoreland workshop was attended by Marsha and Ed Clem at the DNR in St. Cloud regarding stream and river habitat. They received great information to bring back for our shoreland program.
- Meeting next Wednesday, March 27 regarding Buffer and Rain Gardens. Becker is hosting with three other counties involved.
- Landscape design program work has begun.
- Landscape and Shoreland flyer was discussed for distribution with property tax statements.

Red River Valley Conservation Service Area (RRVCSA) JPB Meeting—Jerome Flottesmesch reported on the following:

- RRVCSA meeting held last week on March 13. Discussed charging a flat rate for services the Becker SWCD provides as host District. Becker County will remain host district. Engineering and technicians were discussed. Beltrami has been moved into the County offices which left TSA 8 staff contracting on their own. A fee schedule was presented and led to an extensive discussion.
- A meeting of the Executive Committee will be held April 10 in Mahanomen. Agenda items will include staff review, host district flat rate, and the FY 2014 budget.

CWL Grants Amended for Floyd Lake—Brad Grant reported that Board Conservationist Chad Severts has approved the plan amendment request to use left-over CWL funds from the Campbell Creek Project for restoration projects in the Big and Little Floyd Lake areas as requested. We will have until the end of the year to expend the funds on the following:

- Amended to be used with the lakeshore program
- Budget set of \$500 for administration; \$2,000 for technical assistance; and \$8,000 for cost-sharing with landowners
- Strictly for Big and Little Floyd landowners; offering a 50% cost-share
- Approved through BWSR Board Conservationist

Plat Book Inquiry—Rockford Map Publishers called to discuss arrangements for a new plat book order and a proposal to buy our remaining books. Brad informed them that we have a supply of books that should take us into the fall of 2013. They will contact us later this summer.

Marty Wiley, Becker County Natural Resources Dept. and Patty Swenson, Planning and Zoning Administrator arrived at 9:56 a.m.

Minnesota Geological Survey Presentation—Dale Setterholm, Geologist and Associate Director of the Minnesota Geological Survey of the University of Minnesota gave a presentation on performing a County Geologic Atlas for Becker County. Dale explained how the program works and how the county could meet its financial obligation by completing in-kind well location inventory. Clay County is close to being completed. Dale explained how the information is used in environmentally sensitive areas. Water resource planners use the atlases to support decisions about their water supply, to manage contamination, and to identify and protect critical recharge zones.

Dale is looking for a decision by July 1, 2013. He will be meeting with Hubbard County this week also. He would like a cluster of counties in an area to facilitate workload, etc.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Stenger) to recommend to the Becker County Board of Commissioners that Becker County consider completing a geological survey of Becker County in cooperation with the Minnesota Geological Survey and Geologic Atlas program and the University of Minnesota.

Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Guest—David Sobieski introduced himself to the board. Mr. Sobieski and his family own and operate a tarp business in New York Mills. Dave noted he is considering running for the Minnesota House seat 2B as a DFL in 2014 and was attending the meeting today to learn more about environmental and conservation issues.

Cost-Share Contracts—

Motion (Grossman, Stenger) to cancel contract #12-22 with Eric Hegna for an abandoned well sealing. Affirmative: Unanimous: Carried.

The following cost share contracts were presented:

Contract #13-3 with Eric Hegna, abandoned well sealing was presented for consideration.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Grossman) to approve contract #13-3 for abandoned well sealing for 50% of the cost not to exceed \$240.00. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Contract #12-29 with Shane Kjellberg, windbreak, was presented for consideration. Estimated cost \$2,902.00. Eligible cost share \$2,111.00.

Motion (Stenger, Grossman) to approve contract #12-29 for cost-share not to exceed \$2,111.00, with \$1,673.66 from FY 2012 funds and \$437.34 from FY 2013 funds. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Contract #13-4 with Vance Jirava, windbreak. Estimated cost \$1,123.50. Eligible cost-share \$727.00.

Contract #13-5 with Scott Hoban, windbreak. Estimated cost \$2,050.25. Eligible cost-share \$1,537.00.

Motion (Lefebvre, Flottesmesch) to approve contracts #13-4 and #13-5 as presented and the amounts listed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Grant's Resignation—Brad noted that the Supervisors had not officially accepted his resignation which will be effective May 31 with his last day of work being May 30.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Lefebvre) to accept the resignation of Dist. Administrator Brad Grant, effective May 31 with extreme regrets and many thanks for his years of service. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

MASWCD Area I Meeting—to be held in Crookston on Wednesday, April 3, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. All Supervisors indicated they would be attending. Jen and Brad will also attend. We will leave the office at 7:00 a.m.

Other Areas of Business—

Letter of Engagement with Michael Peterson, CPA, of Peterson Company Ltd. for the audit of the 2012 financial records of the District was presented. Audit cost will be \$2,050. An audit of the RRVCSA should not be needed at this time because the revenue threshold has not been met.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Grossman) to authorize the signing of the Letter of Engagement with Michael Peterson. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Media Relations Training through the county will be offered soon. Handbooks for the training have been received. Marsha, Jen, and Ed Clem will attend.

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)—Brad reported on the MASWCD/NRCS contribution agreement opportunity to conduct status reviews of WRP easements. There are 35 to review in Becker County. Eight would require field visits and 28 would be summary reviews. Each review would have a reimbursement rate. Training will be scheduled.

Motion (Grossman, Flottemesch) to pursue the contribution agreement with MASWCD for reviewing the WRP easements. Affirmative: Unanimous: Carried.

Interviews for the Administrator position were to be held Monday, March 18 but were canceled due to inclement weather. They are now rescheduled for Monday, March 25 at 8:00 a.m.

Chairman Beck recessed the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Meeting called back to order at 12:15 p.m. at the Holiday Inn.

2012 Annual Report—Brad presented the 2012 Annual Report that was recently completed. It will be placed on our website along with the Annual Plan of Operations.

Motion (Stenger, Grossman) to accept the Becker SWCD 2012 Annual Report. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2013 Annual Plan of Operations—Brad presented the 2013 Plan of Operations. The Supervisors and staff reviewed the plan and added and deleted items where appropriate.

Motion (Flottemesch, Grossman) to approve the 2013 Plan of Operations as amended. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Being no further business, motion (Lefebvre, Grossman) to adjourn at 12:38 p.m. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Approved: Don Lefebvre, Becker SWCD Secretary

Date: April 17, 2013