

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 18, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, June 18, 2014 in the Conference Room of the Ag Center Building located at 809 8th Street SE, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Those present were Supervisors Tony Beck, Duane Grossman, Kathy Stenger, Jerome Flottesmesch and Eugene Pavelko. Others present include County Commissioner Barry Nelson, District Administrator Peter Mead, District Admin Assistant Jen Wentz, District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, District Technician Ed Clem and Marsha Watland.

Call to Order – Chairman Stenger called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

May Meeting minutes – minutes were reviewed prior to the meeting. There was one small change noted in the ZOAC Provisions section.

Motion (Grossman, Pavelko) to approve the May meeting minutes with corrections noted.
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Financial Reports & Bills – Peter reviewed the financials for the month of May.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Beck) to approve the payment of bills for June and the financial statements for the previous month. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Reports –

Peter Mead introduced our new Conservation Corp intern, Stephanie Keranan. She spoke briefly about her background and enjoys working with our District.

District Conservationist, Ed Musielewicz reported on the following:

- EQIP applications have been mailed. 20 applications were funded for a total of \$150,000. There were a few that didn't make approval. Scoring periods will take place in June, July, and August. There will be no deadline to obligate the next round of funding.
- CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program) initial allocation was the beginning of June. Four applications were funded for a total of approximately \$12,000. There will be a few more rounds where acres will be reallocated to the state. Moving forward, this program will be a large portion of the Farm Bill.
- All EQIP application plans that our District submitted were approved mainly because we had the staff capabilities to do the technical work, review, and approval.
- CRP is up and running. There will be no general sign-up this year. Renewal letters have been sent to eligible landowners. He anticipates 30-35 contracts for this year.

- Another CRP sign-up will begin in July or August for expiring contracts.

Peter presented photos from a recent tile installation success story in the Buffalo-Red watershed showing a freshly installed embankment the day after a 3" rain that held back sediment from the river.

District Engineering Technician, Ed Clem reported on the following:

- Ed made additional comments regarding construction inspections for Chris Erickson on the north side of Stinking Lake. He presented photos of tiles that were installed last fall. Fourteen embankments were installed on the site presented.
- The Todd Andresen site has been tiled. There were initial problems near a spring with extremely wet conditions; however, the project has now been completed. He reviewed the technical aspects of the project with the Board.
- Gary Villiard site photos were presented with five basins and embankments completed. After Gopher State One was called to mark the area, they discovered a gas line that runs right under the project staking site.
- Joel Crabtree project is currently underway with sediment basins and embankments to be constructed.
- Walk-In Access program was reviewed with the Board. This program allows for public hunting on landowner property. WRP, CRP, and RIM program land has been the target.
- WCA violations were discussed.
 - We continue to work with the Beaton property off of West Long Lake Rd and Hwy 10. The landowner would like to drain another wetland on the property.
 - Silver Leaf Township landowner is having water backup into her basement. After his visit, Ed concluded that the landowner doesn't have a problem with the wetland but needs a new septic system.

He and Peter attended the committee meeting held last night for the Planning & Zoning ordinance review. The committee recommended doing away with the 20 foot setback provision. Peter presented on behalf of our Board with a neutral position. Ed spoke at the meeting as well and was surprised by mitigation being the overall solution. Substandard lots (too close to the lake or not enough surface area) must be mitigated for the first 15% of runoff. Mitigation rules are very complex and the committee felt that mitigation was the answer to the problem. Peter noted that there needs to be a better understanding of how mitigation works and where it is appropriate. Discussion.

Barry requested that either Ed or Peter develop a summary of the areas of concern from the meeting and decision of the committee in order for him to present those issues to the County Commissioners. Barry gave the Board his position on the decision and what he plans to deliver to the Commissioners.

Advisory Committee members for the Planning & Zoning Ordinance are chosen by County Commissioners.

Shoreland Technician/County Ag Inspector, Marsha Watland reported on the following:
County Ag Inspector

- Gravel pit inspections have been completed.
- Leafy spurge flea beetles haven't emerged yet, but she will be checking those areas soon.
- County Ag Inspector meeting was held last week. No new information was given. They were missing mosquito applicators in their presentation and may pursue this subject in the future.
- CAI Short course will be held in New Ulm, July 14-16.
- Clean Waters Act was discussed briefly at the Executive Board. A draft will be developed regarding which aspects of the public waters will be involved.

Shoreland

- Huesman site on Lake Maud was reviewed on the overhead. Storm water was the main area of concern. A Conservation Corp crew of 10 members was able to work with Marsha on this site. Coconut matting with natives and various grasses were installed.
- Suby site slough on Pickerel Lake added a rain garden. She reviewed the project plan with plant materials and stages of completion.
- Fogelson site on Elbow Lake, shoreland restoration. Conservation Corp crew assisted with this project as well.
- Jolly Fisherman repair was completed from a 2013 shoreland project.
- She mentioned the hydro-seeding job to be completed for the Berg site on Cormorant Lake.
- Bad Medicine Lake Association meeting will be attended in June
- Attended a Floyd Lake appointment for project completion in 2015.
- She has made 31 contacts – 6 sites have been completed and one withdrawn. She has attended four lake association meetings.

2015 Budget – The Budget Committee met last week to finalize the draft. Peter reviewed the budget recommendations with the Board paying close attention to the additional request from the County over last year as well as additional salary requests. Grant dollar amounts coming into our District for landowner projects have increased over recent years and wouldn't be possible without the expertise of our employees within the District and our County.

Motion (Grossman, Beck) to approve the 2015 Budget as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2nd Quarter Supervisor Payroll & Expenses – presented to all Board member without changes.

2nd Quarter Special Meetings – noted and accepted.

Motion (Flottemesch, Grossman) to approve the special meetings noted for the 2nd Quarter of 2014. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2014-15 DNR Ground Water Monitoring – Peter mentioned that our District will once again take readings from DNR observation wells throughout the County.

Motion (Flottemesch, Pavelko) to renew the agreement with DNR for Ground Water Monitoring in 2014-15. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Legacy Requests – as per our BC Brett Arne, requests for information will open next month. Peter notes that we need to apply for the Upper Rice Lake project of approximately \$500,000. We will also try to assist with various projects throughout the city and with local watersheds. He would specifically like to partner with Wild Rice Watershed. Programs and practices will once again be requested at \$150,000. He will also pursue the same funding for the Shallow Lakes initiative of \$398,000.

Motion (Flottemesch, Pavelko) to authorize administration to move forward with the recommendations presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2014 State Cost-Share Applications – Peter reviewed the applications. The following contracts were presented for consideration and Board approval:

Contract #14-4 with Mark & Ranelle Fogelson, native shoreland buffer. Total project cost estimate \$3,126.02; eligible 2014 state cost-share \$1,563.

Contract #14-6 with Dennis & Sonja Swangler, native shoreland buffer. Total project cost estimate \$3,491.47; eligible 2014 state cost-share \$1,746.

Contract #14-2 with Dustin Jasken, abandoned well sealing. Total project cost estimate \$480; eligible 2014 state cost-share \$240.

Contract #14-5 with Arlene Hedlund, abandoned well sealing. Total project cost estimate \$780; eligible 2014 state cost-share \$240.

Motion (Grossman, Beck) to approve the applications as presented and for the amounts listed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2013 State Cost-Share Application – Peter reviewed the applications. The following contract was presented for consideration and Board approval:

Contract #13-30 with Don & Andrea Hochhalter, stormwater runoff control and shoreline protection. Total project cost estimate \$7,959; eligible 2013 state cost-share \$498.23.

Motion (Flottemesch, Grossman) to approve the cost-share application as presented.
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2013 State Cost-Share Vouchers – Peter reviewed the vouchers. The following 2014 tree planting vouchers were presented to the Board for payment approval:

Contract #13-17 with Rick Jasken, shelterbelt establishment. Total project cost \$592.50; cost-share payment \$389 from 2013 state cost-share.

Contract #13-23 with Jason Coley, shelter establishment. Total project cost \$794; cost-share payment \$560.90 from 2013 state cost-share.

Contract #13-24 with Beau Jacobson, shelterbelt establishment. Total project cost \$1,125; cost-share payment \$720 from 2013 state cost-share.

Contract #13-25 with Dolyce Johnson, shelterbelt establishment. Total project cost \$970; cost-share payment \$474.50 from 2013 state cost-share.

Motion (Beck, Pavelko) to approve the payment of cost-share vouchers presented and for the dollar amounts noted. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Other –

BWSR senior state management team will be conducting a tour of our area regarding projects completed using state funds. They will look at sediment basins, buffers, and other practices installed in the Hay Creek area. They will offer a local LGU forum at the Holiday Inn in Detroit Lakes later that evening. All will take place on July 16th.

Clean Water Council will be coming to Moorhead with touring and meeting later. Peter has been asked to speak regarding LiDAR use and how it supports our water quality projects. This will be held in August.

With some of the recent projects not making the EQIP funding cut, we are about \$40,000 short. Peter attended the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District board meeting and asked for their support in completing two projects adjacent to Boyer Lake. They have approved our funding requests and continue to be a great partner in our conservation efforts.

June 24th RRVCSA - TSA 1 meeting will be held in Mahnomon. We will approve the 2015 Budget and offer a recap of the Shared Services agreement.

Peter and Jerome attended the TSA Engineering Capacity Summit last month. They reviewed some of the content addressed.

Jerome noted that a recent email has been circulated from the state regarding Area I hosting this year's annual convention. Kathy and Jen will help in planning for the event.

Jerome mentioned appointing a board for the Shared Services agreement between TSA 1 & 8.

We need to choose a few options for Outstanding Conservationist of the Year. Board members and staff gave suggestions.

Jerome reminded the Board that we will attend the Area I Resolution meeting next month. He has asked our Board members to think about resolutions that we would like considered. We may want to develop a resolution increasing Board Supervisor stipends.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) that administration prepare a resolution to increase Supervisor stipends while not exceeding \$150 per meeting attendance. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Peter needs to approach the County for an extension on our water plan to best align planning efforts with the counties and watersheds of the Red River Basin which are all slated for updates. He will ask for an extension of the water plan until 2016.

Motion (Grossman, Flottemesch) to authorize administration to request an extension on our water plan. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Being no further business, motion (Grossman, Pavelko) to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Approved: Duane Grossman, Becker SWCD Secretary Date: July 16, 2014