



Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Wednesday, July 20, 2016

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, July 20th in the Conference Room of the USDA Ag Center Building located at 809 8th Street SE, Detroit Lakes, MN.

Those present were Supervisors Tony Beck, Jerome Flottemesch, Travis Schauer, Kathy Stenger and Chairperson Eugene Pavelko. Others present include Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson, District Administrator Peter Mead, Office Manager Jen Wentz, NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, Soil and Water Resource Tech Ed Clem and AIS Coordinator Karl Koenig. Special guest, Lowell Deede.

Call to Order – Chairman Pavelko called the meeting to order at 8:42 a.m.

Approval of June Meeting Minutes

No changes to report.

Motion (Beck, Schauer) to approve June meeting minutes as written. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Financial Reports & Bills for Approval

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to approve June financials and July bills for payment. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

District Reports

District Conservationist - Ed Musielewicz reported on the following:

Rice Lake Project – recent meetings with Tera Guetter from PRWD and various engineers. NRCS engineering staff will complete plans for the upper structure and historic outlet. There was no draftsman available to complete final plans, so the District has placed Engineering Tech Claire Olson in charge. Road plans completed; Houston Engineering will work on the lower structure. They would like us to work on soils. Completion should be in 2017.

Cover Crops – working with landowners on EQIP and CSP cover crops. Comparison studies are being completed on various sites including Zurn Farms and Bruce Nelson.

CSP was obligated July 31st with 13 of the 28 contracts being approved.

Leticia, Aaron and Ray are working through WRP Monitoring, CRP Spot Checks and CSP Reviews.

WRE easement funded this year for Mark and Val Kohler.

Alisa Wendt-Bentley is working with us again. She has been hired by Ultima and will begin officially and full-time with NRCS on August 1st. The District has hired her part-time beginning July 19th until her Ultima contract begins.

District Administrator - Peter Mead reported on the following:

Building project updates – structure has been blocked and the slab has been poured. No trusses yet so framing has not started.

John Jaschke has been leading yearly Local Listening Sessions for area SWCDs and recently held one in Moorhead. He mentioned new and current projects that are underway in St. Paul.

- Buffer Policy and Program Updates, BWSR is developing guidance for alternative practices and local control and leadership options
- 1W1P and pilot to permanent
- Clean Water funds and General Funds, appropriations are down just slightly
- Grants Management and Fiscal Reporting, new guidelines have been developed
- Drainage Law Implementation and Policy
- AWQCP is here to stay
- CREP is still in the works with FSA
- Metro and Urban Water Mgmt
- WCA rule changes due to recent law changes
- Local Capacity Funding, amendments to FY16 dollars for an additional \$30,000 and FY17 will include County match based on appropriations received by each District; the smaller the appropriation, the larger the County match
- Organizational and Accounting Needs for Districts and at the state level

Tom Giles led a recent buffer meeting which was rather effective. A draft list of guidance documents has been circulated. Initial comment period closed July 12th but there will be a rolling schedule of comment periods. Becker County would like to retain authority on this as opposed to BWSR. The map appeal process will be handled through SWCD District Administrators.

Program Reports

AIS Prevention

AIS lake inspections have been busy with Rossman Ave access seeing the most at almost 1,000 inspections overall this year from Thursday through Sunday, 8 hours per day. We've had 13,000 total inspections since fishing opener.

There have been 342 watercraft decontaminations this year. Decontamination equipment is currently located in 3 locations. Monday and Tuesday we offer decontaminations at the shop. RMB Labs equipment is decontaminated there as well. Lake Melissa has been getting the most use. Inspectors are seeing fewer violations this year than last year with 1.3% per activity and very little in Becker and Ottertail Counties. People seem to be following laws.

One inspector has since left her position but everyone else has been working well. We have billed about 7,000 hours of payroll. Townships and Lake Associations have supplied funds to assist with these payroll expenses.

Completing sign inventory of AIS lake accesses. A recent check on Elbow Lake found no signage. DNR accesses have been well covered. Many that are local and/or county have none or are in disrepair. He hopes to get a variety of signs printed from the DNR with installation completed by his staff.

Resorts are assisting with screening boats. We're printing an AIS booklet to assist with monitoring and education of the public and resort owners. Identifying new infestations is helpful. He hopes to reach 25 lake resort owners.

Zebra Mussels were found on a watercraft from the Twin Cities that was attempting to enter Two Inlets Lake. The inspector noticed this and was able to provide decontamination services.

We have been assisting the County with tram operations between Lake Sallie, Muskrat and Detroit. Jules Duvall, our AIS Inspector Liaison, operated the tram on 7/9 and 7/10. Karl operated the tram 7/16 and 7/17. The tram is open weekends and limited hours throughout the season. Hours are 11:00 a.m. to dark Saturday and Sunday. There is a \$20 fee for a day pass. Karl has been assisting Steve Skoog with online trainings for barge haulers and equipment carriers such as the tram. Per law, a mechanical boat tram is subject to AIS laws just like any other watercraft equipment.

Wetland Conservation Act

Rice Lake project: we will be reviewing 3 applications for Anchor and Richwood Roads and the upper and lower structures.

Strata Corp. is expanding their gravel pits north to a parcel on the west side of Long Lake. Delineation is underway with an EAW coming soon.

Wolf Lake Township meeting with road straightening.

McLaughlin Marine restoration order is in process, meeting to be held soon.

meeting will be held place soon.

Other District Projects

Construction and staking projects are picking up speed.

Becker County Fair is next week. We will hold free nitrate testing for drinking water on Thursday, July 28th from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. We will borrow a spectrometer from Luke Stuewe with MDA. Advertising for this will be in the local newspaper and on Hodge Podge next week.

Soil Health Initiative

Weekly temp readings are being taken with cover crop demos coming soon.

Soil Loss Concerns in the County

Our recent rain event was rather significant with anywhere from 6-10 inches that could be up to 100 year storm levels. He has expected a lot of flood damage and erosion but was amazed at the lack there of which is probably due to the time of year and dry weather conditions. However, soil loss concerns will be an issue in many locations due to these recent rains.

He shared photos of the following:

- Wetland violation that was restored on Cormorant Lake last year.
- Most WSCBs seem to have done their job. Sediment has been trapped nicely.
- Wetland Restoration on the South of Lake Park by Bijou Lake.
- Bijou Lake public access project, water is being captured by the intakes.
- Haycreek and Stinking Lake WSCBs
- Poling site on LaBelle Lake saw quite a bit of damage to electric poles and trees. Recent plantings are doing well. Hydroseeding section isn't holding as well when compared with the curlex matting plantings.
- One WSCB embankment near Westbury failed but was probably due to improper seeding techniques.
- Co Highway 21 gully dumping directly into the Buffalo River. This is not only a water quality concern but a safety concern to highway traffic as well.

Ag Inspector & CWMA

We have added a Geo Form to our website. This form can be used to report a township or site where weeds are a problem. You don't have to know the species; this will pinpoint a specific location to create a temporary point for us and an email notification to our office to assist with weed complaints and calls.

Open Forum

From our recent rains, Lowell Deede noted flooding to Haycreek and Toad River with his transparency readings taken from the County Rd just east of Stinking Lake.

CY 2017 Staffing Plan

Ultima contract worker is 40 hours per week with NRCS/Ultima. District will no longer share this position.

District Office Support staff will be hired at 24 hours per week.

District Engineer to be shared with East and West Otter Tail Districts as well. Announcement and Job Description were circulated to board members. The individual would be hired by Becker SWCD with office space held in Detroit Lakes approximately three days per week. We will provide a vehicle to this person from our AIS fleet until one is purchased from Enhanced Services grant funds. We have extra VRS units and other technical equipment for use. East and West Otter Tail will supply 2/3 of the cost for this individual with our District covering the remaining

amount. TSA training expenses will be handled by this person instead of an outside agency. Vehicle and office expenses will be shared three ways.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Stenger) to create, advertise and fill this position within a two week timeframe. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

CY 2017 Operational Budget

Budget committee met on July 12th with a preliminary budget established at that time. Recent changes include:

- DNR Well Monitoring agreement specified a smaller reimbursement.
- Contributions from EOT and WOT for the RRVCSA Engineer were increased; RRVCSA funds decreased.
- No additional funding needs from Becker County with no decrease in the fund balance.

Motion (Stenger, Beck) to approve the FY17 Budget as updated. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Grants & Agreements

FY 2017 Clean Water Fund Applications - RFP is open. Mead will work with DNR to resubmit one grant for culvert concerns near the Shell River and another Buffalo Red project with Buffalo Red River Watershed District. August 8th is the close date.

We will partner with EOT and WOT Districts for AIG applications regarding additional equipment needs.

Clean Water Legacy Contracts for Approval

CWL-15-LP, Jim and Michelle Snyder, Critical Area Planting. Estimated project costs \$3,464; eligible cost share \$2,598 from CWL Lake Protection funds.

CWL-16-LP, Nichole & Terry Turchin, Critical Area Planting. Estimated project costs \$4,639; eligible cost share \$1,836.30 from CWL Lake Protection funds.

Motion (Schauer, Flottesmesch) to approve the above Clean Water contracts as written. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

State Cost Share Contracts for Approval

CS-15-7 Bill Henke, Critical Area Planting. Estimated project costs \$5,005; eligible cost share \$3,754.

CS-15-8 Nichole & Terry Turchin, Critical Area Planting. Estimated project costs \$4,639; eligible cost share \$483.20.

CS-16-2, Jim and Pam Benedict, Critical Area Planting & Raingardens. Estimated project costs \$6,564; eligible cost share \$3,282.

Motion (Beck, Schauer) to approve the above 2015 & 2016 State Cost-Share contracts as written. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Legacy Vouchers for Approval

CWL-01-GWP, Shannon Potts, Straight River Cover Crop Implementation. Total project costs \$9,166; eligible cost share payment \$4,500.

CWL-06-WR, Tom Bergren, Filter Strip Implementation. Total project costs \$17,540; eligible cost share payment \$7,507.

CWL-15-BR, Mary Poling and Jill Fahrlander, Shoreland Stabilization and Critical Area Planting. Total project costs \$40,651; eligible cost share payment \$6,585.90.

CWL-20-BR, Mandy Erickson, Critical Area Planting. Total project costs \$2,587.35; eligible cost share payment \$2,328.62.

CWL-01-LP, Bill and Jeanne Kauffmann, Critical Area Planting. Total project costs \$5,295; eligible cost share payment \$2,647.50.

CWL-04-LP, Al Bergquist, Critical Area Planting, Raingarden. Total project costs \$5,669; eligible cost share payment \$2,834.50.

CWL-09-LP, Patricia Young, Critical Area Planting. Total project costs \$1,591; eligible cost share payment \$795.50.

CWL-10-LP, James & Judy Erickson, Critical Area Planting, Raingarden. Total project costs \$6,085; eligible cost share payment \$3,042.50.

CWL-11-LP, Richard Gerasch, Critical Area Planting. Total project costs \$5,888; eligible cost share payment \$2,944.

CWL-12-LP, Craig and Anita Hoehne, Critical Area Planting. Total project costs \$5,994; eligible cost share payment \$2,997.

Motion (Flottesch, Beck) to approve cost share payments on the above Clean Water Legacy and Groundwater Mgmt grants.

Adjourn

Being no further business, Chairman Pavelko adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

Approved: Kathy Stenger, Becker SWCD Secretary

Date: August 17, 2016