



Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 in the Conference Room of the USDA Ag Center Building located at 809 8th Street SE, Detroit Lakes, MN.

Those present: Supervisors Tony Beck, Travis Schauer, Jerome Flottesmesch, Chairman Eugene Pavelko and Kathy Stenger. District Administrator Peter Mead, Office Manager Jen Wentz, NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, Ag Inspector/Shoreland Coordinator Marsha Watland and Water Resource Tech Ed Clem. Others present include Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson.

Call to Order

Chairman Pavelko called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m

Approval of Meeting Minutes

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

Financial Reports

Conservation Delivery-2, MMB Tech Survey grant will be completed soon with additional admin costs reimbursed and then any remaining funds returned to the state. Results are in and found that most districts prefer to use NRCS systems but many are either not available or cost effective.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Stenger) to approve April treasurer's report and May bills for payment as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

District Reports

NRCS District Conservationist - Ed Musielewicz reported on the following:

- Last day for EQIP contract obligation is May 24th.
- RCCP through Ag Certainty program. 2 applications received; mostly for cover crops.
- CSP interviews have been extended until June 30th. Ray Hummel has been working most of these.
- CCP, Certified Conservation Planning for training and staff certification. Aaron Salo was certified last year. Changes have been made nationally for consistency. Musielewicz reviews coursework from all certified planners – himself, Norby, Hummel and Salo. Some internet courses will need to be completed as well as out of office training sessions. Ed Clem will also need trainings to be considered a Certified Apprentice. The deadline for completion is December of 2019. New employees with no previous certification will need to complete over 250 hours of coursework over a two year period.
- Aaron Salo is working the irrigation program with over 25 pivots. He compiles weekly scheduling for producers which includes determining rain events, compiling documentation and reviews this information with producers. Straight River residents will be provided this service free of costs. Outside of this area, the cost to a producer is \$200 per field or \$175 with two or more fields.
- We hope to provide another cover crop demonstration in the SRGWMA. MDA corn stalk nitrate testing noted a significant spike in Nitrates after edible beans. Fall cover crops may be a good alternative to reduce Nitrate spikes in corn after edible beans.
- This Friday, a regional soil survey scientist will visit Mahnommen and Becker counties. They will meet at the Bruce Nelson cover crop demo site.
- FSA received a bulletin to no longer accept CRP contracts as of May 3rd and to refer those contracts to SWCD for eligibility. They were reaching their cap for 2017 which affects all CRP – continuous, expiring and new contracts.
- CREP acres are not included in the CRP restraint cap. This program uses CRP to RIM in a permanent easement.

Administrator's Report – Peter Mead reported on the following:

- Performing a tillage transect survey with Dan Wheeler using land-sat satellite imagery. Our county was chosen to ground truth the imagery using the historic tillage transect route.
- PTM application for Otter Tail County using new data from the Otter Tail River area.
- Aaron Salo has found a drone for \$700. This would offer imagery of Becker County. We would need to register the device with FAA but no other restrictions have been written for SWCDs. The drone would allow for cover crop field comparisons, basin projects, etc. This is a purchase to ponder for the near future.

Program Reports

Wetland Conservation Act, as reported by Ed Clem

- Attended the TEP meeting last week with extensive airport discussion. The panel met with the airport commission and consultants trying to steer them away from the idea of creating a wetland for on-site mitigation out of the existing sewage treatment pond. Instead, purchase of wetland banking credits are being proposed, with most of the credits coming from the Becker County wetland bank and the balance from other wetland banks. The sewage treatment pond still needs to be decommissioned as part of the city's waste treatment upgrades, 1/3 of the ponds will be filled completely and the other 2/3 will be turned into meadow wetland habitat for stormwater treatment. Before June's board meeting, TEP will have a thorough application compiled for SWCD board members to approve.
- The Co Hwy 25 slope and shoulder repair work has been signed off by the TEP to use State Road Bank credits.
- A couple new violations will be inspected today.

Trees and Native Plant Materials, as reported by Ed Clem

- Trees arrived on April 21st and 10 days later the cooler was turned off. Our quickest and most efficient tree season yet. This was the second year of wrapping and pick up day located at our storage shop. It really works great.
- Most sales were made prior to tree pick up day.
- 3 planting jobs are now completed.
 - One planting at the LPA ballfields on the west side of the school led to a bit more man power than anticipated. The design consisted of potted spruce and cottonwoods with tree tubes. The soil was heavy clay and made planting difficult, even with the power augers.

Shoreland Protection, as reported by Peter Mead and Marsha Watland

We have an unhappy shoreland customer on South Turtle Lake that is requesting a refund. This was placed with state cost-share funds. The project does look less than stellar and is due to lack of maintenance mostly. Crown Vetch and Reed Canary Grass is popping through everywhere. Landowner is receiving complaint letters from her neighbors. She would like to place a variety of other plants. The project should have been conducted with a landscaper. This was cost-shared 50%. We are willing to work with the landowner with either ____ for the next three years or pay the district back 150% of the total project costs per state cost-share requirements. More to come in the future.

- Site evals are being performed.
- Briggs site will be completed next week.
- Seeds donated by Adam Teiken will be used for various projects. Marsha will start germination on this.
- Water Festival for area fourth graders was held last week at the Kent Freeman Arena. They had a great turnout. She and Karl Koenig presented at this event.

AIS Prevention / WQ Monitoring, as reported by Peter Mead

- Fishing opener started the AIS season with great results.
- Koenig has 33 staff for the season.
- Koenig attended the AIS monitoring and certification training offered by the U of M. He has been conducting follow-up trainings.

- Koenig recently administered a meeting to bring several agencies together. Nelson offered his praise for the job that Karl is doing for the Becker County AIS program.

Ag Inspector, as reported by Marsha Watland

- Visited Carsonville Twp on a weed tour. Treatment efforts look great.
- Certification efforts are moving along with gravel pit inspections remaining in eastern Becker and within 5-10 miles radius of the city. All noncertified pits have received a Notice 1 with the opportunity to become certified.
- Aggregate Industries tour brought three managers from different gravel pits. They will instruct other locations of her results.
- Dan McLaughlin, Becker County Natural Resources Management has asked her to be part of the Recreation Advisory Committee. Jona Jacobson from Highway Dept. and McLaughlin have hired a new spraying applicator. They are from Bemidji. Cycle treatment was discussed. However, Becker County is not a great location for this type of treatment plan. Watland does not recommend this. It was determined to continue with our current treatment plan.
- Detroit Mountain Recreation Area will be inspected next week.
- She was in the Cormorant area performing gravel pit inspections and ran into Barry Nelson who expressed interest in checking the erosion at the Co Hwy 5 public access on Middle Cormorant Lake. Wave action has removed much of the shoreline. Becker County may purchase a small parcel next to the access that should reduce this. The swimming area at this location is highly used in the summer. She then visited with Dan McLaughlin who had also reviewed the site later that day.

Open Forum

MASWCD Area 1 meeting will be held at U of M – Crookston on Tuesday, June 20th. An agenda will be forthcoming along with registration materials.

Grants & Agreements

Approve Submittal of FY 2018 Farm Bill Assistance Application(s)

This grant keeps Aaron Salo in our office. BWSR has increased the expense allowed for full time employees to \$58,500 with a 10% match requirement. We use county allocations and our own funds to provide this. Additional employee benefits count towards this too.

This year, we have an additional application with The Nature Conservancy and BWSR to provide additional support in the office and offer a replacement to the Prairie Planner. This program has been defunded as of June 30th which leaves Phil Doll out of a job. We're trying to get him back into our office. TNC is providing most of the match with the remaining coming from us. MN DNR will provide a vehicle and fuel card.

Motion (Flottesch, Stenger) to approve both Farm Bill Assistance applications as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Legacy Vouchers for Approval

CWL-3-WR – Ronald Safar, Filter Strip, Filter Strip Incentive. Total project cost \$3,978; eligible payment \$2,659.23.

CWL-17-BR, Matthew Bjerke, Water and Sediment Control Basins. Total project cost \$19,020.01; eligible payment \$5,952.

CWL-19-BR, Curt Nelson, Water and Sediment Control Basins. Total project cost \$135,940.21; eligible payment \$35,070.

Motion (Beck, Schauer) to approve Clean Water Legacy payments as noted above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

State Cost Share Vouchers for Approval

SCS-16-5, Adam Teiken, Field Windbreak. Total project cost \$1,260; eligible payment \$900.

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to approve 2016 state cost-share payment noted above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

State Cost-Share Contracts for Approval or Amendment

SCS-17-2, J & A Dairy, Ag Waste System. Total estimate cost \$266,291; eligible cost share \$3,500.

SCS-17-3, Wallace Danielson, Ag Waste System. Total estimate \$225,681; eligible cost share \$3,500.

SCS-17-4, Steve Anderson, Shoreline Stabilization on Ice Cracking Lake. Total estimate \$5,297; eligible cost share \$2,649.

Motion (Schauer, Stenger) to approve 2017 state cost-share contracts noted above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Legacy Contracts for Approval

CWL-1-UB, Roger Foltz, Grade Stabilization, Water and Sediment Control Basins. Total estimate \$84,625; EQIP funding of \$55,579 and eligible cost share \$20,764.

CWL-2-UB, Chad Okeson, Water and Sediment Control Basins. Total estimate \$78,500; EQIP funding of \$40,831 and eligible cost share \$29,819.

CWL-24-LP, Tom Thorson, Shoreline Stabilization on Little Detroit Lake. Total estimate \$2,336; eligible cost share \$1,752.

CWL-25-LP, Becky & Joe Burns, Shoreline Stabilization on Buffalo Lake. Total estimate \$6,533; eligible cost share \$4,899.

CWL-2-GWP, Greg Price, Pumping Plant, Irrigation Water Management. Total estimate \$47,500; EQIP funding of \$35,307 and eligible cost share \$7,443.

CWL-23-BR, Kevin Lunde, Water and Sediment Control Basins. Total estimate \$64,129; EQIP funding of \$22,968 and eligible cost share \$34,730.

CWL-24-BR, Gary Rosentreter, Water and Sediment Control Basins. Total estimate \$44,111; EQIP funding of \$15,918 and eligible cost share \$23,782.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to approve Clean Water Legacy contracts noted above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Adjourn

Chairman Pavelko adjourned the meeting at 10:27 a.m. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Approved: Kathy Stenger, Becker SWCD Secretary

Date: June 21, 2017