



## **Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting, Wednesday, March 15, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 in the Conference Room of the USDA Ag Center Building located at 809 8<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Detroit Lakes, MN.

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

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Pavelko called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

### **Approval of February Meeting Minutes**

No changes to report. Motion (Flottesmesch, Beck) to approve as written. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

### **Approval of First Quarter Special Meetings**

- 2/9 Retreat & Annual Planning Meeting
- 2/13 LWMP Special Meeting
- 2/21 MASWCD Area 1 Meeting
- 3/14 RRVCSA-TSA 1 Meeting
- 3/16 Straight River Groundwater Mgmt Area Forum
- 3/22 Red River Watershed Mgmt Board & Flood Damage Reduction Workshop
- 3/22 Soil Health Roundtable
- 3/23 Annual Township/City Noxious Weed Inspector Training

Motion (Flottesmesch, Beck) to approve 2017 Q1 supervisor payroll vouchers and expenses. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

### **Financial Reports**

Treasurer's Report and Bills for Approval were reviewed. Motion (Stenger, Flottesmesch) to approve the February Treasurer's Report and March bills for payment. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

### **District Reports**

District Conservationist - Ed Musielewicz

- EQIP allocation list due March 21.
- Conservation Stewardship Program signups. Last Friday was deadline for eligibility. Some have dropped out. Ranking and scoring to be completed by June 9.
- CRP acres are down but Aaron has been working with producers for contact approval by October 1. FSA has temporarily removed mowing requirements for mid-contract mgmt.
- Held a Rice Lake workgroup in February. In addition to him and Peter, Scott Swanberg, Rob Baden and Houston Engineering staff was in attendance. SWCD/NRCS upper structure plans will be completed by the end of March. Houston Engineering plans for the lower structure should be done at the end of May. This project has been bid for 2018 construction.

District Administrator - Peter Mead

- We were assisting BRRWD for 319 grant application. This grant would work with citizens to develop locally based solutions to nonpoint source (NPS) pollution and reduce NPS and implement total maximum daily load (TMDL) solutions in critical source areas. Our application through MPCA was ineligible last year. Since then, WRAPS was approved last February. MPCA encouraged both parties to apply again asking for a total of \$419,000 with additional Clean Water Funds applied locally for a total of \$1 million towards the project. MPCA has now informed us of our ineligibility.
- Ed Clem attended the Cormorant Watershed meeting and asked for cost-share assistance on Travis Schauer's project. They have pledged their support. The project consists of two basins and a grassed waterway leading into Big Cormorant Lake.
- SSMAP funding is making some strides. We should have a decision made regarding vendor by the end of March. Dylan Ramstad-Skoyles, Planning & Zoning Director, has assisted nicely.
- eLINK reports, BWSR reports and FY16 financial reports have all been uploaded and/or updated.
- Leadership training was attended last week. This was the final session in the series. Mead was able to meet with DNR Commissioner Landwehr and other reps at the State Capitol. NRCS has renewed their investment in this. Future leadership academies will be able to visit Washington, D.C.

### **Program Reports**

#### Wetland Conservation Act, Ed Clem reported on the following:

Becker TEP met in March. TEP issued a Notice of Decision that Harvey Harvala's private driveway project to impact wetland was exempt from wetland replacement mitigation for WCA. The Army Corps of Engineers has since decided to deny the project.

Detroit Lakes Airport expansion: Army Corps of Engineers has been leading the concurrence points process consisting of listing alternatives, choosing a preferred alternative, and proposing mitigation. Airport council would like to submit an application in April or May. They are looking at restoring the sewage ponds just south of the airport to a sedge meadow, and using that as on-site mitigation for wetland impacts. FAA, City, PRWD, Army Corps, Mead & Hunt Consultants, DNR, Becker County and SWCD discussed preliminary mitigation plans. Airport wants to buy credits from the county wetland bank for stage 1 - building a parallel taxi-way for a temporary air strip and runway. This will impact a small wetland along Airport Road. The main concern for WCA is the drainage and reclamation of the current sewage pond and the technical aspects of how they could accomplish restoring this to sedge meadow wetland for mitigation credit. We are hoping for more technical information and engineering plans on how this on-site mitigation will work. Another TEP meeting has been scheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup> to continue discussion with all participants.

#### Trees and Native Plant Materials, Ed Clem reported on the following:

Tree sales are going well. At this point, we're at 17,000 trees sold. We have 3 hand-planting and one machine planting job scheduled for the season.

#### Shoreland Protection, Marsha Watland reported on the following:

Gabe and Claire have been working steady on designs and site evaluations. The shoreland project white board is filling fast. Grant for MN Conservation Corps Labor Crew has been secured but the dates they are available don't coincide with our install dates. We will need more seasonal technicians such as Brandon Dahring to assist this year. Technical assistance dollars from the shoreland protection grant can provide most of the income for an additional staff person.

#### Cooperative Weed Mgmt, Marsha Watland reported on the following:

Celebrated 10 years of existence. Team work and participation has been great. Signage updates are now in circulation. Coaster designs were presented for "Invasive Species Brush Off." This will hopefully get the public thinking terrestrial plants.

MACAI meeting was held last week. They have three bills for Noxious Weed Law.

- \$500,000 for existing MDA weed control.
- Seed department checks regarding Buffer Law.
- Controlling native seed inventory.

Seed inspections have started. Reports are coming in now.

District 1 meeting held March 1<sup>st</sup> with all MNDOT reps available and only 3 counties missing. Advantages and disadvantages of mowing were discussed. One complaint involved timing. Treatment efforts hope to remain consistent and have township officials, weed inspectors and county staff working together to remain vigilant.

CWMA meeting tomorrow. Partners meet twice per year. They will work on recommendations for managing noxious weeds.

Annual Township/City Noxious Weed Inspector Training. Many good presenters on task for informative discussions. Gravel pit certifications have been updated. Panel discussions will again be on the agenda.

AIS Prevention / WQ Monitoring, Karl Koenig reported on the following:

Karl has been involved in outreach opportunities thus far. Upcoming events:

- Home & Sports Show at Kent Freeman Arena, Detroit Lakes
- Job Fair at M State, Moorhead
- Job fair at MN Workforce Center, Detroit Lakes

AIS Inspector training to be held late April. All inspectors will be working Minnesota fishing opener, May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Robotics teams in our area have built a robotic vehicle that goes underwater, like a mini-submarine with a camera. This is a great tool for use in AIS education projects for the lakes as well as data collection. The Detroit Lakes High School robotics coach is willing to pursue this vehicle or his robotics team. The Polk County 4H group initiated a vehicle such as this for use in their AIS efforts. Our AIS budget would be able to assist with a donation to get this project underway.

Karl has been assigned to Otter Tail Civic Cohort Training which has been useful for project leadership and management. The sessions have encouraged resource managers to speak with their community and make decisions based on those discussions for more accurate and beneficial results. With that said, he would like to form a recurring meeting regarding AIS prevention to gain input from other agencies and the public. Such as the AIS Public Advisory Committee—to create a discussion board for future decision making.

Karl will host a resort owner meeting for AIS awareness and DNR permitting requirements from 1-3 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Detroit Lakes on March 22.

Tammy Merkins, County Attorney has been in contact with Barb Fischburg-Halbakken via email and mailings re: her data practices request spanning three years' of a.i.s. related data, records and correspondence from Becker County and subsequently the SWCD

Engineering Assistance, reported by Peter Mead

- Wes is drafting Rice Lake. He's on the fifth revision.
- Three design plans for WOT and Becker before spring thaw.
- DNR and USFWS for spawning habitats.
- Survey training held March 2<sup>nd</sup> at M State. The group of 30 was a bit too large but well received by all. Many of our staff led the small group work sessions.
- He has the following engineering assistance requests:
  - 14 jobs for Becker
  - 20+ jobs and in varying stages of completion for WOT
  - 7 jobs for EOT

Buffer Implementation, reported by Peter Mead

There are still many unknowns and questions regarding buffer legislation. Enforcement remains an issue, parcel restraints and CRP practices. November 1, 2017 is the deadline. Non-compliance allows another 11 months to comply. Penalties may exist regardless of additional time allowances. DNR has a new buffer map in place. Buffer policy #10 gives more clarity to the APO. BWSR has identified possible fees and/or an administrative penalty order.

### **Open Forum**

Grant Verification has now become Grant Reconciliation. Future visits will be scheduled by Jeannette Austin. Our office will have an informal grant review with Brett Arne and Brian Dwight this Friday.

Water Plan Committee meets April 12th which should give approval to the final copy of the 2017 Becker County Local Management Water Plan.

Shoreland mitigation and project proposals. Peter worked with Gabe to create one document with multiple pages that auto-fills all necessary landowner and project information including quote, plant list, cost estimate, contract and voucher for any shoreland projects.

Lowell Deede was in attendance to answer any questions regarding the water clarity report he shared with our board last month.

### **2017 Plan of Operations**

Review and Approve 2017 Annual Plan of Operations. Mead presented the plan in draft status asking all to review for accuracy and noting the changes that he made to the overall appearance. Comments are welcome.

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to approve the 2017 Annual Plan of Operations with additional modifications as noted. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

### **Grants & Agreements**

Approve Submittal of BWSR RIM Reserve Program Master Joint Powers Agreement. Yearly RIM monitoring dollars need to have a joint powers agreement with the state in order to assist in acquisition of any new easements.

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to approve submittal of the agreement for RIM Reserve Program Master Joint Powers Agreement. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

### **Clean Water Legacy Contracts for Approval**

#CWL-19-LP, Justin Scallon, Shoreline Stabilization on Big Detroit Lake. Project estimate \$3,853 with 75% cost share eligibility for \$2,890 in grant funds.

#CWL-20-LP, Wade Wilson, Shoreline Stabilization, Critical Area Planting, Raingardens on Big Cormorant Lake. Project estimate \$10,496 with 50% cost share eligibility for \$5,248 in grant funds.

Motion (Beck, Flottemesch) to approve CWL Lake Protection contracts #CWL-19-LP and #CWL-20-LP as stated above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

### **Adjourn**

With no further business, Chairman Pavelko adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Straight River GWMA Forum, Osage, Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>
- RRWMB Conference SWCD Supervisor Sessions, Moorhead, Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Soil Health Roundtable, Detroit Lakes, Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Becker Co Annual Township/City Noxious Weed Training, Callaway, Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Approved: Kathy Stenger, Becker SWCD Secretary**

**Date: April 19, 2017**