

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 16, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Ag Center Building, 809 8th St. S.E., Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Those present were supervisors Jerome Flottesmesch, Don Lefebvre, Dale Lubitz, Duane Grossman, Roger Tychsen, County Commissioner Barry Nelson, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, District Technician Dean Hendrickson, and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Flottesmesch.

The first item of business was to re-organize the Board Positions.

Nominations were opened for Chairman. Supervisor Lubitz nominated Don Lefebvre for Chairman.

Motion by Lubitz, second by Grossman that nominations cease and a white ballot is cast for Don Lefebvre as Chairman. Affirmative: Lubitz, Flottesmesch, Grossman, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Lefebvre asked for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman. Supervisor Flottesmesch nominated Dale Lubitz for the position of Vice-Chairman.

Motion by Flottesmesch, second by Tychsen that nominations cease and a white ballot is cast for Dale Lubitz as Vice-Chairman. Affirmative: Grossman, Tychsen, Flottesmesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Nominations were opened for the position of Secretary. Supervisor Tychsen nominated Jerome Flottesmesch for the position of Secretary.

Motion by Tychsen, second by Grossman that nominations cease and a white ballot is cast for Jerome Flottesmesch as Secretary. Affirmative: Lubitz, Tychsen, Grossman. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Nominations were opened for the position of Treasurer. Supervisor Lubitz nominated Duane Grossman for the position of Treasurer.

Motion by Tychsen, second by Lubitz that nominations cease and a white ballot is cast for Grossman as Treasurer. Affirmative: Lubitz, Flottesmesch, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Lubitz, second by Grossman to approve the December Minutes as sent out and received by the supervisors. Affirmative: Grossman, Tychsen, Lubitz, Flottesmesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The financial reports and bills payable were presented. The bills included membership dues for 2008 for the following organizations: Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation

Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Page, 2

District, Area II MASWCD, National Association of Conservation Districts, and the Association of Minnesota Ag Inspectors.

Motion by Flottesmesch, second by Tychsen to approve payment of the listed bills and approve continuing memberships in the organizations presented. Affirmative: Lubitz, Lefebvre, Flottesmesch, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Flottesmesch, second by Tychsen to accept the financial statements as presented. Affirmative: Lefebvre, Flottesmesch, Grossman, Lubitz. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Brad reported that the Pay Equity Report is complete and once the Board approves it, he will transfer the completed report via email.

Motion by Lubitz, second by Tychsen to approve the Pay Equity Report as presented and forward it to St. Paul. Affirmative: Lubitz, Tychsen, Flottesmesch, Lefebvre. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Reports:

WesMin RC&D – Don reported on the following items from the January 9th WesMin RC&D Meeting:

- Entered into an agreement with Pope SWCD to provide accounting services for WesMin.
- Hearing on the employee fraud charge.
- All but one county has come forward and provided funding to WesMin for the judgment that was ordered last year.
- The 501 3c designation for the Smokey Timbers Camp is moving forward.
- The WesMin RC&D Annual Meeting will be held Feb. 13th in Long Prairie.
- Don shared results of the Public Outreach Survey that was recently completed.
- The Regional RC&D Meeting will be held Jan. 30th.
- The North Central RC&D Meeting will be in Rochester this year.

Dist. Conservationist Report: District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz reported on the following:

- Another EQIP scoring period ended December 30th.
- Received enough funds to fund all 22 signups, however, 3 grazing contracts canceled.
- \$235,000 has been approved for the remaining 19 contracts.
- There are currently 71 sediment and erosion control basins signed up for. (41 new and 30 carryovers)
- Will be meeting with several contractors to see if they are interested in doing sediment basin jobs.
- The USDA Budget has been approved.
- The existing farm bill has been extended until March 15th.
- Soil Conservationist Kevin Gietzen has been working on Continuous CRP Contracts.

Dist. Technicians Report: Dist. Technician Dean Hendrickson reported on the following:

- Ed and Dean have been working on tree plans.
- Ed has been reporting data on elink.

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 16, 2008**

Page, 3

- Viewed the Bruce Hein property on Marshall Lake to see what could be done with the bank erosion.
- Has been working on the Amy Ruley erosion project to control runoff into Big Cormorant Lake.

Wild Rice Watershed District Project: Brad and Ed reported on the Tele-Conference they took part in with the Wild Rice Watershed District, Houston Engineering, and Clay SWCD. The discussion touched on priority setting for BMP Practices, what types of assistance programs may be available and where the priority area should be. The Wild Rice Watershed District Board would like to have a joint meeting with the Clay SWCD and the Becker SWCD Boards of Supervisors to further discuss the project. The supervisors agreed to this and instructed Brad to coordinate the meeting with Clay SWCD and the Watershed. Brad will let the supervisors know the final arrangements and post the meeting notice.

PTI Grant Application: As part of the Ag Inspector Program, Brad reported that the final application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for another Pulling Together Initiative Grant was submitted. We have requested another \$75,000 for the period Oct. 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010 for our Invasive Species Control Program and Weed Management Area plan. Final awards will be made in May.

Marsha has begun contacting gravel pit owners and providing them with information on how we can assist them in controlling invasive species in their gravel pits. We have also had some discussions with Clearwater County on the gravel pit certification program.

Brad also reported that the Board of Water and Soil Resources is accepting proposals for Cooperative Weed Management Area Grants for the development of Cooperative Weed Management Areas and the restoration of natural and conservation lands through invasive species removal and the replanting with local ecotype seed. The grants are limited to \$70,000. Being that we have begun our program with the Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant program we will only be eligible for \$35,000.

Motion by Flottesch, second by Lubitz to submit a proposal to the BWSR Cooperative Weed Management Area Grants Program. Affirmative: Lubitz, Lefebvre, Grossman, Flottesch. Opposed: None: Motion carried.

Plat Book Project: Received an email from Ben Helmberger of Cloud Cartographics on our Plat Book Project. The ads have been sold and research will begin in the next couple of months.

Envirothon: Ginger presented a letter from the Area II Envirothon Committee asking SWCD's for a contribution toward the Senior Envirothon and the newly formed Junior Envirothon. The request is for \$100 for the senior event and \$50 for the junior event.

Motion by Tychsen, second by Lubitz to approve a \$150 contribution to the Area II Envirothon Program. Affirmative: Lubitz, Lefebvre, Grossman, Flottesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Page, 4

BWSR Performance Review and Assistance Program: Brad reviewed recent information received on the new BWSR Performance Review Program. More information will be coming in the next several months.

Clean Water Legacy Applications: The office has been notified that Surface Water Assessment Monitoring Grant that we applied for in cooperation with Becker County COLA has been approved by MPCA. The grant will be administered by our office and work with RMB Environmental Laboratories and Becker COLA to carry out the program. Twenty five lakes will be monitored over a two year period. Brad also noted that the Clean Water Legacy Application with the Buffalo-Red Watershed District will receive some funding.

Wetland Conservation Act: The following wetland activities were reported on:

- Brad attended a City of Detroit Lakes Environmental Review Committee meeting on the D.L. Condominiums being proposed at the current site of the bowling alley on Little Detroit Lake.
- DNR has sent information on improvements to the west access on Big Cormorant Lake. This issue will be discussed at the next TEP Meeting in February.
- The BWSR Wetland Specialists area boundaries have been finalized. Our new Wetland Specialist is Steve Hofstad, formally a Clay SWCD employee. Steve starts January 28th, and will be housed in Fergus Falls.

9:30 a.m. Chairman Lefebvre recessed the regular meeting and called to order a public hearing to hear comments on two Wetland Replacement Plan Applications.

Brad presented a Wetland Replacement Plan Application for Ron Miller. Mr. Miller is applying to construct an access road to upland. Dimensions are 36' x 122'. Total impacts are 4,392 sq. ft. to be replaced via purchase of Wetland Credits from a wetland bank. The TEP Panel has reviewed the application and had no comments. No comments have been received by the office.

Chairman Lefebvre asked for comments in opposition to the plan. Hearing none, Chairman Lefebvre asked for comments in favor of the application. None were offered.

Brad presented a Wetland Replacement Plan Application for FACE Inc. The plan calls for placing up to 4,000 sq. ft. of fill in a type 3 wetland for road re-alignment for safety purposes in a heavy pedestrian used area. The TEP has reviewed the application and asked if approved, that conditions of notifying the LGU after the area is staked, prior to filling, so the fill area can be reviewed and kept to the edge of the wetland as much as possible. No comments have been received by the office.

Chairman Lefebvre asked for comments in opposition to the plan. Hearing none, Chairman Lefebvre asked for comments in favor of the application. None were offered.

Chairman Lefebvre closed the public hearing.

Motion by Flottesch, second by Grossman to approve the Wetland Replacement Plan for Ron Miller as presented. Affirmative: Grossman, Tychsen, Flottesch, Lubitz. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Page, 5

Discussion was held on the FACE Inc. Replacement Plan.

Motion by Grossman, second by Lubitz to approve the FACE Inc. Wetland Replacement Plan with conditions that the LGU be contacted after staking and prior to filling the wetland area.

Motion by Grossman, second by Lubitz to approve the Wetland Replacement Plan for FACE Inc. with conditions as discussed. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen, Flottemesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

State Cost-share Program: The following State Cost-Share Contracts were presented for consideration:

Cont. #07-35 with Jeff Genz, field windbreak. Estimated cost \$3,063.00 Eligible Cost-Share \$2,297.00.

Cont. #08-6 with Guy Huus, shelterbelt. Estimated cost \$1,446.00. Eligible Cost-Share \$1,025.00.

Cont. #08-7 with Craig Johnston, shelterbelt. Estimated cost \$1,097.50. Eligible Cost-Share \$823.00.

Cont. #08-8 with Vance Jirave, shelterbelt. Estimated cost \$1,566.65. Eligible Cost-Share \$1,174.00.

Motion by Grossman, second by Lubitz to approve the above listed Cost-Share Contracts for the amounts listed. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen, Flottemesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The following Cost-Share Contracts were presented for payment authorization.

Contract #07-2 with Mark Green for a water and erosion control structure. Total cost \$8,000.00. As this is a joint project with the Buffalo-Red Watershed District. Eligible cost-share is 37 ½ % not to exceed \$3,000.00. The Buffalo-Red Watershed District will pay \$3,000.00 and the landowner share will be \$2,000.00.

Contract #06-2 with the Buffalo-Red Watershed District for a water and erosion control structure. Total cost \$12,478.73. Eligible approved Cost-Share is 50% not to exceed \$3,620.00.

Contract #06-27 with Darwin Huwe for an Abandoned Well Sealing. Total cost \$485.00. Eligible approved Cost-Share is \$240.00. (\$27.00 from FY06 funds and \$213.00 from FY07 funds.

Motion by Flottemesch, second by Tychsen to authorize payment of the above listed Cost-Share Contracts for the amounts presented and listed above. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Flottemesch, Grossman. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

NPEA Program: Brad presented two requests for JPB Engineering Assistance for sediment and erosion control basins for Terry Kohler and Barry Nelson.

Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Page, 6

Motion by Lubitz, second by Flottesmesch to approve the engineering request and forward them to the JPB staff. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Flottesmesch, Tyachsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Other:

- The page on the Becker SWCD that will be in the SWCD Guidebook for legislators was reviewed. It was suggested that the Administrator contact St. Paul and ask about changing the administration column to administration and technical, as a good portion of the figure shown is used for technical assistance.
- Staff presented information on establishing a Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP). All employees met with a representative from Minnesota State Retirement System and felt it was something they would all consider participating in some manner.

Motion by Tyachsen, second by Lubitz to authorize the Administrator to develop a HCSP Proposal and bring it to a future meeting for consideration. Affirmative: Tyachsen, Grossman, Lubitz, Flottesmesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

- Noted that the MASWCD Day at the Capital is scheduled for Feb. 25th and 26th.
- The CTAC Committee will be meeting January 29th in St. Cloud. Jerry and Brad will attend.
- Spring Administrative Session will be March 17th and 18th in Carlton.

Jim Ayres, Assistant State Conservationist from the Fergus Falls office, arrived and reported on the following items:

- Farm bill
- EQIP program and funding
- Changes to the NRCS computer program. Districts will have an opportunity to have two computers on the NRCS system for the price of one. Hopes to have more information at the March MASWCD Area II meeting.
- Reviewed plans for the Grazing Specialist Positions and how they will change, locations etc.
- Requesting more EQIP funding.

Being no further business, Chairman Lefebvre adjourned the meeting.

District Secretary

District Administrator