

**Becker Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 20, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, February 20, 2008, at 8:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Ag Center Building, 809 8th St. S.E., in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Those present were supervisors Dale Lubitz, Don Lefebvre, Duane Grossman, Roger Tyachsen, County Commissioner Barry Nelson, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, Dist. Technician Ed Clem, and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lefebvre.

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

The financial statements and bills payable were presented and reviewed.

Motion by Grossman, second by Lubitz to approve the financial statements and bills payable as presented. Affirmative Lubitz, Tyachsen, Grossman. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Ginger presented the 2007 Financial Statements and the Management Discussion and Analysis.

Motion by Lubitz, second by Tyachsen to approve the 2007 Financial Statements and the Management Discussion and Analysis. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tyachsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

An audit of the 2007 Financial Records will be required. Staff requested authorization to get audit quotes.

Motion by Tyachsen, second by Grossman to obtain quotes for conducting the 2007 Financial Audit. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tyachsen. Opposed: None.

Motion by Lubitz, second by Grossman to designate Bremer Bank in Detroit Lakes as the official depository and Lakes Publishing (Record and Tribune) as the official newspaper for the Becker SWCD for 2008. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tyachsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Reports:

WesMin RC&D – Don Lefebvre reported on the following WesMin RC&D items:

- Attended the Minn. Assn. of RC&D's on Jan. 30th. A new president and secretary were elected. The North Central RC&D Conference will be held in Rochester, Minn. March 9-11.
- The Dry Fire Hydrant Program has \$200,000 available statewide.
- The Productive Conservation on Working Lands program through the Three Rivers RC&D is going well. This originally was a WesMin Project.
- The Annual Meeting of the WesMin RC&D was held February 13th in Long Prairie, MN. Heard a presentation on Small Energy and Biomass Energy.
- Elected officers.
- Several awards were presented. Don was recognized for his 15 years of service to WesMin.

Dist. Conservationist Report – No report as Ed was at a WRP Session in Fergus Falls.

Dist. Technician Report: Ed Clem reported on the following:

- Completed all the Elink reporting
- Dean and Ed have been preparing several tree plans. Number of plans being requested has picked up in the last few weeks. Tree Day held Feb. 13th was well received and resulted in several windbreak contacts.
- Dean has been working on the Amy Ruley's sediment project.
- Ed reported on his most recent leadership session held Jan. 16th and 17th. The leadership trip to Washington D.C. will be March 1-5.

Wild Rice Watershed Joint Meeting – Discussed the Joint Meeting with Clay SWCD and Wild Rice Watershed District that was held February 4th in Hawley.

Non Point Engineering Assistance Program (NPEA) and Conservation Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC) – Brad reviewed the NPEA program history with the supervisors and updated them on the recent meetings Jerome and he have been attending, concerning the possible restructuring of the program. Meetings have been held with the engineering staff and host district managers. The managers were charged with developing recommendations to be brought back to the CTAC committee. All this was a result of resolutions at the MASWCD conference last December. The CTAC committee will be meeting in March to try and come up with a final recommendation to the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

No-Till Drill Program – Recently we have received requests for the No-Till Drill outside of Becker County. The most recent is from a landowner in northern Mahanomen County who would like to seed 60 acres. Brad felt with the increased cost of fuel etc. we may want to consider establishing a delivery fee for the drill program. The supervisors discussed the issue and felt that the request from other counties could be decided by the staff if it was in reason. A delivery fee was discussed.

Motion by Lubitz, second by Grossman to charge a \$75.00 delivery and set-up fee for users of the drill in Becker County and an additional mileage rate to and from Detroit Lakes using the IRS mileage rate. (currently 50 ½ cents a mile) for renters outside of Becker County. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Surface Water Monitoring Grant – Brad reported that our Clean Water Legacy Act Surface Water Assessment Monitoring Grant has been approved. The grant is for \$14,125 over a two year period and will be used to monitor 25 lakes in Becker County in cooperation with Becker COLA and RMB Environmental Laboratories. Our role will be primarily fiscal agent with monitoring samples being collected by COLA. RMB Labs will do all testing and reporting. Brad asked the supervisors to approve a resolution authorizing Don Lefebvre to sign the Monitoring Grant Agreement when it comes.

Motion by Grossman, second by Tychsen to authorize Don Lefebvre to sign the Monitoring Grant Agreement. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Water Plan Funding Request – A request from Becker COLA for Water Plan Funds to assist them with their 2007 Lake Monitoring Program was presented. In past years we have assisted COLA with their monitoring program with Water Plan Funds. As these funds have been reduced, our contribution has been less each year. Brad reported that we have a total of \$1,578.00 available in Water Plan Funds for projects. This is the balance of 2007 and 2008 funds. The total cost of the COLA monitoring in 2007 was \$1,568.00.

Motion by Tychsen, second by Grossman to contribute \$500.00 to the Becker COLA 2007 Monitoring Program and designate \$1,078.00 to the Abandoned Well Sealing Program. Affirmative: Lubitz, Tychsen, Grossman. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

NRCS Computer Options – Assistant State Conservationist Jim Ayres has asked each SWCD to respond in writing what their intentions are on the NRCS computer options. The Becker SWCD currently has 5 computer stations. As of now we will get one station from NRCS at no cost to the District. Each additional station will cost \$3,000 per year. However NRCS is offering SWCD's two for the price of one. So for \$3,000 we can have three stations on the NRCS system. Also, Jim has 4 or 5 discretionary computers he can place at no costs, but we are not assured of getting one of these. Jim is asking for a response by February 28th. Brad reported that he has talked to the Becker County IT Department and they are willing to work with us on our computer station needs if we desire. The supervisors discussed the proposal and felt it may be beneficial to try the three computer NRCS package and we may get a fourth, if not we would work with Becker County on the remaining stations. The supervisors did discuss what the out clause would be if the NRCS systems cost would increase dramatically after the first year.

Motion by Grossman, second by Tychsen to pursue the option of 3 computers on the NRCS System at a cost of \$3,000 and request consideration for one of the discretionary computer that may be available. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Area II MASWCD Meeting – will be held March 13th in Morris. Duane, Roger, Dale thought they would attend. Registration is due March 1st.

10:00 a.m. Supervisor Tychsen left at this time.

Wetland Conservation Act – Ed and Brad reported on the February 7th TEP that was held. Issues included the Big Cormorant Lake West Access Proposed Improvement. Deposit of the Nelson Banking Site, and the DL Condominiums.

Wetland Preservation Areas Program - Brad discussed the Wetland Preservation Area Program with the supervisors. Some interest in the program has been raised by persons with easements on there lands. Brad would like to set up a meeting with the Auditor/Treasurer and County Assessor to further discuss the program to see if it has a fit for Becker County. The supervisors had no objections to looking further into the program.

Soil Stewardship Week – Motion by Lubitz, second by Grossman to sponsor Soil Stewardship Week Observance as in the past. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Lefebvre. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

State Cost-share Program – Brad reported on the Native Buffer Cost-share Program. We will be getting \$15,000 to Cost-Share on establishing 25 native species plantings. It will be part of the Cost-Share Program. Staff will be attending a meeting this afternoon on the program.

The following State Cost-Share Contracts were presented for payment authorization:

Contract #07-32 with Leon Kohler. Total cost of project \$4,227.00. Eligible State Cost-Share payment after EQIP and Buffalo-Red payment = \$528.00.

Contract #07-29 with Terry Kohler. Total cost of project \$9,650.00. Eligible State Cost-Share payment after EQIP payment = \$2,025.00.

Motion by Grossman second, by Lubitz to authorize payment of the above listed contracts for the amounts listed. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Lefebvre. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The following State Cost-Share Contracts were presented for approval:

Contract #08-9 with Immanuel Lutheran Church for windbreak establishment. Total cost \$776.43, eligible Cost-Share \$485.00.

Contract #08-10 with Loren Hillukka for windbreak establishment. Total cost \$2,778.02, eligible Cost-Share \$2,083.00.

Contract #08-11 with Mike Lage for windbreak establishment. Total cost \$1,484.80, eligible Cost-Share \$1,113.00.

Contract #08-12 with Ron Crete for windbreak establishment. Total cost \$443.08, eligible Cost-Share \$285.00.

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

The following State Cost-Share Contracts were presented for cancellation:

Contract #07-28 with Gordon Myhre for an Abandoned Well Sealing.

Contract #07-31 with Bill Steffl for an Abandoned Well Sealing.

Motion by Lubitz, second by Grossman to cancel the above listed State Cost-Share Contracts. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Lefebvre. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Abandoned Well Sealing Contract AW #451 with Robert Mikulecky was presented for payment authorization. Total cost \$650.00. Eligible Cost-Share from Water Plan Funds \$240.00.

Motion by Lubitz, second by Grossman to authorize payment of Well Sealing Contract AW #451 for \$240.00 from Water Plan Funds. Affirmative: Grossman, Lubitz, Lefebvre. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Annual Plan of Operations – Brad reported that the Annual Plan is not complete, so no action was taken.

Informational Items:

- Area II MASWCD Meeting, March 13th in Morris. We will leave the office at 7:30. Duane, Dale and Roger indicated they would attend.
- Township Weed Inspectors Training will be March 20th in Callaway, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30.
- Spring Administration Session March 17-18th. Ginger and Marsha will attend.
- Acknowledged thank you letter from the Area II Envirothon Committee.
- NRCS inquired if the District wished to start using the postage meter. Staff responded no at this time as did not see any benefit in doing so.

Being no further business, motion by Grossman, second by Lubitz to adjourn. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Lefebvre. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Approved: Jerome Flottesch, Becker SWCD Secretary

Date: March 19, 2008