

**Becker Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 19, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, March 19, 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, Jerome Flottesch, Duane Grossman, Roger Tyachsen, County Commissioner Barry Nelson, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn. Dist. Technicians Ed Clem and Dean Hendrickson, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant.

The meeting was called to order by Vice- Chairman Lubitz.

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

The 1st Quarter Supervisors' Vouchers and the February Financial Statements and Bills Payable were presented and reviewed.

Motion by Grossman, second by Tyachsen to approve the Financial Statements and authorize payment of the 1st Quarter Supervisor's Vouchers and Bills Payable as presented. Affirmative Tyachsen, Grossman, Flottesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Reports:

Area II Meeting – Jerome, Roger, Duane, Dale and Brad attended the Area II MASWCD meeting in Morris on March 13th. Committee reports were heard along with the proposed changes to the NPEA Program. A motion was passed that Area II does not support the changing of MASWCD area boundaries to match the new NPEA Areas as this is not a long term fix and has no bearing on current MASWCD areas. A presentation on Crop Residue Implication with Biomass for Energy Production was given by Dr. Don Reicosky, USDA Ag Research Service. The next Area II meeting is June 12th in West Otter Tail.

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

- The Farm Bill has been extended for one month.
- Received additional EQIP funding for 2 more contracts for a total of 24 contracts totaling \$280,000.
- Board members of the Pelican River Watershed District are meeting with landowners on the Rice Lake Restoration Project and explaining the various easement options.

8:30 a.m. Supervisor Lefebvre arrived. Vice-Chairman Lubitz turned the chair over to Chairman Lefebvre.

WesMin RC&D – Don reported the March WesMin Meeting will be held next week.

Hay Creek Watershed Project – Ed M., Brad, Board Conservationists Pete Waller and Chad Severts, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District Administrator Bruce Albright and Brennon Schaefer of Houston Engineering met on March 18th to discuss the work plan for the Hay Creek Watershed Project located west of Lake Park. The watershed covers 24 sq. miles and has been awarded a \$185,000 Clean Water Legacy Grant to install a variety of conservation measures in the watershed. Brennon will be finalizing the work plan. Once submitted we will work with the Buffalo-Red Watershed District on contacting landowners interested in installing sediment basins, buffer strips etc. using the EQIP and Continuous CRP program. Incentives will be offered using grant funds.

**Becker Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 19, 2008
Page 2**

MASWCD Leadership Institute – Dist. Technician Ed Clem reported on his latest Leadership Institute Session. This was the session that took the group to Washington D.C. March 1-5. Ed reviewed the highlights of the session and noted it was a good educational experience. He had an opportunity to meet with our national leaders which included a visit with Representative Collin Peterson on the new farm bill legislation that is currently being developed. This was the 5th of 7 sessions that are part of the Leadership Training Institute. The MASWCD has been offering these institutes since 1995.

Dist. Technicians Report – Ed and Dean reported on the following:

- attended a one day training in the area NRCS office on sediment basins.
- have continued to develop several tree plans
- assisted with Ag-in-the-Classroom Program held at the vo-tech for area 4th graders

Tree Program – Brad reported that trees sales are good. Trees are scheduled to be delivered on April 18th and 21st, with pick-up day scheduled for April 26th. It appears we will exceed the amount of Cost-Share Dollars set aside for trees.

Motion by Flottesmesch, second by Lubitz to remove the limit of the total amount of Cost-Share Dollars to be used on windbreaks this year. Affirmative: Lubitz, Flottesmesch, Grossman, Tychsens. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

CTAC & WCMJPB Meeting – Jerome and Brad reported on the March 12th Meeting of the Conservation Technical Advisory Committee and their reorganization proposal that will be presented to the Board of Water and Soil Resources. The proposal calls for re-aligning the JPB areas down to eight and seek modification of MAWCD area boundaries as well. They also reported on the West Central Minn. Joint Powers Board meeting that was held March 5th.

Clean Water Legacy Grants – Brad reported that the final signatures and approvals have been completed for the Surface Water Assessment Monitoring Program Grant through MPCA. The program will allow for monitoring 25 area lakes over the next two years in cooperation with RMB Labs. Also the Buffalo-Red Watershed Districts Clean Water Legacy Application for the Hay Creek Watershed has been awarded \$185,000 for that project. The Becker SWCD will also manage a \$10,000 buffer initiative within the Hay Creek Watershed as part of the program.

Wetland Preservation Area Program – Ed M., Brad, John Voz, and Board Conservationist Pete Waller met with Becker County Auditor/Treasurer Ryan Tangen, County Assessor Steve Skoog, County Commissioner Barry Nelson, and Office Assistant Mary Hendrickson to discuss the Wetland Preservation Area Program. The program allows for tax exemption on certain wetlands as determined by a priority process. Taxes are paid by the State of Minnesota for the eligible wetlands that are accepted. Some questions raised at the meeting will be looked into and the group may meet again to discuss the program further to see if it is something Becker County may want to consider.

Spring Administrative Session – Ginger reported on the Spring Administrative Session that Marsha and her attended on March 17 and 18th. They thought it was a very informative and worthwhile session. Sessions included Changing for Good, Web Site Information, Forestry, Roberts Rules of Order, Vision Web, Financial Reporting with CPA James Maiser, and Strategies for Dealing with Difficult Behaviors. Both thought that

**Becker Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 19, 2008
Page 3**

Jim Mulder, Executive Director of the AMC, did an excellent Job on Open Meeting Laws and the Vision Web.

Computer update - Brad reviewed the latest email from Jim Ayres concerning the NRCS computer changes. Last meeting, we decided to pay for one seat and receive a second at no cost. That with the one free seat will give us 3 computer stations with a chance of receiving one additional. If we don't receive a fourth, we will have to hook up two to our own system. Rick Kelsven, Becker County IT head, will work with us on our computer hook-up needs.

Conservation Tour – Discussion was held on the Conservation Tour scheduled for June 17th. Brad reported that the First Lutheran Church in Audubon would be willing to prepare the lunch. Cost would be \$8.00 per meal with a \$50 facility fee. A tentative route is being developed. Will be contacting Anderson Bus Co. to price a coach bus for the tour.

Wild Rice Watershed District Presentation – Wild Rice Watershed District Board Chairman Warren Seykora, Administrator Steve Dalen and Jerry Bents of Houston Engineering gave a presentation on flood reduction projects being discussed in the watershed. Jerry discussed on channel proposals and off channel. The watershed is considering applying for an Agricultural Watershed Restoration Projects Grant through the Board of Water and Soil Resources. Warren asked if the Becker SWCD would be willing to be listed as a potential partner for the application.

Motion by Tychsen, second by Grossman to allow the Wild Rice Watershed to list the Becker SWCD as a partner for the Agricultural Watershed Restoration Projects Grant and send a Letter of Support if requested. Affirmative: Lubitz, Flottemesch, Grossman, Tychsen. Opposed: None: Motion carried.

Job Approval Authority - Ed M. presented an updated Job Approval Authority recommendation for Dist. Tech. Dean Hendrickson as recommended by Scott Smith, NRCS Area Engineer.

Motion by Flottemesch, second by Lubitz to approve the job approval authority for Dist. Tech. Dean Hendrickson as recommended. Affirmative: Lubitz, Tychsen, Grossman, Flottemesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Ag-in-the-Classroom – A request from the Ag-in-the-Classroom Program Coordinators Mary Ann and Lowell Jorgenson was presented. They are requesting a donation to assist in sponsoring the event. The classroom program reaches all area 4th graders and teaches many different types of agricultural production. The event is held each year at the vocational college and also at the Frazee Elementary.

Motion by Tychsen, second by Lubitz to contribute \$125.00 to the Ag-in-the-Classroom Program. Affirmative: Lubitz, Tychsen, Grossman, Flottemesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Museum request – The Becker County Museum has requested a copy of any old plat books that we may have so they could have them for the museum.

Motion by Tychsen, second by Grossman to donate a copy of any old plat books that the office may have. Affirmative: Lubitz, Flottemesch, Tychsen, Grossman. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

**Becker Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 19, 2008
Page 4**

Water Plan Funds – It was reported that there is a balance of undesignated water plan funds of \$841.00 for 2008. The supervisors did not designate it at this time and will leave it in the miscellaneous category for now.

5th Grade Conservation Tour – Motion by Lubitz, second by Tychsen to sponsor the 5th Grade Conservation Tour as in the past. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen, Flottesmesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Wetland Conservation Act – Brad read an email from Tim Browning, MN. DNR concerning the Forest Riders ATV Trail Project. The public input process is completed. When Tim gets final approval he will let us know. The Forest Riders are not authorized to receive any reimbursement until a final agreement is obtained. Once this is obtained we will proceed with the Wetland Replacement Plan.

Ag Inspector Program – The Annual Township Weed meeting is March 20th in Callaway, at 9:00 a.m. Brad reviewed the agenda. Brad also noted that Marsha and he are considering presenting at the First Annual Minnesota Invasive Species Conference on October 26-28, in Duluth. We would present our Comprehensive Weed Management Area Program. Expenses can come from our foundation grant.

Cost-share Contracts – The following State Cost-Share Contracts were presented for consideration.
Contract #07-36 with John Haack, windbreak. Estimated cost \$760.28. Eligible Cost-Share \$544.00.
(\$483 from FY-07 funds, \$61.00 from FY-08 funds.)
Contract #08-13 with Justin Carlson, windbreak. Estimated cost \$1,431.00. Eligible Cost-Share \$1,073.00.
Contract #08-14 with Clayton Abel, windbreak. Estimated cost \$1,693.96. Eligible Cost-Share \$1,246.00.
Contract #08-15 with Robert Borash, windbreak. Estimated cost \$3,502.25. Eligible Cost-Share \$2,626.00.
Contract #08-16 with Mike Namtvedt, windbreak. Estimated cost \$1,119.53. Eligible Cost-Share \$768.00.
Contract #08-17 with Dean Mertens, windbreak. Estimated cost \$1,082.50. Eligible Cost-Share \$811.00.
Contract #08-18 with Daran Borth, windbreak. Estimated cost \$1,715.15. Eligible Cost-Share \$1,287.00.
Contract #08-19 with Duane Jasken, windbreak. Estimated cost \$3,079.28. Eligible Cost-Share \$2,309.00.

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

The following Abandoned Well Sealing contracts were presented for payment authorization.

Contract AW #441 with James Lee. Cost of sealing \$1,311.59. Eligible Cost-Share \$240.00.

Motion by Grossman, second by Lubitz to authorize payment of Contract AW #441 for \$240.00. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Flottesmesch, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The following Abandoned Well Sealing Contracts were presented for consideration. Three are new and one re-sign up for a canceled contract.

Contract AW#457 with Paul Hogenson,
Contract AW#458 with Bob Koenig,
Contract AW#459 with Victor Aho Jr.,
Contract AW#460 with Lake Shore Terrace Condo Assn.

Motion by Lubitz, second by Flottesmesch to approve the above listed Well Sealing Contracts for 50% of the cost, not to exceed \$240.00 per contract.

**Becker Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 19, 2008
Page 5**

Annual Plan of Operations – The 2008 Annual Plan of Operations was reviewed and presented for approval. Once approved it will be put on our web site.

Motion by Tychsen, second by Flottemesch to approve the 2008 Annual Plan of Operations. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen, Flottemesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Other – Ginger mentioned that Douglas SWCD obtains gas for their vehicles through their county.

Motion by Lubitz, second by Tychsen to look into the possible purchase of vehicle gas through Becker County. Affirmative: Lubitz, Flottemesch, Grossman, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

March 28th WCA Enforcement Training session in Bemidji

April 2nd Envirothon meeting

April 16th Wetland training for Ed Clem in Cloquet. Certification credits.

Being no further business, motion by Flottemesch, second by Lubitz to adjourn. Affirmative: Lubitz, Flottemesch, Grossman and Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motions carried.

Becker SWCD District Secretary

District Administrator