

**Becker Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
April 16, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, April 16, 2008, at 8:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Ag Center Building, 809 8th St. S.E., Detroit Lakes, MN. Those present were supervisors Roger Tychsen, Duane Grossman, Don Lefebvre, Dale Lubitz, County Commissioner Barry Nelson, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, Dist. Technician Dean Hendrickson, and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lefebvre.

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

The financial reports and bills payable were presented and reviewed.

Motion by Tychsen, second by Grossman to approve the financial reports and payment of listed bills. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Brad reviewed the letter we received from BWSR Board Conservationist Chad Severts on our 2004 and 2005 State Cost-Share closeout. Chad complimented the District on its success in administrating the State Cost-Share Program and its success in using the funds it is allocated. He also suggested that the Board review the technical representative portion of the program and sign off authority for Cost-Share Contracts.

Reports:

WesMin RC&D – Don reported on the following items from the March 20th and April 9th WesMin RC&D meetings:

- The judgments against WesMin have been paid. All counties except two have contributed so far.
- The papers to transfer the Smokey Timbers Camp property are being prepared.
- Reported on the Dry Hydrant Program, the Frazee Fire Dept. is the most recent in our area.

District Technician – Dist. Technician Dean Hendrickson reported on the following:

- Rapping up some final tree plans.
- Checked some elevation on the old Amer Froyland dam and the Landrum Gun Club dam.

Chairman Lefebvre presented Dean a certificate for his thirty years of service to the Becker SWCD.

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

- FSA has announced a new CRP Program called SAFE, which is for pheasant habitat.
- Minnesota was allocated an additional \$400,000 for the WHIP program. Becker County was able to approve 2 additional WHIP contract due to the increase in funding.
- Area Conservationist Jim Ayres is retiring April 25th. An open house at the area office will be the 24th.

Hay Creek Watershed Project – Ed Musielewicz reported on the Hay Creek Project. Soil Conservationist Kevin Gietzen has sent letters to 85 landowners and has had inquiries from 14 landowners. Brad and Ed met with Buffalo-Red Watershed Dist. Manager Bruce Albright and Brennon Schaefer from Houston Engineering to discuss the grant amounts and breakdowns of funds.

Tree Program – Trees will be arriving on the 18th and 21st. The tree planter has been repaired and is ready. We hope to be done with the tree program mid-May.

Computer Update – Brad reviewed information on the NRCS computer program. We will end up with three on the NRCS system for a cost of \$3,000 a year. We will work with Becker County IT Department to get the remaining two on a different system.

Conservation Tour – Arrangements for the Invasive Species and Conservation Tour for June 17th are progressing. A tentative route has been outlined. An informational booklet for tour sites to be given to attendees is being prepared. An invite list has been developed.

Web Page Update – Staff presented the latest changes to our web page. Election material and information on the history of the District has been added. The Year-End Financial statements will be added shortly.

Envirothon – Ginger reported on the Area II Envirothon to be held April 23 Luther Crest near Alexandria. Thirty-eight teams have indicated they will attend. The State Envirothon is scheduled for May 14th in Fergus Falls.

Weed Meeting – Brad reported on the Annual Township Weed Meeting in Callaway. Good attendance and meeting went well.

5th Grade Conservation Tour – All schools have been contacted for this years 5th Grade Conservation Tour at the Ike Fischer Farm to be held May 12 & 13. We are waiting to hear from our presenters so we can develop a final schedule.

Earth Day Display – The Detroit Lakes Middle School is having an Earth Day observance on April 22nd. Ed Musielewicz, John Voz and Marsha Watland will set up a couple display tables on various activities the office works with.

Capital for a Day – The District has been contacted on having a display for the Capitol for a Day observance for the City of Detroit Lakes on May 14th. The Supervisor suggested we use our 60th Anniversary as the theme for the display.

JPB Engineering Requests – The following requests for West Central Minnesota Joint Powers Board engineering assistance were presented:

Terry Kohler – sediment control basins – survey, design and construction check.

Kevan Nelson – sediment control basins – survey, design and construction check.

Barry Nelson – sediment control basins – survey, design and construction check.

L.E. Hanson Farms, John Hanson – sediment control basins – survey, design, construction check.

Motion by Grossman, second by Tyschen to approve the requests for JPB engineering assistance and forward them to the JPB staff. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tyschen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) – Brad reported that Ed and he attended WCA Enforcement Training in Bemidji on March 28th. A very good session was put on by the Conservation Officers.

Ed is attending a wetland training session in Cloquet today. It qualifies toward his certification credits.

A Wetland Replacement Plan for the Forest Riders ATV Club was presented. The plan calls for impacting 9,500 sq. ft. of Type 6 Wetland along County Highway 44 in Section 10 of Two Inlets Township. Action has been delayed on this until a GIA trail designation is complete. The impacts will allow for a ten foot wide trail in the ditch bottom on county road right-of-way. Reasons for the proposal are strongly tied to safety concerns of ATV jumping on to the road shoulder of a very busy county highway. Wetland replacement will be via the purchase of 19,000 sq. ft. of wetland credits from an established wetland bank. This project has been discussed at several previous meetings.

Motion by Tychsen, second by Lubitz to approve the Wetland Replacement Plan for the Forest Riders ATV Club. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Ag Inspector Program – Brad reported that we have been awarded a \$30,000 Cooperative Weed Management Area grant through the Board of Water and Soil Resources. The Pulling Together Initiative Committee will be meeting tomorrow. Marsha has been working on addressing concerns on weed transport via gravel pits and hauling; also, has done some seeding sampling this spring.

Cost-share Contracts –

Abandoned Well Sealing Contract AW#443 with St. Peters Church was presented for payment authorization. Total sealing cost \$470.00. Eligible Cost-Share \$235.00.

Motion by Lubitz, second by Tychsen to authorize payment on contract AW#443 in the amount of \$235.00. Affirmative: Lubitz, Tychsen, Grossman. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The following Windbreak Cost-Share Contracts were presented for consideration:

Contract #08-20 with Don Wyatt, windbreak. Est. cost \$739.91. Eligible Cost-Share \$542.00.

Contract #08-22 with Tony Zurn, windbreak. Est. cost \$898.75. Eligible Cost-Share \$674.00.

Contract #08-23 with Jason Bessler, windbreak. Est. cost \$600.20. Eligible Cost-Share \$431.00.

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

The following Sediment Control Basin Cost-Share Contracts were presented for consideration.

Contract #08-21 with Foltz Farms, for nine sediment control basins. Est. cost \$43,254.00. This is also an EQIP Project. Total eligible state Cost-Share is \$4,341.00. The recommendation is to allow \$2,171.00 in State Cost-Share funds and \$2,170.00 from the Buffalo-Red Watershed Dist. allocation.

Contract #08-24 with Okeson Farms, for four Sediment Control Basins. Est. cost \$31,212.00. This is also an EQIP Project. Total eligible State Cost-Share is \$5,428.00. The recommendation is to allow \$3,228.00 in State Cost-Share and \$2,200.00 from the Buffalo-Red Watershed Dist. allocation.

Motion by Lubitz, second by Tychsen to approve contract #08-21 for 75% of the cost, not to exceed \$2,171.00, from State Cost-Share Funds and \$2,170.00 from Buffalo-Red funds, and approve contract #08-24 for 75% of the cost, not to exceed \$3,228.00 in State Cost-Share Funds and \$2,200.00 from Buffalo-Red funds. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The following Native Buffer Program Cost-Share Contracts were presented for consideration:

Contact #NB-08-1 with the City of Detroit Lakes. Establish 3.0 acres of native buffer in 2008. Estimated cost \$4,642.00. Eligible Cost-Share 75% not to exceed \$3,481.00.

Contract #NB-08-2 with the City of Detroit Lakes. Establish 3.0 acres of native buffer in 2009. Estimated cost \$5,106.00. Eligible Cost-Share 75% not to exceed \$3,829.00.

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

Other – Ginger noted that during the year with tree sales, plat books etc. it is difficult to make adequate change for customers. We currently have a \$52.00 petty cash fund. Ginger requested increasing the amount of the petty cash fund.

Motion by Lubitz, second by Tychsen to increase the petty cash fund balance to \$150.00. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

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

Approved: Dale Lubitz, Vice-Chairman, Becker SWCD

Date: May 21, 2008