

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 21, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, May 21, 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, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, Dist. Technician Dean Hendrickson and Ed Clem, 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 Grossman, second by Lubitz to approve the financial reports and payment of listed bills. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Pay Equity – Brad noted that we have been notified by the Department of Employee Relations that our most recent Pay Equity Report is in compliance.

Audit – Ginger presented quotes from Jim Maiser, Certified Public Accountant and Consultant on conducting an audit of the 2007 financial year. Also presented a quote for auditing the West Central Minnesota Joint Powers Board (WCMJPB), as we are the fiscal agent for the JPB. Cost quoted is \$1650 and \$1400 respectively.

Motion by Tychsen, second by Grossman to accept the audit quotes and hire Jim Maiser to conduct the audits of the Becker SWCD and the WCMJPB. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Reports:

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

- WesMin sent out a letter to all member counties on the payment by counties for the recent employee issue.
- Smokey Timbers will be designated as a Forestry Learning Center.
- A Model-T Tour of the Glacial Ridge Trail is scheduled for Sept. 5-7.
- A competence hearing is scheduled for May 28th for a former employee.
- John Schmidt completed a report detailing hybrid poplar resources, wood production, estimated acres and locations, costs, and other information available on hybrid poplar and wood resources available within a 50 to 100 mile radius of Little Falls.

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

- Jeff Norby has been working with the City of Detroit Lakes on establishing native buffers around the city sediment and stormwater retention ponds. Cost-share through the BWSR Native Buffer Cost Share Program.
- WCMJPB ran sediment basin design surveys for Terry Kohler, John Hanson, Nelson Farms.
- Soil Conservationist Kevin Gietzen continues to contact landowners in the Hay Creek Watershed as part of the Clean Water Legacy Project.

- Colleen Osterich is the new Assistant State Conservationist for Area II. She replaces Jim Ayres who retired in April.
- The CRP Safe Program sign-up is ongoing. 200 acres signed up to date.

8:20 a.m. Jim Shaw a resident on Lake Melissa arrived. Jim stated he saw the meeting notice on the County Web Page and decided to attend. He had no special information for the Board.

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

- Completed the spring tree program.
- Interest in no-till drill rental is up.
- Assisted with 5th Grade Conservation Tour.

Tree Program – Staff reported that the District Tree Program is complete for this year. Over 34,000 trees were purchased by 230 landowners. Twenty-three landowners received cost-sharing to install windbreaks. The SWCD planted 14 jobs with the district tree planter.

Area and State Envirothon – Ginger reported that 30 teams took part in the Area II Envirothon held at Luther Crest near Alexandria, on April 23rd. A team from Morris High School placed first in the event with Breckenridge coming in second. The State Envirothon was held May 14th at the Prairie Wetland Center in Fergus Falls with 32 teams taking part. St. John's placed first with Mankato coming in second.

5th Grade Conservation Tour – The 41st Annual 5th Grade Conservation Tour was held May 12th and 13th at the Ike Fischer Farm near Frazee. Six area schools took part with 402 students taking part in this outdoor educational activity. Twenty people representing 10 agencies assisted with the event along with three private volunteers.

Earth Day and Capital for a Day – The Becker SWCD and NRCS had displays at two events. On April 22nd Earth Day was held at the Middle School. Marsha had an invasive weed display and Ed Musielewicz and John Voz had a display on mapping and how we use them in our work. On May 14th, Jeff Norby and Brad had a Conservation District and NRCS display at the Pavilion for the Capital for a Day celebration.

Conservation Tour – Brad updated the supervisors on the arrangements for our Conservation Tour to be held June 17th. Ninety-one invites have been out. The bus will leave First Lutheran Church in Audubon at 8:30 a.m. with a 12:30 lunch at the church following the tour.

Farm Bill Assistance Program – Brad presented an email from Brain Dwight of BWSR inquiring if we or Clay SWCD had interest in participating in a Phase VIII Farm Bill Assistance Grant with the Wild Rice Watershed District. The supervisors had no interest in applying at this time.

Wetland Conservation Act

- DNR is hoping to fly Becker County yet this spring.
- Staff has responded to two violations that were addressed last year. There seems to be some miss-understanding on what actually took place. Staff feels both issues will be cleared up.
- Working on the beaver dam removal violation from last year. Project design is complete and plans provided to the contractor.

Ag Inspector Program

- Marsha has been working with landowners on invasive weed treatments, etc.
- Our BWSR Cooperative Weed Management Grant has been reduced from \$30,000 to \$24,000, due to budget cuts.
- We have been notified that our Fish and Wildlife Foundation Pulling Together Grant request has been approved. The amount approved is \$75,000 for FY 09 – FY 10.
- The late spring weed issues and bio-control beetle collection is approximately two weeks behind.

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

Cont. #07-36 with John Haack. Windbreak – total cost \$760.26. Eligible Cost-Share payment \$544.00. (\$483.00 from FY07 funds, \$61.00 from FY08 funds.)

Cont. #08-5 with Paul Okeson. Windbreak – total cost \$979.50. Eligible Cost-Share payment \$734.00.

Cont. #08-6 with Guy Huus. Windbreak – total cost \$1,446.08. Eligible Cost-Share payment \$1,025.00.

Cont. #08-19 with Duane Jasken. Windbreak – total cost \$3,079.28. Eligible Cost-Share payment \$2,309.00.

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

Cont. #08-2 with Donald Holm, Abandoned Well Sealing Contract – total cost \$423.50. Eligible Cost-Share payment \$211.75. (Landowner needs to sign voucher).

Motion by Grossman, second by Tychsen to authorize payment of contract #08-2 in the amount of \$211.75, upon receipt of the signed voucher. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The following Abandoned Well Sealing Contracts were presented for consideration:

Contract AW#461 with Olga Root, funding from CLWP funds.

Contract AW#462 with Lloyd Jirava, funding from CLWP funds.

State Cost-Share Contract #08-25 with Ben Walters for well sealing.

State Cost-Share Contract #08-26 with Orpha Poehl for well sealing.

State Cost-Share Contract #08-27 with Brian Wierima for well sealing.

State Cost-Share Contract #08-28 with Robert Scherzer for well sealing.

Motion by Grossman, second by Lubitz to approve the above listed Well Sealing Contracts for 50% of the cost, not to exceed \$240.00 per contract. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Other:

- Brad reported that resolutions for this year's state conference are due at the Area II meeting on June 12th if we have any to present. The supervisors had no resolution.
- Area II meeting near Rothsay on June 12th. All supervisors indicated they plan to attend.
- The West Central Joint Powers Board will be meeting on June 4th.

- An airport meeting with SHE is tentative scheduled for Friday May 23rd. This date could change due to some not being able to attend.
- Brad reminded the supervisors that three positions are open this year. Filing starts in early July.
- Ginger reported that the office copier is in need of major cleaning, could cost \$700 or \$800. It is eight years old. Supervisors instructed staff to obtain prices on replacing the copier and bring to the next meeting.

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

Approved: Duane Grossman, Becker SWCD Treasurer Date: June 18, 2008