

Becker Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
June 18, 2008

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, June 18, 2008, at 8:00 a.m., in the Conference Room of the Ag Center Building, 809 8th St. S.E., Detroit Lakes, Minn.

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. Technicians Ed Clem and Dean Hendrickson, and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant. Guest present: Jim Shaw.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lefebvre.

Motion by Tychsen, second by Lubitz to approve the May 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.

The second quarter supervisors' vouchers and extra meetings were presented for payment authorization. The extra meetings were the following:

- June 4th – WCMJPB Meeting – Jerome
- June 12th – Area II Meeting in Rothsay – Jerry, Duane, Don, Dale, Roger
- June 17th – Conservation Tour – Jerry, Duane, Don, Dale

Motion by Tychsen, second by Lubitz to approve the extra supervisors meetings and authorize payment. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Brad noted that the 2009 budgets are due to the County Administrator, August 11, 2008. Also, reported on our state allocations for 2009.

Reports:

WesMin RC&D – Don reported on the following items from the June 11th RC&D meeting:

- Activity is picking up at the Smokey Timbers Camp. The ST Committee and volunteers cleaned up the camp some more on May 21st. The committee continues to raise funds to maintain the camp and is planning events.
- Looking for an auditor to audit the books.
- The former employee pleaded guilty. A \$12,000 settlement was ordered.
- Rosholt Farm is doing a Hybrid Poplar Energy Evaluation Project. This project will provide valuable information for energy businesses who may want to use poplars for cellulosic ethanol or burning for wood energy.
- New RC&D Forester

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

- The new Farm Bill has been passed.
- Currently in an EQIP scoring period.

- Beginning farmers that have been farming less than 10 years are eligible for 90% cost-share.
- Submitted a request for \$5,600 in contribution agreement funds for some sediment basin projects.
- The new Area Conservationist is Colleen Oestrich, she started her duties June 9th.

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

- Thirteen landowners used the no-till drill this spring to seed just over 1,000 acres.
- Dean is working with the Lake Park Audubon Elementary on the foot bridge across the wetland at their educational site.
- WCA requests have been picking up. Met with DNR Conservation Officers on a reported violation.
- Met with Cormorant Lakes Watershed Dist. officials on the run-off problem on the east side of Cormorant Lake.
- Checked the cost-shared hand plant tree sites.

West Central Minn. Joint Powers Board Meeting (WCMJPB): Brad reported that the WCMJPB met on June 4th. The board reviewed the technician's position and benefits for FY09. Discussed the dissolving of the current JPB structure and the proposed new boundaries. The CTAC committee will be meeting in July to finalize the re-organization plan to be presented to BWSR.

Conservation Tour: Discussed the Conservation-Invasive Species Tour held yesterday. All went well, the weather was perfect. Chairman Lefebvre complimented the staff for a job well done.

Area II MASWCD Meeting: Area II MASWCD meeting was held June 12th. All supervisors attended. Two resolutions were presented at the meeting. Next area meeting is in November.

Soil Stewardship Observance: Ginger reported that the District provided 4,000 pieces of literature to 17 area churches for the Soil Stewardship Week Observance, April 27-May 4th.

DNR Well Monitoring Contract: Brad presented the FY09 contract with Minn. DNR for monitoring the observation wells in the Pineland Sands and Pelican River Sand plains areas. The contract is the same as in the past and is in the amount of \$2,160.

Motion by Grossman, second by Tychsen to approve the well monitoring contract with DNR for FY2009. Affirmative: Grossman, Tychsen, Lubitz. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Wetland Conservation Act: Have been following up on some reported violations and issuing some exemptions for projects.

Ag Inspector Report: Invasive species program is going well. Treatment of last falls test sites were successful and provided valuable information on what chemicals work best on certain species. Also, are starting to receive a few complaints on thistle. Brad and Marsha will be attending the Ag Inspectors conference in late July.

Cost-share contracts: The following State Cost-share contracts for tree plantings were presented for payment authorization:

- Cont. #08-12 with Ron Crete - windbreak. Total cost \$443.08. Eligible cost-share payment \$285.00.
- Cont. #08-17 with Dean Mertens – windbreak. Total cost \$1,082.50. Eligible cost-share payment \$811.00.
- Cont. #09-14 with Clayton Able – windbreak. Total cost \$1,693.96. Eligible cost-share payment \$1,246.00.
- Cont. #08-7 with Craig Johnston – windbreak. Total cost \$1,097.50. Eligible cost-share payment \$823.00.

Cont. #07-35 with Jeff Genz – windbreak. Total cost \$3,063.00. Eligible cost-share payment \$2,297.00.
Cont. #08-15 with Bob Borash – windbreak. Total cost \$3,636.95. Eligible cost-share payment \$2,626.00.
Cont. #08-10 with Ross Hillukka – windbreak. Total cost \$2,778.02. Eligible cost-share payment \$2,083.00.
Cont. #08-08 with Vance Jirava – windbreak. Total cost \$1,566.65. Eligible cost-share payment \$1,174.00.
Cont. #08-22 with Tony Zurn – windbreak. Total cost \$923.75. Eligible cost-share payment \$674.00.
Cont. #08-18 with Daran Borth – windbreak. Total cost \$1,715.15. Eligible cost-share payment \$1,286.00.
Cont. #08-23 with Jason Bessler – windbreak. Total cost \$600.20. Eligible cost-share payment \$431.00.
Cont. #08-16 with Mike Namtvedt – windbreak. Total cost \$1,119.53. Eligible cost-share payment \$768.00.
Cont. #08-4 with Dan Jacobson – windbreak. Total cost \$145.31. Eligible cost-share payment \$108.00.
Cont. #08-11 with Mike Lage – windbreak. Total cost \$1,513.55. Eligible cost-share payment \$1,113.00.
Cont. #08-13 with Justin Carlson – windbreak. Total cost \$1,431.00. Eligible cost-share payment \$1,073.00.
Cont. #08-20 with Don Wyatt – windbreak. Total cost \$818.66. Eligible cost-share payment. \$542.00.

Motion by Lubitz, second by Grossman to authorize payment of the above listed contracts in the amounts presented upon receipt of signed vouchers for each contact. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The following abandoned well sealing contracts were presented for payment authorization:

Cont. #08-27 with Brian & Chrissy Wierima. Total sealing cost \$756.86. Eligible cost-share payment \$240.00
Cont. AW#458 with Bob Koenig. Total cost of sealing \$235.00. Eligible cost-share payment \$117.50.

Motion by Lubitz, second by Tychsen to authorize payment of the above listed well sealing contracts. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

A cost-share amendment was requested for contract #NB-08-1 with the City of Detroit Lakes. The amendment is for additional \$187.00 cost-share due to seed cost on the native buffer project the city completed.

Motion by Tychsen, second by Lubitz to approve amendment #1 for contract #NB-08-01 for an additional cost-share amount of \$187.00. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Cost-share contract NB-08-1 with the City of Detroit Lakes was presented for payment authorization. Total cost of project \$4,891.95. Eligible payment \$3,668.00.

Motion by Grossman, second by Tychsen to authorize payment of contract #NB-08-1 in the amount of \$3,668.00. Affirmative: Grossman, Tychsen, Lubitz. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Cost-share contract #08-29 with Pete Jacobson for a sediment control basin was presented for consideration. Estimated cost \$4,334.00. As this is also an EQIP project the eligible state cost-share amount is \$971.00.

Motion by Lubitz, second by Tychsen to approve contract #08-29 for 75% of the cost not to exceed \$971.00. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

District Capacity Awards Program: Ginger handed out copies of the District Capacity Awards Program entry and asked the supervisors take it home and review it for areas they may have contributed in. Also, noted that the Conservationist of the Year nominee is due. Some names were discussed for consideration. Will need to decide at the July meeting.

Elections: Brad reminded Dale and Duane that their terms of office are up and filing for re-election runs from July 1st – 15th. Dist. #2 held by Roger Tychsen is open for election also. Roger cannot file as he moved from Dist. #2. The filing fee is \$20.00 for SWCD Supervisors.

Other:

- A request for engineering assistance from the JPB staff was presented for Matt Bjerke for a sediment basin.

Motion by Grossman, second by Lubitz to approve the request and forward it to the JPB staff.

Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

- MASWCD is offering a new leadership session. Registration deadline is July 11th.
- Commissioner Nelson complimented the District on the recent Conservation Tour and the Ag Inspector Program accomplishments.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Lefebvre.

Approved: Jerome Flottesch, District Secretary Dated: July 16, 2008