

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

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, July 16, 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, Jerome Flottemesch, 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 June 18th Minutes as sent out and received by the supervisors. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Flottemesch, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The financial reports and bills payable were presented and reviewed.

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

Notice received on the change to the IRS mileage rate from 50.5 cents to 58.5 cents effective July 1st.

Motion by Tychsen, second by Lubitz to continue to follow the IRS mileage rate and authorize the 58.5 cent rate effective July 1, 2008. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Flottemesch, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Reports:

WesMin RC&D – Don reported on the following items from the July 9th RC&D meeting:

- Director Dean Schmidt reviewed the RC&D handbook with the WesMin Board.
- Jim Maiser has been approved to audit the WesMin RC&D financial records.
- Smokey Timbers Camp - volunteers have been working on painting the showers, cleaning up the camp, advertising etc.
- There will be a grazing tour August 2nd in Wadena County.
- Carol Berg is the new treasurer for RC&D Association

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

- Scoring period for EQIP just ended. Twelve applicants totaling \$350,000 in requests. This is for grazing plans, sediment basins, ag waste systems. Lots of diversity. Payments of EQIP Projects this year in Becker County will approach \$600,000.
- New farm bill provides more money for the WHIP and WRP programs.
- Construction is starting on three WRP projects in Becker County.
- Presented proposals to 6 landowners on the restoration of Pierce Lake in Hamden Twp. Haven't heard back from them.
- Soil Conservationist Kevin Gietzen's last day in our office is Friday, July 18th. We will get a new Soil Conservationist, Dan Pasernik will start on September 2nd.

Ed presented a Contribution Agreement for the Boards consideration. It is for 12 months and is for assistance that the SWCD will supply for the next 12 months on sediment and erosion control basin projects.

Motion by Flottemesch, second by Grossman to approve the Contribution Agreement with NRCS as presented. Affirmative: Grossman, Lubitz, Tychsen, Flottemesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Hay Creek Watershed Project – Ed updated the Board on the Hay Creek Watershed Project. Eighty-five letters were sent out with 21 expressing interest. Nine landowners are interested in buffers. Sign-ups so far are for 89 acres for CRP with 67 acres being buffers, 22 sediment basins and 11 miles of filter buffer strips. A total of \$114,000 of Clean Water Legacy funds have been encumbered to date.

Dist. Technicians Report – Dean reported on the following:

- Assisting with several WCA issues with Ed Clem and Brad.
- Certifying hand planted cost-shared windbreaks.
- Assisted JPB staff on the Schlossman dam repair.

Plat Book – Brad has talked to Cloud Cartographics on the progress of the Becker County Plat Book. Information on the front cover design has been sent to them. The book will be a little late, but hopefully by the end of August. We can receive book shipments in smaller lots as to allow for corrections if there are errors. Jerry suggested we have our logo somewhere on the book, back cover maybe.

Fair Booth - Brad noted that we will have two displays at the Becker County Fair. One will feature Backyard Conservation and the other will be on our Invasive Weed Program. We will also offer nitrate testing of well water on Friday afternoon from 3-6 p.m.

Copy Machine – As noted at last months meeting the District copy machine is need of repair at a cost of \$700 to \$800. The Board had instructed staff to obtain quotes for a new machine as this one is 8 years old and bring quotes to this meeting. Ginger presented information on the copy machines the staff has looked at and priced. Prices obtained were \$4,795 from Reardon, \$3,395 from Marco, and \$3,684 from Xerox. Staff has visited with Rick Kelsven of the Becker County IT Department on purchase through Becker County. Rick felt our prices were better than he would get for us through the county.

Motion by Flottesmesch, second by Tyhsen to authorize the purchase of a new copy machine not to exceed \$4,000.00. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tyhsen, Flottesmesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Computer Services update - Ginger and Brad updated the Board on the upcoming changes to our computer services from NRCS. The Board decided last February to purchase service for one computer from NRCS and they will give us another plus one that they will furnish. The cost of the two for one is \$3,000 a year. When all is said and done we will have 3 computers on the NRCS system. Our other two computers will be switched to the Becker County server and we will have a monthly charge of \$45 from the City of Detroit Lakes. Becker County IT Department Head Rick Kelsven will assist us with the change over of the two computers. Should be completed by the end of August or early September. We must be off the NRCS system October 1st.

Wetland Conservation Act –

- Working on three Cease and Desist orders that have been issued. These appear to be small and should be resolved easily.
- Also have been working on a Replacement Plan for an approach to a building site. This will be presented next month.
- Brad also reported on the BWSR Wetland Vegetation Training course he attended in Fergus Falls on July 9th.

Ag Inspector Program –

- Due to the late spring the leafy spurge beetle harvest was 2-3 weeks later. Marsha was able to harvest beetles from sites in Becker County for the first time since we started placing them in 2006. We also received 25,000 beetles from Monica Chandler of the Department of Ag.
- Will be purchasing spotted knapweed weevils to place throughout the county. Hopefully we will be able to harvest these in the future for additional placement.
- Weed complaints are starting to come in.
- Brad noted that a workmen's comp report was completed for a possible injury sustained by Marsha while harvesting beetles. May have been an accumulative injury and may not be a workmen's comp concern but filed the report anyway.

Cost Share Program –

Abandoned Well Sealing Contract AW#463 with Jill Mickelson was presented for consideration.

Motion by Grossman, second by Lubitz to approve contact AW#463 for 50% of the cost not to exceed \$240.00. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Flottesmesch, Tyhsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Abandoned Well Sealing Contract AW#461 with Olga Root was presented for payment authorization. Total sealing cost was \$500.00. Eligible cost-share payment \$240.00.

Motion by Lubitz, second by Grossman to approve payment of Contract AW#461 for \$240.00. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tyhsen, Flottesmesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

State Cost-Share Contract #08-9 with Immanuel Lutheran Church was presented for payment authorization for a windbreak that was installed. Total cost \$746.75. Eligible cost-share \$485.00.

Motion by Grossman, second by Lubitz to authorize payment of Contract #08-9 for \$485.00. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tyhsen, Flottesmesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Discussed FY08 Cost-Share Funds that have been set aside for abandoned well sealing. \$800 remains in the amount set aside from FY08 Cost-Share Funds. As we will be receiving our FY09 shortly it was suggested to un-designate the \$800 for well sealing and return it to general cost-share practices.

Motion by Flottesmesch, second by Lubitz to un-designate the \$800 for well sealing and use it for general cost-share practices. Affirmative: Lubitz, Tyhsen, Grossman, Flottesmesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Cost-Share Contract #08-30 with John Schouviller was presented for consideration. The project is for two sediment control basins. Estimated cost is \$24,225. This is also an EQIP Project.

Motion by Grossman, second by Flottesmesch to approve Cost-Share Contract #08-30 for 75% of the cost not to exceed \$6,428.00, with \$3,428.00 for State Cost-Share Funds and \$3,428.00 from Buffalo-Red Watershed District allocation. Affirmative: Lubitz, Tyhsen, Grossman, Flottesmesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Employee's request – Brad presented the district employees 2009 salary requests for consideration.

After review and discussion, motion by Flottesmesch, second by Tyhsen to approve the 2009 full time employee salaries for a 3% increase with an additional 1% longevity increase for Ginger, and a flat .85 cent per hour increase for Marsha. Affirmative: Lubitz, Tyhsen, Flottesmesch, Grossman. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

2009 Budget – Brad presented the preliminary 2009 SWCD Budget. The budget is due to the County Administrator August 11th. Our time to meet with county commissioners to discuss our budget is 8:45 a.m. on August 19th. The total Proposed 2009 Operational Budget for the District is \$323,827.00 with the request from Becker County for 2009 at \$173,575.00.

After review and discussion, motion by Flottemesch, second by Tychsen to approve the 2009 SWCD Budget and forward it to the Becker County Administrator. Chairman Lefebvre indicated he will attend the budget meeting with the commissioners.

Conservationist of the Year Award – Nominees for the Conservationist of the Year Award were presented along with the nominee's accomplishments.

After discussion, motion by Flottemesch, second by Tychsen to select John and Mike Schouviller as the Conservationist of the Year for 2008. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen, Flottemesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

District Capacity Awards Program – Ginger presented the District Capacity Awards for the supervisors review and input.

Upon completion, motion by Grossman, second by Flottemesch to approve and sign the District Capacity Awards entry and submit to MASWCD. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen, Flottemesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Other: Jerry and Brad will be attending a CTAC meeting in St. Cloud on July 22nd.

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

Approved: Jerome Flottemesch, Secretary Date: August 20, 2008