

**Becker Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting**  
**August 20, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, August 20, 2008, at 8:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Ag Center Building, 809 8<sup>th</sup> St. S.E., Detroit Lakes, Minn.

Those present were supervisors Roger Tychsen, Duane Grossman, Don Lefebvre, Dale Lubitz, Jerome Flottesmesch, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, Dist. Technicians Dean Hendrickson and Ed Clem and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lefebvre.

The July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were presented for approval. Chairman Lefebvre noted one correction to the minutes "Carol Berg is Minn. Association of RC& D Treasurer not WesMin RC&D".

Motion by Tychsen, second by Lubitz to approve the July 16<sup>th</sup> minutes as corrected. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Flottesmesch, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The financial reports and bills payable were presented and reviewed.

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

**2009 Budget** – Brad presented a letter from County Administrator Brian Berg on 2009 budgets and appropriations expressing concerns on the levy limits placed on the county for 2009 and how appropriation may be impacted.

Don reported that Brad and he presented the 2009 budget request to the County Commissioners. The commissioners took the request under consideration as they develop the 2009 budget.

Brad reported that the Administrative/Technical Services and Cost-Share Program Grant Agreement arrived on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Lefebvre had stopped in and signed the grant so as not to delay arrival of the funds.

Motion by Flottesmesch, second by Lubitz to approve the action of signing the grant agreement taken by the chairman. Affirmative: Lubitz, Flottesmesch, Grossman, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

It was noted that the auditor will be here tomorrow to audit the financial records of the District for 2007 and the West Central Minnesota Joint Powers Board books, also.

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

- Dusty Jasken the D.C. in Mahnomen County is working with tribal members on WHIP grants.
- A new NRCS liaison has been hired to work with the White Earth Tribe.
- Construction completed on the Pete Jacobson sediment basin. The tile is in on the Foltz Project and the Schouviller site is started.
- Restoration of wetlands on WRP sites is continuing.
- Designing the Matt Bjerke job
- New Area Conservationist Colleen Oestrich stopped in the office last week.
- Our new NRCS trainee Dan Pazdernik starts September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Ed presented the LAN/WAN agreement with NRCS for the phone system. The agreement covered the time period October 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008. Cost \$109.00.

Motion by Flottesmesch, second by Grossman to approve the LAN/WAN agreement. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen, Flottesmesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

**WesMin RC&D** – Don reported on the following WesMin activities from the August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- The Smokey Timbers committee held a fish fry.
- The Glacial Ridge Model T Tour is scheduled for September 5-7<sup>th</sup>. The event will celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Glacial Ridge Trail. The Glacial Trail was an RC&D project 40 years ago.
- LaTres Sneed conducted leadership mentoring.
- Tastefully Simple has offered to assist with grant writing.
- John Beckwith, Water Resources Staff Leader with NRCS, gave a presentation to WesMin at Smokey Timbers Camp.
- Wadena Wildlife and Sportsmen Expo are August 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Don Lefebvre and Lyle Hovland of the WesMin Council have been asked to escort Congressman Collin Peterson around the EXPO and Collin will be speaking.

**District Technicians Report** – Dean and Ed reported on the following:

- Have been reviewing the Schlossman Beaver Dam Repair Project. This will start in the next week or so.
- Site visit to Bejou Lake on an erosion control project that the Cormorant Lakes Watershed District is working on.
- Conducting site inspections for projects installed with state cost-share funds in 2007.
- Three landowners are doing fall seeding with the no-till drill.
- Tree plan for 2008.
- LPA Elementary School bridge crossing.

**MASWCD Leadership Institute** – Ed reported on the last two leadership sessions he attended in June and August. These were the last of the 8 sessions he attended over the last year. Ed thanked the supervisors for the opportunity and felt he had gotten a lot out of the training to better serve the District in the future.

**Conservation Technical Assistance Committee (CTAC)** – Jerry reported on the CTAC meeting held July 22<sup>nd</sup> in St. Cloud. This was the final CTAC meeting concerning the re-structuring of the Non Point Engineering Assistance Program. Jerry noted that our current NPEA Joint Powers Board (JPB), the West Central Minnesota Joint Powers Board will be combined with the Northwest JPB. The two will have to meet and reform a new JPB, figure out transfer of funds, host District, employees, etc. Also, the MASWCD will be asked to change their area boundaries to match the new NPEA areas. This will be proposed at the State Conference in December. We will now be setting up a joint meeting with the Northwest JPB after our JPB meeting September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Public Hearing** – Chairman Lefebvre recessed the regular meeting of the Becker SWCD and called to order a public hearing for the Ken Bicksler's Wetland Replacement Plan Application. District Technician Ed Clem presented information on the replacement plan. It calls for filling 1,066 sq. ft. of a Type 3 wetland to construct an approach to access his building site. Ed noted that this is the least impact area for the approach. The TEP panel has reviewed the application and had no comments.

Chairman Lefebvre asked for comments in opposition to the application. Hearing none, Chairman Lefebvre asked for comments in support of the application. Hearing none Chairman Lefebvre closed the public hearing and reconvened the Becker SWCD meeting.

Motion by Flottesmesch, second by Tyachsen to approve the wetland replacement application for Ken Bicksler as presented. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Flottesmesch, Tyachsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

**Envirothon** – Ginger reported the first Area II Junior Envirothon is scheduled for October 2<sup>nd</sup> in Fergus Falls. Also a state envirothon committee meeting will be Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> in St. Cloud.

**Conservationist of the Year Award** – Brad reported that John and Mike Schouviller have accepted the award. We will be doing a story in the future.

**Otter Tail Watershed Plan Meeting** – Brad reported on the meeting held July 17<sup>th</sup> with Guy Fischer of Becker County EDA and Hank Ludke Mayor, of Frazee. Others attending were Bruce Popple, Wilkin Cty. Environmental Services; Brad Mergen, W. Ottertail SWCD; Don Bajumpa, Wilkin SWCD; Bill Kahler, Ottertail County Natural Resources; Don Lefebvre, Becker SWCD Supervisor. Mr. Fischer and Mr. Ludke had requested the meeting to discuss the interest in forming an Ottertail Watershed District. Those in attendance had developed a watershed plan for the Ottertail River in 2002 to facilitate some grants that were available at the time. The consensus of the group to Mr. Fischer was that forming a watershed district was not the desire at this time.

**Plat Book** – We have received the first batch of 10 township maps to review. We have requested a draft of the cover to proof also.

**NRCS Computer Arrangements** – Brad reviewed the proposed changes to the NRCS computer services that will be offered to Districts beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>. If we want to stay on the NRCS system, we will be charged \$3,000 per work station. Earlier this year the supervisors decided to take advantage of the 2 for 1 offer being offered to Districts. Plus the one free one. That would give us 3 computers on the NRCS hookup for an annual cost of \$3,000. However we would still have to move 2 work stations to the county system. Since that decision some questions have come up: The \$3,000 does not include periodic computer updates; the agreement is annual and not known what the cost will be from year to year. If we hooked up to the Becker County system our cost would be \$45.00 per month after our initial change over such as line to building and software programs that would have to be obtained.

The supervisors discussed the issue along with budget concerns for us as well as Becker County.

Motion by Tyachsen, second by Grossman to accept the NRCS one free work station and have the remaining 4 hook up to the county system and reduce our budget request to Becker County for 2009 by \$3,000. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tyachsen, Flottesmesch.

**Wetland Conservation Act** – Working on corrective measures for two violations, one on Tulaby Lake and one in Wolf Lake Township. Preparing a Replacement Plan Application for relocating a portion of Red Top Road. This will be brought to the September Meeting if complete. Completed diminimus exemption for Marty Aho.

Reviewed letter the Army Corp of Engineers sent to the Detroit Lakes Airport Commission concerning the proposed expansion and wetland impacts. The letter also expressed concern on the efforts for alternative citing.

10:30 a.m. – Supervisor Tyachsen left at this time.

**Ag Inspector Program** - Marsha and Brad attended the County Ag Inspectors Annual Conference in Mille Lacs County July 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. Both felt it was a very good conference. Marsha is currently inventorying

several townships for invasive species and contacting landowners on cost-share available to assist in the control of invasive species that they may have on their lands. Also continuing to respond to noxious weed complaints. Brad noted that Marsha will be giving a presentation at the Minnesota Invasive Species Conference to be held October 26-29, in Duluth. Marsha's presentation will feature the work she has done with the Becker County Weed Management Area plan and treatments that have taken place to combat invasive species.

**Cost-Share Program** – The 2009 state cost-share allocation for Becker SWCD is \$37,360 for projects. Brad requested that the 2009 allocation be ear-marked by practice priorities.

Motion by Flottesmesch, second by Lubitz to designate \$18,000 of state cost-share to the windbreak program, \$2,000 to the abandoned well sealing practice, and \$17,360 for all other practices. Affirmative: Lubitz, Flottesmesch, Tychsen, Flottesmesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

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

Contract #08-31 with Dean Haverkamp, windbreak. Estimated cost \$1,851.90. Eligible cost-share \$1,387.00. (\$489.16 will come from FY08 funds and \$897.84 from FY09 funds).

Motion by Lubitz, second by Grossman to approve contract #08-31 for \$1,387.00 in cost share funds. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen, Flottesmesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Contract #09-1, with Terry Kohler for sediment and erosion control basins. Estimated cost \$16,913.00. Eligible State Cost-Share \$3,222.00. As this is in the BRRWD, the project is eligible for sharing cost-share with watershed funds. (\$1,611.00 from BRRWD funds and \$1,611.00 from state cost-share funds).

Contract #09-5, with John Steffl for sediment and erosion control basins. Estimated cost \$27,852.00. Eligible State Cost-Share \$6,160.00. As this is in the BRRWD, the project is eligible is for sharing cost-share with watershed funds. (\$3,080.00 from BRRWD funds and 3,080.00 from state cost-share funds).

Motion by Flottesmesch second by Lubitz to approve Cost-Share Contracts #09-1 and #09-5 for the amounts presented. Affirmative: Lubitz, Flottesmesch, Tychsen, Grossman. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The following Well Sealing State Cost-Share Contracts were presented for consideration:

Contract #09-2 with Jan Rootham to seal an abandoned well.

Contract #09-3 with Douglas Bergman to seal an abandoned well.

Contract #09-4 with Ric Jasken to seal an abandoned well.

Motion by Lubitz, second by Flottesmesch to approve Cost-Share Contracts #09-2, #09-3, and #09-4 for 50% of the cost not to exceed \$240.00 per contract.

**JPB Engineering Request** – The following requests for NPEA engineering assistance were presented:

- Patricia Bollig – 1 water and sediment control basins – Audubon Township
- Bruce Nelson – 2 water and sediment control basins – Lake Park Township
- Richard Herfindahl – 5 water and sediment control basins – Cuba Township
- David Stowman – 1 water and sediment control basins – Lake Park Township

Motion by Grossman, second by Flottesmesch to approve the above engineering request and forward to the JPB staff for service. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen, Flottesmesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

**Other:**

- Reviewed notice on increased limits for contracting procedures.
- Received booklets on MASWCD President and Vice President Candidate Prospectus.
- Discussed invite to participate in an Outdoor Fair. Consensus of the Board was not to take part.

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

**Approved: Jerome Flottemesch, Secretary**

**Date: September 17, 2008**