

**Becker Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
September 17, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, September 17, 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 Flottesmesch, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, County Commissioner Barry Nelson, Soil Conservationist Dan Pazdernik, BWSR Board Conservationists Chad Severts and Jason Weinerman, and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant. Others present Gerald Schram.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lefebvre.

The August 20th meeting minutes were presented for approval.

Motion by Tychsen, second by Grossman to approve the August 20th minutes as sent out and received by the supervisors. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Flottesmesch, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The supervisor's 3rd quarter vouchers and extra meetings were presented and reviewed. The extra meetings were:

- July 17th - Ottertail Watershed Informational Meeting – Don Lefebvre
- July 22nd - Conservation Technical Advisory Committee – Jerome Flottesmesch
- Aug. 19th – Budget meeting – Don Lefebvre
- Aug. 29th - Meeting with Becker County Attorney – Jerome Flottesmesch
- Sept. 3rd - West Central Mn. Jt, Powers Board meeting – Jerome Flottesmesch

Motion by Flottesmesch, second by Lubitz to authorize payment of the 3rd quarter supervisor's vouchers and add tomorrow's Buffalo-Red Tour for those who attend. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen, Flottesmesch. 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 as presented. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen, Flottesmesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

A letter from County Administrator Brian Berg informing the District that the County Commissioners have approved the 2009 SWCD budget request. The county budget will be finalized in December.

Audit – Ginger reported that the financial audit of the 2007 Financial Records and the West Central Mn. Joint Powers Board Records is complete. The final report will come later. All went well, with only one entry change on the way we credited the new plat book contract.

Chairman Lefebvre called on BWSR Board Conservationist Chad Severts for comments. Chad introduced Jason Weinerman, who is the Board Conservationist in East Central Minnesota. Chad discussed the Natural Resources Block Grant changes. Chad indicated he would stay for the entire meeting for other topics.

Reports:

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

- The September meeting was held at the Smokey Timbers Camp, all the buildings have been power washed. The camp is looking very nice.

- Currently updating the insurance coverage for the Camp.
- 30 Model T's took part in the Glacial Ridge Model T Tour Sept. 5-7.
- The District Conservationist from Wadena reported on the recent grazing tour that was held.
- Heard a report on the Emerald Ash Borer concerns.
- Attendance at the Wadena Expo was down.

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

- Ed introduced our new NRCS Soil Conservationist Trainee Dan Pazdernik. Dan told the board a little about his background. He is originally from Waubun and graduated from U. of Mn. Crookston in 2002.
- NRCS Grazing Specialist Mark Hayek, currently stationed in Detroit Lakes, will be relocating to Thief River Falls in November. His position here will be filled and moved to the Perham office.
- The end of the federal fiscal year is Sept.30th. So payments will be shut down for a period.
- Sediment basins going in for Schouvillers and John Steffl. The WCMJP staff will be surveying the Richard Herfindahl site and staking out the Terry Kohler site for construction this fall.
- NRCS has provided the following equipment to the Detroit Lakes office.
 - Portable defibrillator – D.L. EMT will provide training on its use for everyone in the building.
 - Upgraded the GPS system
 - More lateral files
 - Digital projector
- Met with the City of Frazee on some runoff issues. May do some buffer seeding along the Otter Tail River in Frazee and possibly some rain gardens.

Dist. Technicians Report - No report as Dean and Ed were out on WCA restoration issue. Brad reported to the supervisors on some of the activities Dean and Ed have been working on.

BWSR Award – Brad presented information on the Board of Water and Soil Resources 2008 County Conservation Award that will be awarded at the Association of Minnesota Counties Conference. Brad noted that the county has done several projects that could be nominated for the award. These include the Lake Park/Audubon Elementary Educational Site, Sunnyside Care Center shoreline restoration project, and the changes to zoning ordinances on recreational development lakes.

Motion by Tychsen, second by Lubitz to nominate Becker County for the County Conservation Award. Affirmative: Lubitz, Tychsen, Flottesmesch, Grossman. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Envirothon – Ginger reported on the State Envirothon Meeting she attended in St. Cloud.

Plat Book – The plat book is moving forward. Most of the maps have been received. Becker Planning and Zoning has been reviewing the accuracy of the road system. Some ownership errors have been corrected and the cover design is complete. With the book almost complete the publisher is offering a 2% discount if we send the final payment check with the final proof, this is a \$250 savings. We will also be receiving the books in small shipments so corrections can be made if needed.

Motion by Tychsen, second by Flottesmesch to send the final payment with the proof and receive the 2% savings. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Flottesmesch, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Computer Services - Ginger and Brad have been working with Becker County IT Head, Rick Kelsven on coordinating the system changeover. We will have some initial program purchases for the changeover. The changeover should be complete by the end of the month.

West Central Mn. Joint Powers Board Meeting – Jerome reported on the September 3rd WCMJPB meeting. The board reviewed the points of discussion from the meeting concerning the reorganization of the NPEA program. JPB 1 and our JPB will have a joint meeting in November to discuss the combining process of the two JPB's.

Wetland Conservation Act – Brad updated the supervisors on the corrective measures that have taken place on the reported violations. All landowners have been cooperative throughout the process. Reported on the WCA exemptions that have been applied for and approved this month. Brad also noted, that the meeting with SEH on the airport that was to be held Sept. 15th was canceled due to the FAA requesting information.

State Cost-share Program – Brad reported that the Buffalo-Red Watershed District has approved an additional \$10,000 of funding to augment our State Cost-Share program dollars.

State Cost-Share Contract #09-6 with L.E. Hanson Farms was presented for consideration. It calls for 5 sediment and erosion control basins. Total estimated cost \$35,619.00. This is also an EQIP contract. The project is eligible for state cost-share funds, not to exceed \$8,904.00, and is in the Buffalo-Red Watershed District.

Motion by Lubitz, second by Tyachsen to approve Cost-Share Contract #09-6 for 75% of the cost not to exceed \$8,904.00, with \$4,452.00 from State Cost-Share Program and \$4,452.00 from Buffalo-Red Watershed Dist. funds. Affirmative: Lubitz, Tyachsen Grossman, Flottesmesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Ag Inspector Program – Marsha updated the supervisors on the Invasive Species Control Program and the progress that is being made.

- For combating Spotted Knapweed Marsha has established 41 bio-control sites with 35 landowners, and will be treating 10 sites with chemicals this fall and provide the chemical, with the landowner providing the application.
- Will be treating 21 wild parsnips sites and re-spraying some test plots from last year.
- Two test sites will be done on Common Tansy and will do two gravel pits for Leafy Spurge and some satellite roadside spraying.
- Have been getting more participation from townships for the roadside spraying program.

Marsha reviewed the invasive species inventory process and some of the computer hardware and software needs. The Fish and Wildlife Grant has \$5,000 for computer equipment and software. Marsha has been discussing the computer needs with Rick Kelsven Becker County IT Department. The cost of single-user license for the Arc View Program is \$1,236.00, we would also need a color printer which is \$400.00. These could be purchased with grant funds.

Motion by Flottesmesch, second by Lubitz to authorize the purchase of a laptop computer, necessary software and color printer with PTI grant funds. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Flottesmesch, Tyachsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Marsha reported that she will be presenting on our invasive species program at the Minnesota Invasive Species Conference in Duluth, October 26-28th.

Shoreland Guide – Brad presented information on behalf of Fred Tuominen, Communications Chairperson for Becker County COLA. Fred is seeking funding to develop a Becker County Homeowners' Guide to Lake Stewardship. The guide would be a single source of information available about best management practices for lakeshore home owners. The guide would also include information on permits needed, wetland regulations and more. The book would be prepared by Paula West, Executive Director of the Leach Lake Area Watershed Foundation. Cost for a 20 page booklet would be \$5,100 for 5,000 copies, \$6,408 for 8,000 copies and \$7,170 for 10,000 copies. The supervisors felt it was a worthy project. Suggested that as much local information as possible be included. Staff should contact the Watershed Districts to see if they would like to contribute and if they would have some information they would like included in the booklet.

Other:

- The resolution packets for the MASWCD Convention were distributed. Supervisors were instructed to complete the ballot and bring back to the October meeting.
- The Buffalo-Red River Watershed District fall tour is tomorrow. Jerome, Dale, and Duane indicated they would attend. Dean, Ed, Brad and Dan from the staff will also be attending.
- Reported that BWSR is sponsoring a three day training session at the end of October for the north half of the state. The Academy of the North session will be held on Oct.21-23 and will cover a wide variety of programs. Adequate funds in the training budget are available for the staff to attend.

Motion by Flottemesch, second by Tychsen to authorize staff to attend the Academy of the North training. Affirmative: Tychsen, Grossman, Lubitz, Flottemesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

- Brad will be attending a meeting in Fergus Falls on September 22nd for the Clean Water Legacy program.

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

Approved: Jerome Flottemesch, Secretary

Date: October 15, 2008