

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

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, December 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, Dale Lubitz, Jerome Flottesmesch, County Commissioner Barry Nelson, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, Dist. Technicians Ed Clem and Dean Hendrickson, and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Lubitz.

The November 19th meeting minutes were presented for approval.

Motion by Tychsen, second by Flottesmesch to approve the November 19th minutes as sent out and received by the supervisors. Affirmative: Grossman, Flottesmesch, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The financial reports and bills payable were presented.

Motion by Tychsen, second by Flottesmesch to approve the payment of bills as presented and authorize payment of bills through the end of the year to facilitate year-end reporting. Affirmative: Grossman, Tychsen, Flottesmesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Flottesmesch, second by Grossman to approve the financial statements as presented. Affirmative: Grossman, Flottesmesch, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Lease Agreement – Due to changes in the Federal lease agreements SWCD's either have to be included on the Federal lease or have their own. As the Federal lease expires at the end of the year we either have to be part of it, or have our own lease with the landlord. As we have been paying the landlord direct for the past 5 years Brad had the landlord prepare a 5-year lease agreement just for the SWCD. Brad suggested the proposed lease agreement be changed to specify the number of square feet and have the escape clause the same notice as the Federal which is 120 days.

Motion by Flottesmesch, second by Tychsen to approve the lease agreement if the landlord inserts the 806 sq. ft. clause and the changes the out clause to 120 days. Affirmative: Grossman, Flottesmesch, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Reports:

WesMin RC&D – As Don Lefebvre was absent there was no WesMin Report. However, Brad mentioned that it is Becker Counties turn to host the WesMin RC&D Annual Meeting in February. Brad will contact WesMin Coordinator Dean Schmidt and find out the details.

Dist. Conservationists Report – Ed Musielewicz updated the supervisors on the following:

- Completing the compliance audit for the EQIP Program. This is not a financial audit.
- Authorized \$200,000 in EQIP payments for projects installed.
- All the surveying for projects in the Hay Creek Project area is complete. Projects will be designed this winter.
- Dan Pazdernik is working on deed information needed for CRP contracts.

Supervisors Vouchers – The fourth quarter supervisor’s vouchers and extra meetings were presented: The extra meetings were:

11/12/08 Area II MASWCD Meeting - Breckenridge – Jerry, Dale, Don, Roger, Duane
11/17/08 WCMJPB Reorganization Meeting – Mahnomen – Jerry
11/20/08 Local Work Group EPIP Meeting – Detroit Lakes – Jerry, Dale, Don, Roger, Duane
12/3/08 NPEA Reorganization Committee Meeting – Detroit Lakes – Jerry
12/7 – 9/08 MASWCD State Conference – St. Paul – Jerry, Dale, Duane
12/18/08 WCMJPB Meeting – Detroit Lakes – Jerry

Motion by Grossman, second by Flottesmesch to approve the extra fourth quarter supervisors meetings and authorize payment of the vouchers. Affirmative: Grossman, Flottesmesch, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Dist. Technicians Report – Ed & Dean reported on the following:

- Continuing to make tree contacts and windbreak designs.
- Wrapping up some wetland issues.
- Wrote an article for County Line concerning wetlands and the removal of beaver dams.

MASWCD State Conference – Jerome, Dale, Duane, Ed, Ginger and Brad attended the MASWCD Conference in St. Paul. Mini Sessions included information on documenting wetland issues and actions, sales tax collections. Twenty-seven resolutions were acted on at the conference 11 were pre approved and 16 brought up for discussion and vote. All in all it was a good conference. Conservationist of the Year, John and Linda Schouviller, also attended. Commissioner Nelson noted that Becker County received a Conservation Award at their annual AMC Meeting in Duluth from the Board of Water and Soil Resources for the Lake Park/Audubon Elementary Environmental Education Site. Commissioner Nelson thanked the SWCD for nominating Becker County for the award.

Non-Point Engineering Assistance Program Reorganization (NPEA) – Jerry reported on the NPEA Reorganization Committee Meeting held Dec. 3rd. The committee discussed the new joint powers board agreement and went through the suggested ones and the one from Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust. The new JPB area will now be 17 counties and the MASWCD area boundaries will match the JPB boundaries as decided at the MASWCD Conference. Brad is preparing the JPB agreement and will send a draft to the Becker County Attorney’s Office for review. Once we get it back it will be forwarded to all member counties for their review and action. Once the new JPB is established the old ones will be dissolved. This all must be completed by July 1, 2009. The West Central Minnesota Joint Powers Board is meeting December 18th to discuss the reorganization and hear concerns and suggestions. The reorganization committee will meet on Jan.14th to discuss the agreement with the host district for the new organization.

Buffalo-Red Watershed District Funding (BRRWD) - Brad updated the supervisors on the status of the funding we receive from the BRRWD to cost-share with landowners on projects. We currently have \$11,382 encumbered for projects and a balance of \$4,343.00 left to encumber. We will delay asking for additional funds for 2009-2010 until the existing funds are encumbered. Brad notified the Watershed District of the fund status.

Employee Health Insurance – The supervisors reviewed the employee health benefits and cost increases for 2009. The Becker County employee benefit increased by \$64.00 per month for 2009.

After discussion, motion by Flottesmesch, second by Tyachsen to increase the employee's health insurance benefit by \$64.00 per month for 2009. Affirmative: Tyachsen, Grossman, Flottesmesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Pulling Together Initiative Committee (PTI) – Brad reported on the PTI committee meeting held Dec. 11th. The group discussed adding spotted knapweed to the noxious weed list for Becker County but decided not to pursue it at this time. Also discussed the gravel pit concerns relating to invasive weeds and the program in Clearwater County on gravel pit certification. The committee felt that we should look into that further and discuss it with the County Commissioners and at our spring weed meeting.

Wetland Conservation Act – Ed Clem reported on two potential violations that are being addressed. One is for fill being placed in a wetland near Elbow Lake and the other a beaver dam removal in Detroit Township.

State Cost-share Contracts – the following State Cost-Share Contracts were presented:

- Contract #08-24 with Okeson Farms was presented for cancelation due to the fact the practice did not get installed this past season. This project may be signed up again in the future.

Motion by Grossman, second by Tyachsen to cancel Cost-Share Contract #08-24. Affirmative: Grossman, Tyachsen, Flottesmesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

- Contract #09-9 with Gary Larson for windbreak establishment was presented. Estimated cost \$3,375.54. Eligible cost-share 75% not to exceed \$2,531.00.
- Contract #09-10 with Jerry Herman for windbreak establishment was presented. Estimated cost \$442.78. Eligible cost-share 75% not to exceed \$332.00.

Motion by Grossman, second by Tyachsen to approve the above listed cost-share contracts as presented. Affirmative: Flottesmesch, Tyachsen, Grossman. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Contract amendment #1 to Cost-Share Contract #08-21 with Foltz Farms to extend the completion date to August 15, 2009 was presented. This is due to weather conditions last fall did not allow for completion of the construction of the dikes on the sed basin systems.

Motion by Tyachsen, second by Flottesmesch to approve the amendment for Contract #08-21 as presented. Affirmative: Tyachsen, Flottesmesch, Grossman. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

A letter requesting partial payment on Cost-Share Contract #08-21 with Foltz Farms was presented for consideration. Mr. Foltz was unable to complete the dikes on the project but has completed the tile component of the project and is requesting partial payment for that portion. Brad noted that certification of completion has been signed off on by the proper persons. Total cost incurred to date is \$33,247.00. Eligible state and local cost-share at this time is \$3,342.00. Brad proposed paying \$2,171.00 from the Buffalo Red Watershed Funds and \$1,171.00 from State Cost-Share Funds. The remaining \$1,000.00 of state cost-share funds will be withheld until the project is completed.

Motion by Grossman, second by Tyachsen to approve partial payment for Contract #08-21 for \$3,342.00 with \$2,171.00 from the Buffalo-Red Watershed funds and \$1,171.00 from the state-cost funds. Affirmative: Grossman, Flottesmesch, Tyachsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Abandoned Well Sealing Contact AW#460 with Lakeshore Terrace Condo. Association was presented for payment authorization. Total sealing cost was \$650.00. Eligible cost-share from water plan funds is \$240.00.

Motion by Flottemesch, second by Tychsen to authorize payment of Well Sealing Contract AW#260 for \$240.00. Affirmative: Tychsen, Grossman, Flottemesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Plat Books & Maps – Brad reported that we have asked for the rest of the plat books to be printed by the publisher. Also noted that we have received two sets of individual township wall maps. One will be given to each township at our spring weed meeting and the others will be offered to area fire departments for the areas they cover if they are interested.

MASWCD – The Area II MASWCD will hold a special meeting on January 6th in Breckenridge to begin the reorganization process of Areas I & II.

Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) – Brad reported that the NRBG has been submitted. This grant provides our Wetland Conservation Act funds, and Water Plan funds, along with Shoreland and SSTS funds for the Planning and Zoning Office.

Native Buffer Funds – Brad reported that the East Otter Tail SWCD, the West Otter Tail SWCD and Wilkin SWCD have a total of \$30,000 left in their Native Buffer Cost-Share Grants. Becker SWCD has encumbered all of theirs. It is the desire of the 4 SWCD's to pool the remaining funds and make them available in the Otter Tail River Watershed Area based on the watershed management plan that was developed in 2002. In order to allow this each SWCD board in the watershed is being asked to approve and sign a pooling agreement for the purpose of spending these funds. A copy of the pooling agreement was presented for consideration.

Motion by Flottemesch, second by Grossman to approve and sign the Cost-Share Subcontractor and Pooling Memorandum of Agreement with Wilkin SWCD, East Otter Tail SWCD, West Otter Tail SWCD and Becker SWCD. Affirmative: Grossman, Tychsen, Flottemesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Other: The supervisors noted that this is the last meeting for supervisors Dale Lubitz and Roger Tychsen. The Board thanked Roger and Dale for their years of service to the District. Commissioner Barry Nelson thanked Roger and Dale on behalf of Becker County for their service also.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Vice-Chairman Lubitz.

Approved: Jerome Flottemesch, Secretary

Date: January 21, 2008