

Becker Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
January 21, 2009

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, January 21st, 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 Duane Grossman, Jerome Flottesmesch, Don Lefebvre, Tony Beck, 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 Chairman Lefebvre.

Chairman Lefebvre gave the Oath of Office to newly elected supervisors Tony Beck and Duane Grossman.

The December 20th meeting minutes were presented for approval.

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

The financial reports and bills payable were presented.

Motion by Flottesmesch, second by Grossman to approve the financial statements and payment of bills as presented. Affirmative: Grossman, Beck, Flottesmesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

8:30 – Joe Stenger arrived.

Chairman Lefebvre had everyone introduce themselves for the benefit of the new supervisors.

Chairman Lefebvre gave the Oath of Office to Supervisor Stenger.

Re-organization of the Board -The meeting was turned over to supervisor Flottesmesch. Supervisor Flottesmesch called for nominations for the position of Chairman. Supervisor Grossman nominated Don Lefebvre for chairman and moved that nominations cease and a white ballot be cast for Supervisor Lefebvre for chairman.

Meeting was turned over to Chairman Lefebvre. Supervisor Beck nominated Jerome Flottesmesch for Vice-chairman. Being no other nominations, chairman Lefebvre cast a white ballot for Jerome Flottesmesch for vice-chairman.

Supervisor Flottesmesch nominated Tony Beck for treasurer. Being no other nominations Chairman Lefebvre cast a white ballot for Tony Beck for treasurer.

Supervisor Flottesmesch nominated Duane Grossman for secretary. Being no other nominations Chairman Lefebvre cast a white ballot for Duane Grossman for secretary.

Official Depository and Newspaper – Motion by Flottemesch, second by Grossman to designate Bremer Bank as the main depository for the District and all other county banks as secondary depositories, and the Detroit Lakes Newspapers as the official newspapers for the District. Affirmative: Beck, Stenger, Flottemesch, Grossman. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Organizational Dues – Brad presented the information for the following organizational dues that the District belongs too:

National Association of Conservation Districts - \$750.00

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation District - \$2,750.00

Minnesota Association of County Ag Inspectors - \$75.00

Motion by Grossman, second by Flottemesch to approve payment of the above organizational dues for 2009. Affirmative: Beck, Stenger, Flottemesch, Grossman. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Final Audit – Ginger presented the final audit report for financial year 2007. This audit itself was reviewed at an earlier meeting. This is the final hard copy that was forwarded to the State Auditor's Office.

Motion by Grossman, second by Flottemesch to approve the final audit report. Affirmative: Beck, Grossman, Stenger, Flottemesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

2009 Budget – The supervisors reviewed and discussed the 2009 budget and what areas could be reduced as Becker County is facing some significant reductions from the State of Minnesota. The supervisors will continue to monitor the grant opportunities that may come about. If funds can be secured through projects the supervisors felt they could possibly return a portion of the county allocation. A final decision will be made at a later meeting.

Reports:

WesMin RC&D – Don reported on the following from the WesMin RC&D meeting he attended on January 13th:

- Looking into a Weidman Grant of \$60,000 for the Smokey Timber Camp improvements.
- Biomass Workshops are being planned throughout the state. \$1,000 is available to put on a workshop.
- White Earth Natural Resources is considering sponsoring a biomass workshop.
- The annual WesMin RC&D Meeting is scheduled for Feb. 11th in Wadena.
- Concerned about non-profit taxes on real estate.
- The State RC&D meeting will be January 29th in St. Cloud.

Don noted that it's time to appoint the SWCD representative to the WesMin RC&D Council.

Motion by Flottemesch, second by Grossman to appoint Don Lefebvre as the Becker SWCD representative to the WesMin RC&D Council for 2009. Affirmative: Beck, Stenger, Grossman, Flottemesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Hay Creek Watershed Project – Brad reported on the progress in the Hay Creek Watershed Project area. The staff met with Buffalo Red Watershed Dist. Administrator Bruce Albright and updated him on the project. Eleven miles of buffer have been signed up totaling 67 acres, and 22 sediment and erosion control basins. \$122,000 of the \$245,000 available has been encumbered.

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

- Ed is entering year end data into the e-link reporting system. Must be completed by March 1st.
- Dean completed windbreak designs for the City of Detroit Lakes, Jerry Herman, Gary Larsen and Vance Jirava.
- Dean reported on a presentation given at the Isaac Walton League meeting on the new tax funds for conservation.
- Working on sediment basin designs.

West Central Minnesota Joint Powers Board Meeting – Jerome reported on the WCMJPB meeting held on December 18th. Jerome explained the JPB function for the benefit of the new supervisors.

NPEA Program Re-organization – Jerry and Brad reported on the re-organization committee meeting held on January 14th. The committee reviewed the host district agreement for the new JPB structure. A meeting to organize the new JPB was scheduled for March 31st in Mahnomen. This will combine the WCMJPB and the Soil and Water Conservation District Technical Service Area 1 into the Red River Valley Conservation Service Area. Each SWCD has been asked to appoint a member and an alternate to serve on the new Board.

MASWCD Area II Meeting – Jerome, Duane, Don, and Ginger attended the area II MASWCD meeting on January 6th. They reported the purpose of the meeting was to dissolve the old area II as it will be split to form new Areas I and II. Becker SWCD will be part of the new seventeen county MASWCD Area I.

Envirothon – Ginger reported on how the new area alignment will change the Envirothon. In 2009 we will participate with the same counties as in the past and join the new Area I Envirothon in 2010. Due to the size of the area consideration will be given to have three Envirothons in the new Area I.

Wetland Conservation Act – Working on year end reporting for WCA. TEP panel met January 8th and discussed the Bruce Paakh Bank Plan, a possible fill near LaBelle Lake and an access issue to a parcel of land.

Cost-share Program – The following cost-share contracts were presented:

Contract #08-26, Orpha Poehls, payment authorization for sealing an abandoned well. Total cost of sealing \$300.00. Eligible cost-share \$150.00.

Motion by Grossman, second by Beck to authorize payment of Contract #08-26 in the amount of \$150.00. Affirmative: Grossman, Flottesch, Beck, Stenger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Cont. #09-11 with Okeson Farms, sediment basins was presented for consideration. Estimated cost \$31,212.00.

Eligible cost-share is 75% not to exceed \$5,228.00. (\$2,200 to come from Buffalo Red Watershed Dist. funds and \$3,228.00 from state cost-share funds.

Motion by Flottesch, second by Stenger to approve Cost-Share Contract #09-11 for 75% of the cost not to exceed \$3,228.00 of state cost-share funds and \$2,200.00 of BRRWD funds. Affirmative: Beck, Stenger, Flottesch, Grossman. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

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

Contract #08-32 with City of Detroit Lakes windbreak. Estimated cost \$4,552.15. Eligible cost-share \$3,414.00.

Contract #08-33 with Jim Kalberer windbreak. Estimated cost \$320.46. Eligible cost-share \$240.00.

Contract #08-34 with James Vareberg windbreak. Estimated cost \$1064.18. Eligible cost-share \$771.00.

Contract #09-12 with Vance Jirava windbreak. Estimated cost \$2,334.55. Eligible cost-share \$1,747.00.

Motion by Grossman, second by Beck to approve the above listed windbreak cost-share contracts for the amounts presented and listed. Affirmative: Beck, Grossman, Flottesmesch, Stenger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Ed presented an abandoned well sealing contract for cancelation as the time has elapsed for the completion. The landowner did re-sign up.

Motion by Grossman, second by Flottesmesch to cancel Abandoned Well Sealing Contract #AW450 with Kevin Olson. Affirmative: Beck, Grossman, Stenger, Flottesmesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Abandoned Well Sealing Contract #AW464 with Kevin Olson was presented for approval.

Motion by Grossman, second by Flottesmesch to approve Contract #AW464 for 50% of the cost not to exceed \$240.00. Affirmative: Grossman, Beck, Flottesmesch, Stenger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Annual Plan of Operations – The Becker SWCD 2009 Annual Plan of Operations will be presented at the February meeting for review and approval.

AgBMP Loan Program – Brad reported on the 2008 AgBMP Loan Program. Six loans were made to landowners totaling \$134,200.00. Brad will be submitting the 2009 funding request by the end of January. Funds are limited but we hope to get about the same as last year.

Soil Stewardship Week Observance – Discussed the Soil Stewardship Observance Program. Approximately 70 churches are contacted and offered a variety of inserts, bulletins, bookmarks. Only 17 churches requested the material last year. Staff will contact churches referring them to the NACD Web Site if churches would like to download information for Soil Stewardship Week Observances.

Other –

County Line – It was noted that the Detroit Lakes Newspapers will no longer be publishing the monthly County Line in the newspaper. Instead they will be posting it on their DL Online web site. We will submit articles to be put on the site. Office staff has contacted KDLM radio and we will have a monthly segment on the morning Hodge Podge show the fourth Thursday of each month.

SWAG Grant – The Surface Water Monitoring Grant request through MPCA to monitor 16 additional lakes in 2009 and 2010 has been approved. RMB Labs. will do the field work and testing and record reporting. The Becker SWCD will be the fiscal agent for the grant.

Ag-In-The-Classroom – A letter from Mary Ann Jorgenson, coordinator for the Ag-in-the-Classroom Program was presented. Mary Ann is asking for a financial contribution to the program of \$125.00. This is one of our budgeted educational programs that we assist with each year. It's held over 2 and one-half days and provides agricultural education to area school 4th Graders.

Motion by Flottesmesch, second by Stenger to approve a \$125.00 donation to the Ag-in-the-Classroom Program. Affirmative: Flottesmesch, Grossman, Stenger, Beck. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Board Packets – Brad inquired if the supervisors could receive board meeting information via their email. This would save postage and time in preparing the board meeting information. They all felt they could, but requested that it all come as one attachment.

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

Approved: Duane Grossman, Secretary

Date: 2/18/09