

Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
March 18, 2009

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held at 8:00 a.m., on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 in the Conference Room of the Ag Service Center, 809 8th St. S.E., Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Those present were supervisors Don Lefebvre, Joe Stenger, Tony Beck, Duane Grossman, County Commissioner Barry Nelson, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, 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.

Motion by Grossman, second by Beck to approve the February minutes as sent out and received by the supervisors. Affirmative: Grossman, Beck, Stenger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The financial reports and bills payable were presented.

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

Reports:

WesMin RC&D – No meeting in February due to weather. The WesMin Grants Committee did have a telephone conference to discuss some issues.

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

- Arrangements for the Bio Mass Workshop being sponsored by WesMin RC&D in Ponsford are coming along nicely. Pre-registration is going well. The workshop is scheduled for March 26th.
- Soil Conservationist Dan Paderznik has been doing status reviews for the EQIP and WHIP programs.
- The next scoring period for the EQIP sign-ups will be in April. EQIP cost-share will go from 50% to 75%.
- Provided information to the Buffalo-Red Watershed Dist. on the Hay Creek Project.
- Touched on the Emergency Watershed Program.
- Area office engineers were in the office to review some of the engineering plans for projects to be installed this summer.

Freedom of Information Act – Ed reported to the Board on the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) conference call that was recently held. Ed touched on some of the differences between Federal and State regulations. Basically we will have to have landowner permission before releasing certain types of information.

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

- Continuing to make tree contacts.
- Tree Days was held March 3rd and resulted in several contacts.
- Are offering Mycorrhiza to landowners purchasing trees. This is a fungus that promotes survival, water retention and growth. We are offering this as a trial basis and asking landowners to monitor the results versus trees not applied with the treatment.
- Reviewing sediment basin design that has been prepared by the JPB engineering staff.
- Assisted with Ag-in-the-Classroom in Detroit Lakes and other staff will do the Frazee site next week.

MASWCD Area I Meeting – Discussed the March 17th Area I Meeting. All supervisors attended and felt it went well. It was the first meeting for the new area boundaries.

West Central Minn. Joint Powers Board – Brad reported on the WCMJPB Meeting held March 4th. The Board reviewed the new JPB Agreement that is proposed for the new area. This was the last meeting of the WCMJPB as the new area JPB will be organized on March 31st.

Water Plan Update – Brad reported that the Becker County Commissioners authorized the five-year amendment process for the Local Water Management Plan at their March 10th meeting and authorized the Becker SWCD to coordinate the amendment process.

5th Grade Conservation Tour – Motion by Beck, second by Grossman to sponsor the 42nd Annual 5th Grade Conservation Tour for 2009. Affirmative: Stenger, Beck, Grossman. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Annual Report – Brad reported that we have to prepare and place an Annual Report on our web page. He is currently working on it. It will be in narrative form and summarize the accomplishments for 2008. This is in addition to the Annual Plan of Work, Annual Budget, and the most recent Audit also needing to be placed on the web page.

AgBMP Loan Program – We have been notified that our AgBMP Loan Program has been awarded \$151,000 for 2009. This program provides low interest loans to landowners for upgrading ISTS systems, tillage equipment, animal waste facilities, and erosion control practices. In 2008, six landowners borrowed \$134,000 through the program. The District refers applicants to participating lenders to approve and process their loans.

Landowner Guide to Lake Stewardship – Brad noted that we have received \$200 from the Buffalo-Red Watershed District to be used for the Landowner Guide. The supervisors reviewed the document prepared for Crow Wing County and felt we would want more local flavor and less canned stuff. Would like it to be more specific to Becker County. The committee will be meeting next week to discuss the booklet further.

Wetland Conservation Act – Ed Clem reported on the wetland issues that were reviewed by the Technical Evaluation Panel at their March 5th meeting. Items included comments on the Bruce Paakh's Banking Plan, the proposed improvements to the Big Cormorant Lake Access, wetland restoration on a WRP contract, and an update on a violation on Big Elbow Lake.

Tree Program - Tree sales have picked up. We have placed a few ads on KDLM. The trees will be delivered on April 17th and 20th, with pick-up day set for April 25th.

State Cost-Share Contracts – The following State Cost-Share Contracts were presented for consideration:
Contract #08-36 with Randy Wurst, windbreak. Estimated cost \$582.00, eligible cost-share \$384.00.
Contract #09-19 with Dusty Jasken, windbreak. Estimated cost \$428.00, eligible cost-share \$321.00.
Contract #09-20 with Scott Walz, windbreak. Estimated cost \$1,180.00, eligible cost-share \$885.00.
Contract #09-21 with Lane Riordan, windbreak. Estimated cost \$380.00, eligible cost-share \$285.00.

Motion by Beck, second by Stenger to approve the above listed Cost-Share Contracts in the amounts presented. Affirmative: Beck, Grossman, Stenger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Cost-Share Amendment #1 to Contract #09-9 with Gary Larsen to increase the cost-share amount by \$109.00 because we have added a mycorrhizal treatment to the plan for establishment of his windbreak.

Motion by Grossman, second by Stenger to approve Amendment #1 to Contract #09-09 in the amount of \$109.00. Affirmative: Beck, Grossman, Stenger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Abandoned Well-Sealing Contract AW#465 with Darrell Woessner was presented for consideration.

Motion by Grossman, second by Stenger to approve Well-Sealing Contract AW#465 for 50% of the cost not to exceed \$240.00. Affirmative: Grossman, Stenger, Beck. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Ag Inspector Program –

- Brad reported that the final reports have been submitted to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for our PTI grant for the period 10/1/07 – 9/1/08. Once reviewed and approved we will receive the final \$4,500 payment. This payment is in arrears for work already completed and paid for.
- The Annual Township Weed Meeting for township supervisors will be held Wednesday, March 25th in Callaway.
- The Becker County Board of Commissioners did approve the resolution in support of the Gravel Pit Certification Program that Marsha has been working on.

Other: Commissioner Nelson reported on the County Commissioner's recommendation for the appointment to the Wild Rice River Watershed District Board of Managers that was made to Clay County Board of Commissioners.

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Commissioner Nelson asked about the WRP easement rates. The supervisors felt it may be helpful to have John Voz attend an upcoming Board meeting to review the WRP program with the Board.

Joe Stenger reported on his trip to the legislature concerning the selling of DNR lands to the private sector.

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

Approved: Duane Grossman

Date: April 15, 2009