

Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
May 20, 2009

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 20, 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, Jerome Flottesmesch, District 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 Flottesmesch, second by Stenger to approve the April minutes as sent out and received by the supervisors. Affirmative: Grossman, Beck, Stenger, Flottesmesch. 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: Flottesmesch, Grossman, Beck, Stenger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Ginger presented the Final Financial Reports for the State Cost-share Program for FY2006 and FY2007. Ginger reviewed how much cost-share funds were spent on the different practices for those years. Once approved these will be sent to our Board Conservationist and he will schedule an audit.

Motion by Flottesmesch, second by Grossman to approve the FY06 and FY07 State Cost-share Program Final Financial Reports and forward them to our Board Conservationist. Affirmative: Grossman, Flottesmesch, Beck, Stenger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Reports:

Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz reported on the following:

- EQIP scoring period ends this Friday. \$23 million dollars available state wide. No allocation for Becker County yet. We have 26 applications for over \$400,000 in Becker County.
- Last week a tele-conference on an Organic Initiative was held. \$50 million available nationwide with \$1.8 million available for Minnesota. This program is to help implement six core organic practices. Sign-up ends May 29th, but may be extended through June.
- Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) scoring period ends Friday. We have 2 applications. There is \$95,000 available for Area II.
- Expect construction to start shortly on Nelsons, and Bjerke sediment control basins. Met with the contractor last month.

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- Attended a meeting with MNDOT, Buffalo-Red Watershed District, Becker Co. Highway Dept., USFWS, Houston Engineering to get an update on the outlet plans for Labelle Lake, Duck Lake and possibly Boyer Lake. It is hoped that a structure can be installed yet this year.

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

- Attended the Shoreland Forum in Frazee on April 15th.
- Ed has started doing permit reviews for the Pelican River Watershed District.
- Requests for the no-till drill have been coming in.
- The Environmental Review Committee met on May 13th and looked at a proposed plat on White Earth Lake and also Height of Land Lake.
- Wetland concerns and questions are increasing as we get further into the spring season.
- Ed reported he had a workmen's compensation claim concerning a deer tick bite received during a wetland and plat review and is on antibiotics.

Plat Book Project – Brad reported that it appears Cloud Cartographics is no longer in business. They currently owe us 950 plat books from our latest contract. Brad has discussed this with Assistant County Attorney Gretchen Thilmony. For now we can wait to see if they file bankruptcy and submit a claim. Brad will keep the Board informed as to what happens.

Tree Program – This year's tree program is going well. The stock was excellent this year. We have completed 10 of the 11 planting jobs we had for this spring. Due to wetness the planting has drug out. We should be out of the tree barn at Hartman's today. Overall the season went well.

9:00 a.m. Dean Schmidt, WesMin RC&D Coordinator arrived.

5th Grade Conservation Tour – The 42nd 5th Grade Conservation Tour was held May 11th and 12th at the Ike Fischer Farm. As with everything this spring, the weather played a part. We were able to get five of the six schools completed with 312 students attending, but had to cancel Frazee due to rain and couldn't reschedule.

Brad noted that the Becker County Landowner Guide Project is moving forward. Patty Swenson and Tera Guetter have met with the designer and it should be ready to go to press shortly.

Envirothon – Ginger reported on the Area II and State Envirothon held May 8th and May 18th respectively. Twenty-seven teams took part in the Area II event held at the Prairie Wetlands Center in Fergus Falls. Breckenridge placed first at the area contest with Fergus Falls and Morris Area placing 2nd and 3rd. Breckenridge did place 4th at the State competition.

WesMin RC&D – Don reported on the WesMin RC&D meeting of April 13th:

- Approved insurance extension for the Smokey Timbers Camp.

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- Sponsored the Douglas County Water Festival
- Submitted a request for \$12 million dollars of stimulus monies.
- Future WesMin meetings will be held at the fairgrounds.

Dean Schmidt WesMin RC&D Coordinator commented on the following:

- Presented an article on the Dry Hydrant Project in Douglas County. Becker County has four dry hydrant sites installed through the WesMin Project.
- Reported on the Biomass Workshop held in Becker County in April.
- Reviewed the Project Application Procedure
- Summarized the projects that were included in the \$12 million stimulus request.
- Thanked the Board for their support of the WesMin Programs.

MASWCD Call for Resolutions for the state conference in December. Any resolutions for the conference should be presented at the Area I, June meeting for action. The supervisors had none at this time.

Wetland Conservation Act –

- Requests for wetland issues are picking up.
- We have a couple carryover violations from last fall to address. We have contacted the parties and will be meeting with them.
- Ed, Dean and Brad responded to a citizen complaint. They met with the complainant and resolved the issue.
- Met with the Pelican River Watershed District on some beaver dam issues.
- Issued one exemption for a 400 square foot fill.
- DNR flew western Becker County for possible violations.
- Reviewed culvert replacement for Runeberg Township for FEMA funding.
- Attended a Detroit Lakes City Environmental Review committee meeting for a proposed assisted living development in the Clear Creek addition.

Ag Inspector Program – Assistant Ag Inspector Marsha Watland reported on the following:

- An Invasive Weed Workshop was held at the Becker County Court House May 19th. Approximately 35 agriculture inspectors and agency people attended. Marsha gave an overview of our invasive program to the group.
- The final report for our 2007-2008 PTI Grant has been accepted and we should receive our final grant payment the end of May.
- The Pulling Together Initiative (PTI) committee met May 19th. The final version of the Comprehensive Weed Management Plan was presented and approved by the committee.
- Updated the supervisors on the gravel pit certification program. Seems to be going quite well.

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- Will be holding a series of meetings throughout the county with townships and citizens on the invasive program.
- A full page ad will be appearing in the Wednesday paper on the invasive and noxious weed issues. This is part of the educational portion of the grant.
- We will be submitting a pre-proposal grant request to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the 2010-2012 timeframe.

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

Contract #NB-08-3 with Barry Nelson to establish 25 species native planting was presented for consideration. Estimated cost \$600.00.

Motion by Grossman, second by Flottesmesch to approve Contract #NB-08-3 for 75% of the cost not to exceed \$450.00. Affirmative: Grossman, Beck, Stenger, Flottesmesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The following abandoned well sealing contracts were presented for consideration:

Cont. AW#470 with Jeff Perrine, Cont. AW#469 with Larry Hanson, Cont. AW#468 with Jerred Jirava, Contract AW#467 with Pam & Kim Larson, Contract AW#466 with John Foldesi

Motion by Flottesmesch, second by Beck to approve the above listed well sealing contracts for 50% of the cost, not to exceed \$240.00 per contract from water plan funds. Affirmative: Beck, Stenger, Flottesmesch, Grossman. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The following cost-share contracts were presented for payment authorization:

Contract #09-22 with Bruce Hillukka. Total cost of practice \$1,440.11. Eligible payment \$1,080.00.

Contract #09-17 with Duane Jasken. Total cost of practice \$905.70. Eligible payment \$679.00

Contract #08-36 with Randy Wurst. Total cost of practice \$582.71. Eligible payment \$384.00.

Motion by Grossman, second by Stenger to authorize payment of the above contracts for the amounts listed. Affirmative: Beck, Stenger, Flottesmesch, Grossman. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

WRP Program Report – John Voz will be giving a Wetland Reserve Program report at the June 17th meeting. Brad will let the county commissioners and the county administrator know along with county Assessor Steve Skoog.

Lidar Survey – Becker County currently has Lidar survey data for 80% of the county. A proposal was presented to some of the department heads and the Administrator last winter on completing the county at a cost of just under \$39,000.00. County Administrator Brian Berg has been re-contacted and due to some other funding source, survey data can be obtained for just over \$19,000.00. Brian has

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contacted the departments that were at the first meeting for their thoughts. The proposal will be presented to the finance committee on Thursday and to the County Commissioners on the May 26th. The supervisors felt it would be beneficial to have the whole county completed at this time.

Motion by Flottemesch, second by Beck to support the completion of the Lidar survey data at this time. Affirmative: Grossman, Beck, Flottemesch, Stenger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Other:

- The Becker County Commissioners will have their preliminary 2010 budget discussion on the May 26th.
- Saturday, May 30th, an open house will be held for the remodel and addition to the Becker County Courthouse. Brad will attend and assist where asked.
- Area I MASWCD meeting Tuesday, June 16th in Ada.
- Ag Inspectors short course in Shakopee in July

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

Approved: Duane Grossman

Date: June 18, 2009