

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District**  
**Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 17, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, June 17, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Ag Center Building, 809 8<sup>th</sup> St. S.E., Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Those present were supervisors Jerome Flottesch, Duane Grossman, Tony Beck, Duane Grossman, Joe Stenger, County Commissioner Barry Nelson, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, Dist. Technicians Ed Clem and Dean Hendrickson, and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lefebvre.

Motion by Flottesch, second by Beck to approve the minutes of the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting as sent out and received by the supervisors. Affirmative: Flottesch, Beck, Grossman, Stenger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The supervisors' 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter vouchers and extra meetings were presented for payment authorization. The extra meetings included the following:

- 4/4/09 Red River Valley Conservation Service Area (RRVCSA) JPB Meeting – Jerome
- 5/28/09 RRVCSA – Personnel Committee Meeting – Jerome
- 3/3/09 RRVCSA – Budget Committee Meeting – Jerome
- 6/16/09 Area I MASWCD Meeting – Jerome, Tony, Duane
- 6/25/09 RRVCSA JPB Meeting – Jerome

Motion by Beck, second by Grossman to approve payment of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter supervisors' vouchers. Affirmative: Stenger, Beck, Grossman, Flottesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The financial reports and bills payable were presented.

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

**Reports:**

**WesMin RC&D** – No report as Don was unable to attend the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Dist. Conservationist** – Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz updated the supervisors on the following:

- EQIP scoring period has ended. We had 26 contracts scored totaling \$544,000 in funding requests. Four were funded totaling \$150,000 to date. Re-submitted requests totaling \$390,000 for priority setting as more funds may become available.

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- Was invited to and attended a meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup> at U.S. Congressman Collin Peterson's home on Floyd Lake to discuss flooding issues. Those present were U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar, State Senator Keith Langseth, State Rep. Kent Eken, NRCS Chief Dave White, Ron Harnack and Congressman Peterson.
- We have 3 sign-ups for the Organic Initiative; there is 1.8 million dollars available state wide.
- Construction in the Hay Creek Project area is starting. Due to recent rains we will request to extend the seeding dates to July 4<sup>th</sup>.

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

- Tree planting was completed on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Dean reported on the corrective measures that will take place on the Amy Ruley property in Lake Eunice Township. The area will be seeded to alfalfa, which should reduce the water crossing the road and eliminate the sediment that deposits on the neighboring home owners property.
- Began construction on the Nelson tract in the Hay Creek Project area. Tile is done for one of the sediment basins.
- Ed noted the no till drill rental is down. 360 acres have been seeded this spring.
- Wetland requests have been increasing; also, we are making site visits for the Pelican River Watershed District permit process.

**8:20 a.m.** Wetland Restoration Specialist-Ducks Unlimited John Voz arrived.

**8:25 a.m.** County Commissioner Larry Knutson and Becker County Assessor Steve Skoog arrived.

**Wetland Reserve Program** – John Voz Wetland Restoration Specialist updated the supervisors on the Wetland Reserve Program. The Wetland Reserve Program is a Private Land Reserve easement program partnership with the State and Federal Government. Currently there are 14 tracts totaling 2,300 acres enrolled in the program in Becker County. 1,700 acres was former cropland and the balance was marginal and wetland. Land must be owned 7 years before it can be enrolled in the program. A landowner can enroll a 4:1 ratio of upland to wetland into the program. Payment rates for the easement can be up to 140% of the assessed value. The federal portion is 75% and the state pays the rest.

**MASWCD Area I Meeting** – Duane, Jerome, Tony and Ginger reported on the Area I MASWCD meeting they attended in Ada on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Janeen Stenso of the Red River Basin Commission presented a resolution at the meeting seeking support for the Red River Basin Natural Resource Framework Plan. The resolution was passed at the area meeting and SWCDs were asked to take it back to their individual Districts for consideration.

The supervisors discussed the resolution but no action was taken locally.

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**Red River Valley Conservation Service Area Committee Meetings:** Jerome reported on the RRVCSA personnel committee meeting that he attended May 28<sup>th</sup> in Mahanomen. The committee reviewed and developed the employee handbook for the new organization. Jerome also attended the RRVCSA budget committee meeting held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> in Mahanomen. With no increase in funds from the state, the RRVCSA will have a \$43,000 budget deficient for FY 2010. This will come from the fund balance in order to balance the budget.

**Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)** – Ed reported on the following WCA requests:

- Met with Aggregate Gravel on two wetland determinations to avoid impacts due to mining of gravel. Discussed setback from the wetlands for mining.
- Met with Dan Niemi on some beaver dam issues on tax forfeited lands. Referred him to Chip Lohmeier Becker County Natural Resources Manager for approvals to remove the dams.
- Met with Glen Yliniemi on an access road to building site and beaver dam issues.
- Met with Tera Guetter and Roger Lundberg on beaver issues and removal.
- Met with Greg Nelson in Cormorant Twp. on flooding issues and removal of excess water.
- Attended a wetland delineators training in Winger. This is also a continuing education credit for certification.
- Reviewed wetland delineation for the Lakes Crisis Center site.
- Met with Tulaby Lake landowner on a culvert issue.
- Will be meeting with Bill Taylor on a potential violation from late last fall on Elbow Lake.

**Supervisors Orientation Training** – A new supervisor and refresher orientation training is scheduled for July 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in St. Cloud. Supervisor Stenger indicated he would not be able to attend. Supervisor Beck indicated he would attend. Ginger will send in the registration and get Tony the information.

**Ag Inspectors Program** – Marsha has been busy getting program participants supplied with chemical to treat eligible areas. The gravel pit certification program is going well. Waiting for the leafy spurge beetles to get to the harvest stage. Conducting some township tours for weeds. Working on the PTI Grant Pre-proposal. We will request \$100,000 if we get past the pre-proposal. This is our third grant application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and we will not be eligible for anymore PTI grants. This one will be for 2011 and 2012.

**Hay Creek Project** – Construction in the Hay Creek Project Area has started. Some tile and sediment basin are under construction. We are providing construction supervision for the project and can charge costs back. Brad discussed a rate of \$30.00 an hour with Bruce Albright of the Buffalo-Red River Watershed Dist. Bruce thought that would be fine.

Motion by Flottemesch, second by Beck to charge \$30.00 an hour for construction supervision for the Hay Creek Projects. Affirmative: Beck, Grossman, Flottemesch, Stenger. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

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**Budget Reductions from BWSR** – Brad reported on the budget reductions that the District will see in this year's various grants from the Board of Water and Soil Resources. These include a loss of \$21,748 in cost-share funds which results in a \$4,350 loss of technical funds. The General Service Grant is reduced by \$725. The Natural Resources Block Grant which funds the Water Plan, Wetland Conservation Act, Planning and Zoning Shoreland Program and the SSTS Program basically stayed the same. Brad reported briefly on how the loss of cost-share dollars could affect some of our other programs such as the tree program.

**2010 Preliminary Budget** – The preliminary budget will be due to the County Administrator in early August. With the projected cuts that we are experiencing Brad requested the Board to appoint two members to serve as a budget committee to develop the preliminary budget to be brought to the July meeting. Chairman Lefebvre appointed himself and supervisor Beck to the budget committee. Brad will prepare a rough draft and call Supervisors Beck and Lefebvre when complete to come in to go over the budget.

**Plat Book Request** – A letter from Steve Griffin, Sales and Marketing Manager from Rockford Map Publishers was read. Mr. Griffin desires to meet with the Board to discuss engaging Rockford Map Publishers to produce a Becker County Plat Book. Mr. Griffin is aware of our current situation concerning our present book. Brad noted that Rockford did several editions of the book in the 70's and 80's and did a good job. The Board instructed Brad to invite Mr. Griffin to the July or August meeting to discuss the plat book with him.

**Meeting Date Change** – Due to the supervisors training on July 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> it was felt that the July meeting should be changed.

Motion by Stenger, second by Grossman to change the July regular meeting date from the 15<sup>th</sup> to July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Affirmative: Grossman, Flottemesch, Stenger, Beck. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

**AgBMP Loan Program** – Brad updated the supervisors on the AgBMP Loan Program. We had \$225,981 available for 2009. To date, we have received requests for six septic upgrade loans totaling \$72,981. Two conservation tillage equipment loans totaling \$86,500. Since the program began we have had \$677,481 in loans approved to landowners in Becker County.

**Cost-share Program** – Brad reported that we currently have an unencumbered balance of Buffalo-Red River Watershed Dist. funds of \$4,343. We currently have projects in the Buffalo-Red Watershed that would be eligible for \$6,850 in funding. Would like to request another allocation from the Buffalo-Red Watershed District (BRRWD).

Motion by Flottemesch, second by Grossman to contact the BRRWD and request funds to augment cost-share projects in the watershed. Affirmative: Grossman, Beck, Stenger, Flottemesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

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The following state cost-share contracts were presented for consideration:

Cont. #09-27 with Chad Okeson for abandoned well sealing.

Cont. #09-28 with Becker County Environmental Services for abandoned well sealing.

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

The following state cost-share contracts for sediment and erosion control basins were presented for consideration:

Cont. #09-29 with Lowell Jorgenson, sediment control basin. Estimated cost \$2,800.00. This is a Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) partnership project. Total eligible cost-share is \$700.00, (\$350 from state cost-share and \$350 from BRRWD funds).

Cont. #09-30 with Eugene Kaiser, sediment control basins. Estimated cost \$18,251.00. This is a BRRWD partnership project. Total eligible cost-share \$4,200.00. (\$2,100 from state cost-share and \$2,100.00 from BRRWD).

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

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

Cont. #08-34, James Vareberg. Practice cost \$1,064.18. Eligible cost-share payment \$771.00.

Cont. #09-26, Art Schneidermann. Practice cost \$1,372.00. Eligible cost-share payment \$843.00.

Cont. #08-33, Jim Kalberer. Practice cost \$320.46. Eligible cost-share payment \$240.00.

Cont. # 08-31, Dean Haverkamp. Practice cost \$2,021.00. Eligible cost-share payment \$1,387.00.

Cont. # 09-24, Jesse Schattschneider. Practice cost \$1,194.35. Eligible cost-share payment \$895.00.

Cont. #08-35, Les Pritchard. Practice cost \$1,191.30. Eligible cost-share payment \$893.00.

Cont. #09-10, Jerry Herman. Practice cost \$442.78. Eligible cost-share payment \$332.00.

Cont. #09-12, Vance Jirava. Practice cost \$2,330.55. Eligible cost-share payment \$1,747.00.

Cont. #09-14, Mike Herzog. Practice cost \$2,194.70. Eligible cost-share payment \$224.00.

Cont. #09-20, Scott Walz. Practice cost \$1,180.00. Eligible cost-share payment \$885.00.

Cont. #09-18, Todd Funfar. Practice cost \$6,504.55. Eligible cost-share payment \$4,878.00.

Cont. #09-21, Lane Riordan. Practice cost \$380.72. Eligible cost-share payment \$285.00.

Cont. #09-23, Bruce Retz. Practice cost \$1,101.87. Eligible cost-share payment \$822.00.

Cont. #09-19, Dustin Jasken. Practice cost \$463.24. Eligible cost-share payment \$321.00.

Cont. #09-25, Bruce Jacobs. Practice cost \$2,287.58. Eligible cost-share payment \$1,715.00.

Cont. #08-32, City of Detroit Lakes. Practice cost \$4,552.15. Eligible-cost share payment \$3,414.00.

Cont. #09-3, Douglas Bergman. Practice cost \$315.00. Eligible cost-share payment \$157.50. (well)

Cont. #09-4, Richard Jasken. Practice cost \$450.00. Eligible cost-share payment \$225.00. (well)

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

Cost-Share Contact #09-15 with Bob Howard was brought to the attention of the board. The amount of cost-share approved was 75% not to exceed \$680.00. Upon reviewing the estimate and all other factors, it was discovered the amount approved should have been \$860.00, but the numbers were reversed on the contract to \$680 by mistake.

Motion by Stenger, second by Flottesch to correct contract #09-15 with Bob Howard to \$860.00 of cost share. Affirmative: Grossman, Flottesch, Stenger, Beck. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Contract #09-15, with Bob Howard was presented for payment authorization. Total practice cost \$1,147.25. Eligible cost-share \$860.00.

Motion by Flottesch, second by Stenger to pay contact #09-15 in the amount of \$860.00. Affirmative: Stenger, Beck, Flottesch, Grossman. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Contract #09-9 with Gary Larson was presented for an extension of time to June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 to complete the practice.

After discussion and review, motion by Grossman, second by Stenger to approve the extension of time request for contract #09-9 to complete the practice by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. Affirmative: Grossman, Beck, Stenger, Flottesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The following Abandoned Well Sealing Contracts from Water Plan Funds were presented for consideration. Cont. #AW471 with Howard Heinonen, Cont. #472 with Eric Hegna

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

**DNR Well Monitoring Contract:** The FY2010 Well Monitoring Contract for the District to monitor observation wells in the Pineland Sands area and the Pelican River Sands area was presented for consideration. The amount is the same as past years \$2,160.00.

Motion by Stenger, second by Flottesch to approve the well monitoring contract with Minn. DNR for well monitoring in FY2010. Affirmative: Grossman, Flottesch, Stenger, Beck. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

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**Other:**

- Brad noted that tires on the Rendezvous will have to be replaced. Cost is \$550.00.
- WCA Rule meeting June 30<sup>th</sup> in Bemidji. Ed and Brad will attend.
- Ag Inspectors short course in Shakapee July 27-29
- Wetland Plant Identification training August 4<sup>th</sup> in Fergus Falls
- Ginger handed out the Dist. Capacity Award forms to the supervisors and asked that they bring them completed to the July meeting.
- Conservationist of the Year Award should be chosen in July.

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

**Approved: Duane Grossman, Becker SWCD Secretary    Date: July 22, 2009**