

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, July 22, 2009 at 8:00 a.m., in the Conference Room, of the Ag Center Building, 809 8th St. S.E., Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Those present were supervisors Jerome Flottesmesch, Duane Grossman, Tony Beck, Don Lefebvre, 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 Grossman, second Flottesmesch to approve the minutes of the June 17th meeting as sent out and received by the supervisor's. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

The financial reports and bills payable were presented.

Motion by Grossman, second by Flottesmesch to approve the financial statements and the payment of bills. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Reports:

WesMin RC&D – Don reported on the following from the July 8th WesMin RC&D meeting:

- Smokey Timbers Camp is waiting for the Attorney General on ownership transfer.
- Lake Miltona Assn. held a fish fry on July 11th to support Smokey Timbers.
- The Biomass Workshop that was held in Ponsford in March was mentioned in the national NRCS Magazine.
- The Glacier Ridge Trail Model-T Tour will be held Sept. 4-6.
- Received a \$20,000 grant from the Dept. of Ag. to conduct Forage and Grazing workshops.
- Up-dated the Dry Hydrant signage project.

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

- Jeff Norby checked the native seeding around the sediment ponds in Detroit Lakes. An STS crew will be pulling weeds at the sites this week.
- Rain delayed the buffer seeding in the Hay Creek Project area. 99 acres of buffer have been seeded. Since we began doing work in the Hay Creek area more landowners have come forward to sign-up for doing projects in the Hay Creek Watershed area.
- Will be meeting with Buffalo-Red Watershed Administer Bruce Albright today to discuss the progress and funds remaining for the Hay Creek Project.
- We had \$590,000 in request for 2009 EQIP funds. \$270,000 was approved for 5 contracts. The phase 2 Wetland Reserve Program saw 4 local applications approved. Two Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program contracts were approved.

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

- Construction of erosion and sediment control basins is underway. Dean has been supervising construction on the Hay Creek Project Area. Ed and Jeff staked and supervised construction of the L.E. Hanson Farms site. The Eugene Kaiser project will be installed next week.
- Ed has completed 14 site reviews for the Pelican River Watershed District.

Supervisors Orientation Training – Supervisor Beck reported to the new supervisor training session he attended July 14th and 15th. The sessions covered a variety of topics on governance, open meeting laws, and conservation issues of the day. Supervisor Beck felt it was a good session.

Red River Valley Conservation Service Area Joint Powers Board Meeting (RRVCSA) – Jerome reported on the RRVCSA Joint Powers Board meeting held June 25th in Mahnomen. The 2010 fiscal year budget was approved by the JPB along with the Personnel Policy Handbook. Other items discussed included job descriptions, procedure for filing the new organization with the Secretary of State's Office and monthly reporting. The next meeting for the Board is set for September 2nd in Mahnomen.

Wetland Conservation Act – Ed and Brad reported on the following wetland issues since last month.

- Wetland review with Zoning on White Earth Lake
- Runoff at Snappy's
- Glen Yliniemi on beaver dams
- Lake Eunice Township on road repair.
- Evergreen Township on beaver dam
- Wilkowski on stock pond
- Eire Township on road winding
- Bill Taylor on Big Elbow Lake
- Mark Sontag driveway
- Detroit Twp. on beaver dam removal
- Attended Army Corp Manual training in Bemidji
- Attended WCA new rule update meeting
- Met with Detroit Lakes City on replacement plan at Industrial Park.
- Mike Eilertson replacement plan.
- Jeff Swanson on Tulaby Lake

Ag Inspector Program – Leafy spurge beetle placement and harvest went well. Marsha completed the pre-proposal for a third National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant. We will be notified in September if we can submit a complete application.

2010 Budget – Supervisors Beck, Lefebvre and Dist. Administrator Grant met on July 13th to develop the SWCD preliminary budget for 2010. In preparing the budget, revenue losses from the state due to the unallotment process were discussed. Also interest income was down considerably along with the no-till drill rental program. Recommended reduction in spending for 2010 include no change in employees' salary and

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benefits, reduction in supervisors' meetings, employees' training and reduce the educational program budget. An overall budget reduction of 5% was discussed, but it was felt that staff would have to be reduced to accomplish that type of reduction. It was discussed that the program responsibilities and workload are not expected to go down. The recommendation of the budget committee was to adopt an overall budget for 2010 of \$322,136.00 and request from Becker County \$170,575.00, which is the same as our 2009 allocation.

Motion by Grossman, second by Beck to approve the 2010 budget and allocation request from Becker County and submit it to County Administrator Brian Berg along with a summary of program responsibility that the District administers. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Brad noted that we are scheduled to meet with the County Commissioners on August 18th at 8:45 a.m. Chairman Lefebvre appointed himself and Jerome Flottesch to meet with the County Commissioners on the 18th of August.

Wild Rice Watershed District Proposal – Brad reported that the Wild Rice Watershed District Board would like to meet with the SWCDs in the watershed to discuss getting conservation practice on the land. The meeting will be held next week. Brad will notify the supervisors to see who is available to attend.

Motion by Flottesch, seconded by Grossman that the supervisors may attend the Wild Rice Watershed meeting. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

319 Application – Jeff Hrubes, BWSR Clean Water Specialist, requested the number of lakes in Becker County that are 500 acres or more. Considering developing a 319 grant to complete protection strategies for individual lakes over 500 acres. As the local water planner, we would have to amend the Local Water Plan once the report is done and serve as a contact point for RMB Laboratories. Have not heard anymore since the contact with Jeff.

Plat Book – Rockford Map Publishers will be making a presentation at our August meeting.

Cost-share Contracts – The following cost-share contracts were presented for consideration:

Contract #09-31 with Foltz Farms for sediment and erosion control basins. Estimated cost \$42,944.

Motion by Flottesch, second by Grossman to approve contract #09-31 for 75% of the cost not to exceed \$3,600, with \$1,800 from state cost-share and \$1,800 from Buffalo-Red River Watershed Dist. funds. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Contact #09-32 with Tyler Johnson for an abandoned well sealing.

Motion by Flottesch, second by Grossman to approve contract #09-32 for 50% of the cost not to exceed \$240.00. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

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

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Contract #HCNB2 with Gloria Buhaug for native buffer seeding. Total cost of practice \$1,468.46. Eligible cost-share payment \$832.25.

Contract #09-8 with Larry Hanson for abandoned well sealing. Total cost \$600.00. Eligible cost-share payment \$240.00.

Contract AW469 with Larry Hanson for abandoned well sealing. Total cost \$150.00. Eligible cost share payment \$75.00.

Motion by Grossman, second by Beck to approve payment of the above listed cost-share contracts for the amounts presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Conservationist of the Year Award – The supervisors discussed nominations for the Conservationist of the Year Award for Becker County. Several names and organizations were presented for consideration. After discussion and consideration, motion by Grossman, second by Flottesmesch to present the Conservationist of the Year award for 2009 to the Buffalo-Red Watershed District. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

District Capacity Award - The supervisors reviewed and scored the 2009 District Capacity Award entry.

Motion by Grossman, second by Beck to approve the awards entry and submit to the MASWCD in St. Paul. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) – A letter and resolution from Janeen Stenso of the RRBC seeking support for moving forward with a vision for the future and that the SWCD would do our part by implementing projects that will contribute to the shared vision was presented. No action taken.

Other – The following item were brought to the supervisors attention:

- The Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council will be meeting August 17th at the Holiday Inn in Detroit Lakes. Brad has been invited to attend.
- Sent letter to Buffalo Red Watershed Dist. requesting funding consideration.
- Email from Jon Fure, BWSR, concerning the Open Feedlot Agreement deadline for small feedlots and the role of the District in operators obtaining a waiver.
- Julie Blackburn, BWSR Assistant Director, visited the office on the 21st along with Board Conservationists Chad Severts and Pete Waller.
- Have been hearing a little on the SWCD role in the re-structured Green Acres law. Conservation plans will be needed by participants.
- MCIT Land Use Training is scheduled for August 27th in Brainerd. Brad will try and attend.
- State Ag Inspectors, Conference, July 27-29 in Shakopee, Marsha will attend.

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

Approved: Duane Grossman, Becker SWCD Secretary

Dated: August 19, 2009