

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District**  
**Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 19, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, August 19, 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, Don Lefebvre, Tony Beck, Duane Grossman, Joe Stenger, 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 Flottesch to approve the minutes of the July 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting as sent out and received by the supervisors. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

The financial reports and bills payable were presented.

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

**General Service Grant** – Brad reviewed the changes to the general service grant. Chairman Lefebvre had stopped in earlier in the month and signed the grant so we could forward it back to BWSR.

**Reports:**

**WesMin RC&D** – Don reported on the following from the August 12<sup>th</sup> WesMin RC&D meeting:

- Smokey Timbers Camp has finally been transferred over to a foundation. They had a fish fry to raise money for the camp in July and raised \$2,000.
- Received a \$20,000 grant from the Dept. of Ag. to conduct Forage and Grazing workshops. \$13,000 will go toward the writing of a grazing book and the rest for workshops.
- Up-dated the Dry Hydrant Signage Project. Audubon Fire Dept. has put up their signs. Don and Brad met with the Audubon Fire Chief and had the D.L. Newspaper do an article on the project.
- Heard a presentation on the hybrid poplar plantings that were planted 15-20 years ago and how they yielded for biomass production.
- RC&D's have been funded nationally for 2010, \$50 million dollars.

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

- EQIP and WHIP funds have been allocated. Becker share is \$382,000 for 13 EQIP contracts and \$15,000 for 3 WHIP contracts. Fifteen requests totaling \$160,000 were not approved due to lack of funds.
- Attended a meeting with the Pelican River Watershed Dist. and NRCS Assistant State Conservationist Tim Koehler to discuss the Rice Lake restoration project and the WRP component of the project.

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- Watershed personnel have been meeting with landowners on the easement portion of the project and they have been coming into the office to work with Phil Doll to work out the easements.
- The Brink Lake WRP application did get funded. Phil is working with those landowners. We will be meeting with Becker County Auditor Treasurer Ryan Tangen on the county ditch that comes out of Brink Lake to see what should be done with it in relationship to the project.
- Met with Buffalo-Red Watershed Dist. Administrator Bruce Albright and updated him on the Hay Creek Project. Nine additional landowners in the project area have signed up for practices. These will be installed next year.

**Rockford Map Publishers Presentation** – Steve Griffin, Sales and Marketing Manager for Rockford Map Publishers, gave a presentation via the internet on a new county plat book.

**9:30 a.m. Public Hearing** – Chairman Lefebvre recessed the regular SWCD Meeting and called to order a public hearing concerning a wetland replacement plan application for the City of Detroit Lakes. District Administrator Brad Grant explained the replacement plan. It extends Cormorant Avenue in the North Industrial Park and constructs Terry Street off County Hwy. 21. Total wetland impacts are .51 acres and will be replaced by the purchase of banked wetland credits.

Chairman Lefebvre called for anyone speaking against the project. Hearing none, Chairman Lefebvre called for comments speaking in favor of the project. Hearing none, Chairman Lefebvre closed the public hearing and re-convened the regular SWCD Meeting.

Discussion was held concerning the replacement plan. No major concerns were raised.

Motion by Flottesmesch, second by Grossman to approve the wetland replacement plan for the City of Detroit Lakes North Industrial Park roads as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

**Plat Book** – Discussion was held on the plat book presentation presented earlier in the meeting by Rockford Map Publishers. Items discussed included the types and numbers of extra pages; also discussed the kinds of special maps we would like included and which ones are really needed in the book.

Motion by Flottesmesch, second by Beck to authorize the Chairman and Administrator to negotiate a contract with Rockford Map Publishers to publish a new Becker County Plat Book and authorize the same to decide on the number and types of extra pages to include in the book. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

**Dist. Technicians Reports** – Dean Hendrickson reported he has been out at the Hay Creek Projects sites on construction supervision most of the past month. Project is moving forward.

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**2010 Budget** – Don, Jerome, and Brad met with the county commissioners on August 18<sup>th</sup> during the budget meetings with the commissioners. They reported to the commissioners on the various programs of the District and on reduction in state funds for some programs and steps taken to balance our 2010 budget. The commissioners will be setting the whole county budget sometime in September.

**MASWCD Resolution Committee Meeting** – Jerome reported on the Minn. Assn. of SWCDs resolution committee meeting that was held in St. Paul on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Nineteen resolutions were reviewed by the committee and will be sent out to Districts to consider. Final action will be at the state conference in December.

**Wild Rice Watershed Dist. Meeting** – Don, Duane and Brad attended a meeting of the Wild Rice Watershed District Board of Managers in Ada on July 28<sup>th</sup>. The Watershed District is considering working with SWCDs in the watershed on small storage projects and providing some type of funding. Districts could receive payments based on acre feet of storage created. The Watershed District did pass a motion to fund the program, but they approved it for projects that provide storage for a minimum of 36 to 48 hours. Most sediment basin projects only provide 24 hour storage, so we'll have to see if we have projects that would qualify for some payments. Also, the Watershed District has sent a letter to NRCS State Conservationist William Hunt requesting assistance from NRCS in studying the South Branch Watershed to determine areas where possible flood damage reduction sites could be accomplished.

**Wetland Conservation Act** – Brad reported on the following wetland activities:

- The Technical Evaluation Panel met on August 6<sup>th</sup> and viewed the Nelson Wetland Bank site. A decision was made to add to the acreage for deposit up to 50% of the banked area.
- Viewed a site on Bad Medicine Lake with Planning and Zoning concerning a proposed plat split. A wetland was present. Zoning Administrator Patty Swenson will inform the landowner to have the wetland delineated to see if he has adequate usable area for the split.
- Ed issued a de minimus exemption for driveways on the Black Hawk Beach Road.
- Reviewed wetland activity at Bambi Resort.
- Responded to a concern on fill at Swanies Resort in Cormorant Township.

**Lessard-Sams Outdoors Heritage Council (LSHOC)** – Brad attended a planning session sponsored by the LSHOC that was held in Detroit Lakes. The purpose of the meeting was to bring conservation professional from the Forest/Prairie Transition Section of Minnesota to participate in establishing goals for the LSHOC 25 Year Plan.

**Ag Inspectors Program** – Brad reported that Marsha attended the Ag Inspectors Annual Conference in Shakopee in July. She felt it was a very good conference. Other issues – we have sent out a few notices and continue to work with landowners and townships on the control of invasive species.

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**Cost-share Contracts** – the following cost share contacts were presented for consideration:

Contact #NB-09-1 with Adam Teiken for 6.1 acres of native buffer cost-share. Estimated cost \$12,616.00. Eligible cost-share 75% not to exceed \$9,462.00.

Contact #09-33 with Barry Gish for critical area seeding. Estimated cost \$1,125.00. Eligible cost-share 75% not to exceed \$843.00.

Motion by Flottemesch, second by Grossman to approve the above listed cost-share as presented.

Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

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

Contract #NB-08-3 with Barry Nelson. Project cost \$485.00. Eligible cost-share payment \$223.75.

Contract #HCNB-1 with David Stowman. Project cost \$1,250.96. Eligible cost-share \$704.22.

Motion by Grossman, second by Beck to authorize payment of the above listed contracts in the amounts listed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Abandoned Well Sealing Contract #AW470 with Jeff Perrine was presented for payment authorization. Total cost of sealing \$300.00. Eligible cost-share payment \$150.00.

Motion by Beck, second by Flottemesch to authorize payment of Contact #AW470 in the amount of \$150.00 from water plan funds. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Abandoned Well Sealing Contract AW#473 with Perry Nodsle was presented for consideration.

Motion by Flottemesch, second by Beck to approve Contract AW#473 for 75% of the cost, not to exceed \$240.00, from water plan funds. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

**Health Care Savings Plan** – Ginger and Brad presented information to the supervisors concerning adding language to the employee handbook creating a Health Care Savings Plan for employees retiring or inactive employees. The plan simply allows employees to transfer their severance pay at retirement into this plan to cover medical costs after retirement. Staff will complete the wording and present it at the September meeting for consideration.

**Engineering Requests** – Brad presented three engineering request to be forwarded to the Red River Valley Conservation Service Area staff. They are for additional sediment and erosion control basins in the Hay Creek Project Area for Rodger Haugen, Kevin Lunde, and Mike Odegard.

Motion by Flottemesch, second by Beck to approve the engineering request and forward them to the RRVCSA staff. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

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**Other -**

- Ginger presented the fiscal year-end financial report for the West Central Minnesota Joint Powers Board. As this board no longer exists, and it is now part of the RRVCSA Joint Powers Board, this will be the last report for WCMJPB. An audit of the books has been scheduled. The old TSA 1 for the north half of the RRVCSA will also be doing an audit of their books. It was noted that the fund balance brought forward to the RRVCSA from the WCMJPB was \$156,421.
- Letters from Asst. County Attorney Gretchen Thilmony concerning the status Cloud Cartographics on our plat book contract were presented.
- Letter from Bruce Albright, Buffalo Red River Watershed Dist. Administrator informing us that the Watershed District Board of Managers had approved \$20,000 for the SWCD to assist with cost-share for the period 2009-2010.

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

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District Secretary

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District Administrator