

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 21, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, October 21, 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, Joe Stenger, Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, Dist. Technician Dean Hendrickson, BWSR Board Conservationist Chad Severts and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lefebvre.

Motion by Flottesmesch, second by Grossman to approve the minutes of the August 19th meeting as sent out and received by the supervisor's. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The 3rd quarter supervisor's vouchers and extra meetings were presented. The extra meetings included:

- July 13th – Budget preparation meeting – Tony, Don
- July 14th-15 – New supervisor orientation training – Tony
- July 28th – Wild Rice Watershed Dist. meeting – Duane, Don
- Aug. 18th – Budget meeting – Jerry, Don
- Sept. 2nd – Red River Valley Cons. Service Area JPB mtg. – Jerry
- Sept. 17th – Buffalo Red River Watershed Tour – Jerry, Duane

Motion by Grossman, second by Flottesmesch to approve the supervisor's 3rd quarter vouchers and extra meetings. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried

The financial reports and bills payable were presented for approval.

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

Reports:

WesMin RC&D – Chairman Lefebvre reported on the following from the October 14th, WesMin RC&D Meeting:

- A WesMin Board member has been appointed to the Smokey Timbers Board of Directors.
- An \$87,000 federal and MNDOT Grant has been received to do signage on the Glacial Ridge Trail.
- Received partial payment (\$7,000) of the \$13,500 grazing grant.
- Formed a nominating committee for elections. President Lyle Hovland will not be seeking re-election.
- Heard a presentation on the Farm Rescue Program.
- The Annual Meeting will be in Breckenridge in February.

Board Conservationist Report – BWSR Board Conservationist Chad Severts was present. Chad noted that BWSR is setting up work teams to look at revamping some of the established programs. Such as state cost-share, evaluating technical approval authority and annual plans, etc. Chad indicated he would be around for the rest of the meeting for water plan questions and clean water grant program questions.

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

- Currently conducting interviews with landowners that signed up for the Conservation Stewardship Program. Twenty applications were received. Sixteen hundred applications were received in Minnesota. One-third was for agriculture land and two-thirds on forest land.
- Construction season for EQIP projects is winding down. Four construction sites were going on at the same time this past month installing sediment basins and tile.
- Met with the Becker County Auditor/Treasurer and Assessor on the abandonment of County Ditch #19 out at Brink Lake near Frazee. Adjoining landowners have applied and been accepted for the RIM/WRP program to restore Brink Lake. With the restoration, the county ditch is no longer needed.
- Met with Tera Guetter of the Pelican River Watershed on the Rice Lake Restoration Project. The easement process for this project is moving forward. Nine of 14 landowners have signed contracts.

Dist. Technician Report – Dean reported that for the last month he has been on construction supervision for projects being installed in the Hay Creek Watershed Project Area. Seventeen thousand feet of tile and fourteen outlets have been installed to date.

Plat Book Project – Have been contacted by Rockford Map Publishers, they are currently in the county selling advertisements for the book. We have sent to Rockford our county commissioner's districts map, our SWCD supervisor's districts map and the watershed districts map. They are asking for our front cover photos by November 2nd. Staff will pick out photos for the front cover and forward to Rockford.

Discussed the latest information from Assistant Becker County Attorney Gretchen Thilmoney concerning Cloud Cartographics and our previous plat book. As of Oct. 5th, the business is still listed as active. She advised that the only way for the District to recoup its investment is to bring a lawsuit for specific performance or the money.

Supervisors suggested contacting the State Commerce Department and sending an email to all SWCD's to inquire if they have had this issue in their counties. Also, it was suggested to visit with County Auditor-Treasurer Ryan Tangen.

Junior Envirothon – Ginger reported on the Jr. Envirothon that was held October 7th at the Prairie Wetland Center in Fergus Falls. Twenty six teams from six schools took part. Fergus Falls placed 1st, Hillcrest 2nd, and Ashby 3rd. This was the second year of the Junior Envirothon.

Ag Inspector Program – Fall treatment of invasive sites continues, weather has caused some delays in the roadside spraying efforts. Will be submitting the Phase 1 report for the 2008-10 PTI Grant. Will be preparing the Year End Ag Inspector's Report and presenting it to the County Commissioners as required.

Wetland Conservation Act – Brad reported that the wetland violation on Big Elbow Lake has been corrected voluntarily by the landowner. Ed and Brad attended a meeting on the status of the Wetland Conservation Act on Agricultural Lands, Sept. 21st in Fergus Falls. Ed recently completed a wetland boundary determination for Steve McCormick for a possible parcel split on Bad Medicine Lake.

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MASWCD Resolution Ballots – The supervisors turned in their ballots for voting on the resolutions to be presented at the State Conference and signed the master ballot. It will be forwarded to St. Paul.

9:30 a.m. Public Hearing

Chairman Lefebvre closed the regular meeting and called to order a public hearing to hear comments on the Mike Eilertson Wetland Replacement Plan. Brad reviewed the replacement plan for the supervisors. The plan calls for filling 9,000 sq. ft. of Type 2 Wetland for access. The plan calls for a 30' x 300' base for a roadway with culverts installed. No comments have been received in the office.

Chairman Lefebvre called for comments supporting the plan, hearing none Chairman Lefebvre called for comments against the plan, hearing none the public hearing was closed and the regular meeting reconvened.

After further discussion, motion by Flottesmesch, second by Stenger to approve the Wetland Replacement Plan for Mike Eilertson. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Competitive Clean Water Grants Program – Brad reported on the Competitive Clean Water Grants meeting he attended Oct. 14th in Fergus Falls. There are 12 different grants that are available as a result of the new sales tax levy passed last election. Some grants are limited to who can apply such as watershed districts, WMOs or SWCDs. Brad felt we would want to apply under 3 or possibly 4 areas. These are the Native Buffer Cost Share Program, the Cooperative Weed Management Area Grant Program, the Clean Water Assistance Grant and possibly the Feedlot Grant. Also there are 3 areas that deal with SSTS systems that Planning and Zoning may be interested in. The grant RFPs are due Dec. 1st. If accepted a formal workplan will have to be submitted. There will be sessions on the grant process at the upcoming BWSR Academy in November. Brad will have the final numbers for the November Board Meeting.

Other grant opportunities include a possible Large Lake Assessment Project, a Surface Water Grant for streams into some Becker County Lakes. Brad also noted the Natural Resources Block Grant has arrived and we will take it to the County Commissioners for signature.

Water Plan Update – Brad updated the supervisors on the update of the Local Water Plan Implementation Portion of the plan. Most of the implementation items have been gathered and are ready to send out to agencies; will be placed on our web site to ask for new areas of implementation from the public and others. Brad noted that it is doubtful that it will be completed by the first of the year. Board Conservationist Chad Severts explained that the procedure for the implementation update is unclear in some areas and felt that a letter to Ron Shelito requesting an extension until June 30, 2010 would be in order. Brad noted that he would be sending out all the data and has a water plan committee meeting in December or January and completes the process shortly thereafter.

MASWCD Conference – Ginger noted that the registration for the MASWCD Conference is due Nov. 5th and needs to know who plans to attend. Tony, Jerry, Joe, and Duane will attend. Don felt he would not. Ginger will send in the registrations next week.

Cost-share Contracts – The following cost share contracts were presented for payment authorization. Cont. #09-11 with Okeson Farms for sediment and erosion control basins. Eligible cost-share payment \$1,436.00 state cost-share and \$1,436.00 Buffalo-Red Watershed Dist. funds.

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Cont. #AW468 with Jerred Jirava for an abandoned well sealing. Cost of sealing \$550.00. Eligible cost-share payment \$240.00 from water plan funds.

Motion by Grossman, second by Flottesch to authorize payment of the above listed contracts as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The following cost-share contracts were presented for consideration.

Abandoned Well Sealing Cont. AW#475 with Thomas Bergh. Eligible cost-share 50% not to exceed \$240.

Cost-share contract #09-35 with Nick Zurn, well sealing. Eligible cost share 50% not to exceed \$240.00.

Cost-share contract BR-1 with Art Anderson, sediment basins. Eligible cost share 12 ½ % not to exceed \$1,000.00 (this is Buffalo-Red Watershed Dist. cost-share only).

Motion by Beck, second by Grossman to approve the above listed cost-share contracts as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Other –

- Brad noted that 8 landowners have applied and been approved for \$128,540 in Ag BMP loans this year. Nov. 6th we will host an informational meeting for lenders on applying for next year's funds.
- Area I MASWCD meeting will be Nov. 19th in Ada.
- Brad noted the 2009-10 tree order is out and on our web site.
- Staff is registered to attend the BWSR Academy Nov. 2-4.

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

District Secretary

District Administrator