

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, November 18, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, November 18, 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, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, Dist. Technician Dean Hendrickson, and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lefebvre.

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

The financial reports and bills payable were presented for approval. Brad noted that the past due drill rental accounts in Otter Tail County will be heard in small claims court November 23rd in Fergus Falls.

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

Reports:

WesMin RC&D – No meeting in November.

Red River Basin Commission Meeting – Jerome reported on the flood reduction meeting he attended in Cormorant Village by the Red River Basin Commission on November 10th.

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

- Construction is still going on in the Hay Creek Watershed Project, should be finishing up for the year soon, depending on the weather.
- Completed grazing plan for Tim Hendrickson.
- Construction on the ag waste system for Andrew Keranen is almost complete.
- Completed interviews for the Conservation Stewardship Program sign-ups. Submitted 16 out of 20 totaling 3,700 acres for funding consideration. Will find out how many are approved in December.
- Updated the supervisors on the Brink Lake restoration project through the Wetland Reserve Program.
- Met with MNDOT on the Randy Lefebvre project to see if they will fund the portion that is in the right of way.

Dist. Technician Report - Dean noted that construction is still ongoing in the Hay Creek Project area but will be done for the year in the next week or so. Ed has been doing the required state cost-share inspections for 2004 projects and 2008 projects. Sixty projects were checked with only 2 of the windbreaks having some concerns.

BWSR Academy – Staff reported on the BWSR Training Academy held Nov. 2-4. All felt it was a very good session with excellent training on a variety of topics, from the new grants programs, wetlands, and the new tax reserve program. BWSR is reviewing the session and will consider offering this type of intense training every year or every other year.

Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Page | 2

Plat Book – Ginger and Brad met with Asst. Becker County Attorney Kevin Miller on the Cloud Cartographic issue. Kevin said he would get an opinion for the Board to consider. Brad also mentioned that Farm and Home Publishers would like us to contact them when we are considering a new plat book so they can make a proposal to the Board.

AgBMP Program - Brad reported on the AgBMP Loan Program meeting that was held here on Dec. 6th. A map showing the locations of all the loans that have been made in Becker County was handed out. Over \$675,000 in loans have been made to Becker County residents since the program began. \$128,000 in loans have been made in 2009. The 2010 application for funds is due Feb. 5, 2010.

Wetland Conservation Act – Received a report of a possible violation and will be meeting with the landowner next week. Also working with Lee Ingvalson on some runoff concerns and a ditch clean out.

Tree Program – DNR Forester Dave Johnson contacted the office on the interest in providing Tubex covers and wildlife tree stock for CRP mid-term reviews if landowners have to do some additional planting. Brad presented a revised tree order form listing the new products, (tubex, mats, and staples)

Motion by Grossman, second by Beck to approve the revised tree order prices and products being offered. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Surface Water Assessment Grant – Brad reported that RMB Labs and Becker COLA contacted our office since the last meeting and desired to submit a SWAG Grant application for 3 additional lakes and four stream inlets. The grant request was for \$25,797 and includes \$1,800 in funds for the SWCD Administration. As the grant was due November 6th and submitted, Brad requested approval by the board for this administrative action.

Motion by Grossman, second by Beck to approve the submission of the 2010 SWAG Grant that was sent in on November 6th. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Competitive Clean Water Grants – Brad reported that the deadline for submitting competitive clean water grants is Dec. 1st. There are 11 categories of which the District can apply under six of them. Brad noted that we will apply for a CWMA Weed Mgt. Grant for \$15,000, a Native Buffer Cost-Share Grant for \$40,000 to \$50,000 and a Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant around \$80,000. We do not have the final figures calculated yet, but would like authorization to apply on behalf of the District.

Motion by Flottemesch, second by Grossman to authorize the submission of the proposed grants listed above with the final amounts to be determined by the staff once they are known. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Rural Reserve Property Tax Program – Brad handed out information on the Rural Preserve Property Tax Program that was presented at the BWSR training. Basically if a landowner wishes to enroll in the program he will start at the County Assessor's office. If eligible, we will prepare a plan for the land and a 10 year covenant is placed on the parcel that is enrolled. The SWCD can charge a fee for preparing the plan. Brad will talk with Steve Skoog the County Assessor to get a feel as to how much of a workload this may be for our office.

Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Page | 3

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

Contract #09-31 was presented for cancelation as the project is complete and the payment through the EQIP program exceeded 75% therefore the landowner is not eligible for state cost-share payments.

Motion by Beck, second by Flottesmesch to cancel cost-share contract #09-31 as other payments exceeded 75%. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

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

Contract #AW473 with Perry Nodsle for well sealing. Total cost \$250.00. Eligible cost-share payment \$125.00.

Contract #AW471 with Howard Heinonem, well sealing. Total cost \$375.00. Eligible cost-share payment \$187.50.

Contract #09-30 with Eugene Kaiser for sediment basins. Total cost \$15,647.00. Eligible state-cost share \$195.00. Other cost-share was provided through the EQIP program.

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

Cost-share contract #08-21 with Foltz Farms was presented for final payment authorization. A partial payment was made last December and the project is now complete. All costs are known and the voucher is complete awaiting landowner signature. Payment authorization is requested upon recent signatures of landowner. Total project costs is \$40,440.79. Eligible remaining state cost-share payment is \$1,000.00.

Motion by Flottesmesch, second by Beck to approve payment of contract #08-21 for \$1,000 upon signature of landowner. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

State MASWCD Conference – Ginger went over the final arrangements for the MASWCD Conference to be held Dec. 6-8th in Duluth.

Other – Brad reported on the following:

- Received MCIT dividend.
- Supervisors will meet with the Clay SWCD to discuss the Wild Rice Watershed District Program on Dec. 10th in Moorhead at 5:00 p.m.
- Marsha will be attending the Ag Inspectors Committee Meeting on Dec. 16th.
- The Red River Valley Conservation Service Area JPB will be meeting Dec. 2nd.

Being no further business Chairman Lefebvre adjourned the meeting.

Following the meeting the supervisors had an informal discussion with MASWCD Executive Director LeAnn Buck, Asst. BWSR Director Steve Woods and BWSR North Region Supervisor Ron Shelito on a variety of topics concerning SWCD's.

Approved: Duane Grossman
Becker SWCD

Date: December 15, 2009