

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, December 16, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, December 16, 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 Flottesch, Duane Grossman, Tony Beck, Don Lefebvre, Joe Stenger, Becker Co. Commissioner Barry Nelson, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, Dist. Technician Ed Clem and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lefebvre.

Motion (Flottesch, Grossman) to approve the minutes of the November 18th meeting as sent out and received by the supervisor's. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Brad noted the following:

The IRS mileage rate for 2010 will be 50 cents a mile.

Reported that we received a favorable judgment for the two past due accounts in small claims court in Fergus Falls. They were not appealed within the 20 day time frame and will be active for a period of 10 year.

The 4th quarter supervisors' vouchers and extra meetings were presented. The extra meetings included:

Nov. 10th - Red River Basin Commission Meeting, Cormorant – Jerome

Nov. 19th - Area I MASWCD Meeting, Ada – Tony, Jerome, Duane, Don

Dec. 2nd - Red River Valley Cons. Service Area JPB Meeting – Tony, Jerome, Duane, Don

Dec. 6th, 7th, 8th – MASWCD Conference in Duluth – Tony, Joe, Duane, Jerome

Dec. 10th – Meeting with Clay SWCD & Wild Rice Watershed District – Joe, Jerome, Duane, Tony

Motion (Beck, Flottesch) to approve the 4th quarter supervisor vouchers and extra meetings. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Motion (Grossman, Flottesch) to remove the two past due accounts, that we received the judgment for, from the accounts receivable. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The financial reports and bills payable were presented for approval.

Motion (Flottesch, Grossman) to approve the financial statements and payment of bills as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Motion by (Flottesch, Beck) to authorize payment of all year-end bills and other bills during the year that may be due prior to board meetings, such as credit cards that would have a late fee if not paid promptly. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Comp Time – Overtime Report

Brad presented the overtime report for 2009 and the conversion to comp time. The time accrued for the tree season, drill program, Hay Creek Project, TSA reorganization, etc.

Motion by (Flottesch, Grossman) to authorize the administration to pay up to 80 hours of accrued comp time per employee. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

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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 to elect a president and vice president for next year.
- Voted to support the Farm Rescue Program but not make it a project.
- Approved a project for the Carlos Creek Winery.
- Updating Annual Plan

Brad asked if WesMin RC&D could be a possible source of assistance in developing the Becker County Recreational Plan. Don felt it would be worth calling coordinator Dean Schmidt as the plan evolves if specific areas surface where an RC&D proposal may be worth investigating. Brad will give Dean a call and visit with him on his experiences with recreation plans etc.

Area I MASWCD Meeting – The supervisors reported on the Area I MASWCD meeting held in Ada November 19th.

MASWCD Conference – The supervisors discussed and reported on the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Conference held Dec. 6th – 8th in Duluth. Discussed the various resolutions that were passed at the conference.

Dist. Conservationist Report – Dist. Cons. Ed Musielewicz was not present, but would like the Board to set a date for the Local EQIP Workgroup meeting. The supervisors set Wednesday, January 6th at 9:00 a.m., in the Ag Center Conference Room for the EQIP meeting. Notices will be sent out.

Dist. Technicians Report – Ed Clem reported that construction checks are being completed on the sediment basins that were installed this summer and will be entering data into the e-link reporting system as required; also, will be making tree contacts for plans.

Brad presented a request for JPB engineering assistance for Okeson Farms for sediment basin survey and design.

Motion by (Grossman, Flottesmesch) to approve the engineering request for Okeson Farms and forward it to the JPB staff. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Red River Valley Conservation Service Area (RRVCSA) Mtg. – Jerry reported on the RRVCSA JPB meeting held Dec. 2nd in Mahnommen.

Mtg. with Clay SWCD and Wild Rice Watershed Dist. – The supervisor's discussed the meeting held Dec. 10th with the Clay SWCD and the Wild Rice Watershed District and the small projects program that the watershed is looking to the SWCD's for assistance on. The watershed is offering the SWCDs incentives for installing a variety of conservation practices that help them meet the flood reduction goals of the watershed.

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Plat Book Project – Brad updated the supervisors on the new plat book and the front cover issue that was resolved last week. The book should be here the first week on January.

Motion by (Grossman, Stenger) to set the price of the new plat book at \$33.00 per book, tax included.
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Brad presented a letter that Asst. County Attorney Kevin Miller sent to Cloud Cartographics concerning our old plat book contract.

Wetland Conservation Act – Ed reported on the following wetland activities and requests for assistance.

- Met with Lee Ingvalson on a ditch clean out and runoff concerns.
- David Erickson on an access issue on Wheeler Lake.
- Visited a possible violation site in Audubon Twp., none found.
- Resolved wildlife pond excavation permit with Army Corp for landowner installing the pond.

Pulling Together Initiative Grant (PTI) – Brad reported on the PTI committee meeting held on Dec. 9th. The purpose of the meeting was to set direction for our invasive species' grant for the upcoming year. The Comprehensive Weed Management work plan was reviewed by the committee and discussed any adjustments to the plan. Marsha updated the committee on the gravel pit certification program; and also, on the ATV and Snowmobile Trails Program that we hope to get started in 2010.

Competitive Clean Water Grants – Brad reported on the 2010 Comprehensive Competitive Grant Application that was submitted for the Becker SWCD. We applied in three categories:

- Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants for \$82,788.00
- BWSR Native Buffer Cost Share Grant for \$41,220.00
- BWSR Cooperative Weed Management Grant for \$15,000.00

Statewide two hundred nine applications in all categories were submitted requesting over \$40 million dollars. Approximately thirteen million is available. The applications will be scored and ranked. Successful applicants will be notified in January. Brad noted that Becker County Planning and Zoning applied for \$82,000 of the ISTS funds for inventorying.

Cost-share Program – Brad noted a letter from BWSR Board Conservationist Chad Severts indicating the audit of the FY 06 and FY 07 regular state cost-share program were certified as correct.

The following cost share contracts were presented for action:

Contract #09-29 with Lowell Jorgenson. Total project cost \$3,550.08. Eligible cost-share payment \$350.00 state cost-share funds and \$350.00 from Buffalo Red River Watershed District funds.

Contract amendment #1 for contract #BR-09-1 with Art Anderson. Due to increase costs and weather conditions an amendment for additional cost-share funds from the BRRWD allocation was requested. Requested and additional \$685.00.

Motion (Stenger, Grossman) to approve amendment #1 for contract #BR-09-1 for an additional \$685.00 in cost-share from the BRRWD funds. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried

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Motion (Stenger, Grossman) to authorize the following payments:

Contract #09-29 for \$350.00 of state cost-share funds and \$350.00 of BRRWD funds.

Contract #BR-09-1 for payment of \$1,685.00 of BRRWD funds for tile portion of project.

Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Contract #09-36 with Landrum Lake Gun Club for structure repair was presented for consideration. Estimated cost \$2,000.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to approve contact #09-36 for 75% of the cost not to exceed \$1,500.00 in cost-share. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

A cost-share contract amendment for contract #09-6 with L.E. Hanson Farms was presented for consideration. Due to the fact that the estimated cost of the practice exceeds the actual cost by \$12,268.00 and the EQIP Program will provide \$16,888.00 in cost-share, and that the project is partially complete, but will not be completed until the spring of 2010. Therefore, the amount of state cost-share funds set aside should be amended to be reduced from \$4,452.00 to \$311.00 and BRRWD funds from \$4,452.00 to \$312.00.

Motion (Beck, Flottemesch) to approve amendment #1 for cost-share contract #09-6 as presented.

Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Abandoned well sealing contact AW#476 with Tim Heggestuen was presented for consideration.

Motion (Grossman, Stenger) to approve abandoned well sealing contract AW#476 for 50% of the cost not to exceed \$240.00 from water plan funds. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Discussed available cost-share funds from cost-share program funds 2009 and 2010.

Motion (Beck, Flottemesch) to designate \$8,503.46 of the 2009 cost-share funds toward the windbreak program, and \$2,000 of the 2010 cost-share funds for the abandoned well sealing program. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Year-end reporting – Brad briefly reviewed the year-end reporting that is due to BWSR for all the programs. Most are due Feb. 1st.

Other –

- Brad will be sending out a letter to townships and agencies as to what types of implementation activities they would like to see in the implementation schedule update for 2010 – 2014.
- Jerry noted that State Conservationist Bill Hunt will be retiring at the end of the year.

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

Approved: Jerome Flottemesch

Date: January 20, 2010