

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District**  
**Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 17, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, March 17, 2010, at 8:00 a.m., in the Conference Room of the Ag Center Building, 809 8<sup>th</sup> St. S.E. in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Those present were supervisors Duane Grossman, Joe Stenger, Tony Beck, Jerome Flottesmesch, Don Lefebvre, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, Dist. Technicians Ed Clem and Dean Hendrickson and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Grossman.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Beck) to approve the February minutes as sent out and received by the supervisors.  
Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter supervisors vouchers and extra meeting were presented for approval. The extra meetings were the following:

- 1/6/10 EQIP Workgroup meeting - Tony, Jerome, Duane, Don, Joe
- 2/4/10 RRVCSA Executive Committee Mtg. – Jerome
- 2/24/10 RRVCSA Board Mtg. – Jerome
- 3/16/10 Annual Township Noxious Weed Training – Jerome, Don, Tony, Joe, Duane

Motion by (Flottesmesch, Lefebvre) to authorize payment of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter supervisor's vouchers and extra meetings and add the Area I MASWCD meeting to be held tomorrow for those attending. Affirmative:  
Unanimous: Motion carried.

The financial statements and bills payable were presented.

Motion (Lefebvre, Beck) to approve the financial statements and payment of bills as presented. Affirmative:  
Unanimous. Motion carried.

Brad reported on the County Commissioner/Department Head meeting held February 9<sup>th</sup>. The meeting focused on the anticipated reduction in state funding to counties for 2010. Becker County is facing a possible \$826,000 reduction for 2010. As the budget year has already begun, it is apparent that cuts will have to be made. County departments are being asked to re-visit their 2010 budgets and identify areas where reductions may be made. These must be sustainable for the foreseeable future as the forecast for 2011 and 2012 budget cycles is also suspect. It was also noted at the meeting that County Administrator Brian Berg will be contacting those departments, agencies, etc. that receive general appropriations from the county informing them that 2010 appropriations may be re-evaluated. Brad will contact County Administrator Brian Berg and discuss the budget concerns with him.

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A report from Judy Erickson, MASWCD Legislative Affairs Specialist, was also presented. The report showed proposed recommendations to the BWSR supplemental budget from the Governor's office and the House and Senate. All proposals would impact funds that SWCDs receive from the State.

**Reports:**

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

- Presented a summary of the recent EQIP sign-ups. Forty three sign-ups were received and scored. Total funds needed for all contacts would be \$851,000.00. Final approvals will not be known until allocations are determined.
- Area II had \$11 million in request with \$2 million being for ag waste systems.
- Reported on the meeting with the Pelican River Watershed District on the Rice Lake Restoration Project. NRCS will be designing the structure and the watershed district will be working out the upgrade to Anchor Road.
- Next Wetland Reserve Program signup is scheduled for April.
- The Hay Creek Project is currently the cover page for the BWSR Web Site. Will be through March.
- Received 500 hours of WAE time for this spring and summer. Hired Scott Sonstegaard to fill the WAE position. Also we will be getting a Civil Engineering Technician student, Nicole Wallace will be starting May 24th and be with us through the summer before returning to school in the fall.
- Completed EQIP program payments of \$443,000 to landowners installing practices.
- Ed presented a contribution agreement for projects to be worked on this summer. These include the Jerry Matter project, Okeson Farms and some Hay Creek Projects. The contribution agreement is for \$9,434.00.

Motion (Flottesch, Lefebvre) to approve the contribution agreement and sign. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

- Ed noted that the State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement has been allocated an additional 10,500 acres in Minnesota for landowners to enroll.
- There may be a general Conservation Reserve Program signup this year.

**Technicians Report** – Dean and Ed reported on the following:

- Working on completing cost-sharable windbreak plans. Some will be established under the continuous CRP sign-up.
- Reviewing sediment basin designs that will be installed this season.
- Have started receiving wetland questions and have done a few field visits.
- Held Tree Days Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Ag-in-the-Classroom** – Jeff, Dan, Scott and Ed Clem conducted a soils station during the Detroit Lakes Ag-in-the-Classroom for area 4<sup>th</sup> graders, held March 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Technical College. Staff will also assist next week with the Frazee Ag-in-the-Classroom.

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**Red River Valley Conservation Service Area Joint Powers Board (RRVCSA)** – Jerome reported on the RRVCSA Joint Powers Board meeting held Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>. The RRVCSA will be looking for office space for its engineer in Grygla as the Marshall-Beltrami SWCD is closing and the office is more space than what the engineer needs. Consideration will be given to having the engineer work out of his home. The final decision was authorized to the officers of the JPB. Also will be looking for a host SWCD for the northern portion of the area to check in with the engineer periodically on workload issues, etc. The committee hopes to have this done by the end of April.

**AgBMP Loan Program** – Brad reported that our allocation for the 2010 AgBMP Loan Program is \$112,000. These funds are available for upgrading septic systems, tillage equipment, ag waste facilities and equipment and erosion control practices.

**Envirothon Program** – Ginger noted that four schools with a total of 15 teams will take part in the April 28<sup>th</sup> Envirothon to be held at the Prairie Wetlands Center in Fergus Falls. Three Envirothons will be held throughout the 17 county MASWCD Area I with each being able to send the winning team on to the state competition.

**Ag Inspectors Program** – Brad noted that all the supervisors attended the Annual Township Noxious Weed training in Callaway and heard Marsha's report on the recent weed law changes and MACAI board meeting. The weed meeting was very well attended by the townships and cities.

Brad noted that the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) is accepting proposals for a variety of categories for funding. One is Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species. Brad requested authorization to submit a grant request to the LCCMR for our invasive weed program. Marsha has looked at the application and feels it will fit nicely with our existing efforts. Proposals are due April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Motion by Flottesch, second by Lefebvre to authorize applying for a LCCMR Invasive Species Grant.  
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**WesMin RC&D** – Dean Schmidt, WesMin RC&D Coordinator, joined the meeting. Dean updated the supervisors on the WesMin activities and handed out the 2009 State RC & D report. Dean also noted that he will be meeting with Frazee and Carsonville Fire Departments on locating dry hydrant sites in their respective fire districts.

**Water Plan Implementation Update** – Brad reported he has received information from several townships and a couple watershed districts as well as Becker County Planning Zoning, Becker County Environmental Services, and Becker County Natural Resources. Brad will compile the comments and schedule a meeting to review the implementation schedule.

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**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Conservation Tour –**

Motion (Stenger, Flottesmesch) to sponsor the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Conservation Tour as in the past. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried. Brad noted this will be the 43<sup>rd</sup> year of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade tour.

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

Cont. #10-1 with James Hokenson for an abandoned well sealing.

Cont. #10-2 with John Kohler for an abandoned well sealing.

Motion (Stenger, Lefebvre) to approve the above listed well sealing contracts for 50% of the cost not to exceed \$240.00 per contract. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The following windbreak cost-share contracts were presented for consideration:

Cont. #09-37 with Phil Erb. Estimated cost \$2,467.50. Eligible cost share \$1,850.00.

Cont. #09-38 with Jim Elloit. Estimated cost \$429.00. Eligible cost-share \$321.00.

Cont. #09-39 with Edward Schweigart. Estimated cost \$1,600.30. Eligible cost-share \$1,200.00.

Cont. #09-40 with Bob VonRuden. Estimated cost \$1,120.00. Eligible cost-share \$780.00.

Cont. #09-41 with Jeremiah McBroom. Estimated cost \$1,533.50. Eligible cost-share \$1,092.00.

Cont. #09-42 with Matt Mattick. Estimated cost \$1,054.10. Eligible cost-share \$790.00.

Cont. #09-43 with Dave Heggstuen. Estimated cost \$1,476.00. Eligible cost-share \$1,107.00.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Lefebvre) to approve the above listed cost-share contracts for the eligible amounts listed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Upcoming Activities: Area II MASWCD Meeting – March 18<sup>th</sup>  
Spring Adm. Session – March 30-31<sup>st</sup>  
MNDOT Committee Mtg. March 30<sup>th</sup>  
NW Minn. Ag Inspector Mtg. March 31<sup>st</sup>.**

Being no further business, motion (Stenger, Flottesmesch) to adjourn. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Approved: Jerome Flottesmesch**

**Date: April 21, 2010**