

Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 21, 2010

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday April 21, 2010, at 8:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Ag Center Building, 809 8th St. S.E. in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Those present were supervisors Duane Grossman, Joe Stenger, Tony Beck, Jerome Flottemesch, Don Lefebvre, Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Grossman.

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

The financial statements and bills payable were presented for approval. Motion (Lefebvre, Stenger) to approve payment of bills and financial statements as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Brad reviewed the letter from County Administrator Brian Berg on the 2010 County Budget concerns and how it might affect organizations and departments such as the SWCD that receive general fund appropriations. The letter indicated appropriations for 2010 may have to be revisited.

Reports:

Annual Report – Brad reported that the 2009 Annual Report is completed and is on our Web Site. Copies were in each supervisor's folder.

Dist. Conservationist Report – As Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz was unable to attend, Brad presented the following written report Ed had prepared:

- 10 EQIP contracts are approved for funding totaling \$256,125. Another 32 applications are pending for \$611,360. Hopefully, we will be able to get additional unused funds from other states so some of these could be funded. We had 3 WHIP contracts funded for \$10,332 with another 5 eligible for \$19,595. All total we were able to fund 30% of applications as of today.
- Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) – These funds will be administered by the NRCS in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota portions of the Red River Basin. Basically, it is an extension of EQIP funding for certain watersheds. NRCS will allocate \$2.61 million in financial assistance. The Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) had applied for \$30 million.
- Staffing – Our current Soil Conservationist Dan Pazdernik has accepted the District Conservationist position in Breckenridge. He will enter on duty there May 24th. Scott Sonstegard started as a temporary Soil Conservationist Technician on March 15th. He works 20 hours/week and we have funds for him through Sept. 30th.
- Other – Staff is busy finishing up contracts, field work associated with design surveys, staking projects, CRP planning and status reviews.

Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 21

Page | 2

Dist. Technicians Report:

- Landrum Lake Gun Club Structure – met with owners and Olson Construction, draining down now, when the pond is down, Olson Construction will reattach riser.
- Windbreak designs for Shirley Radar, Cathy Eckberg, Richard Sherbrooke, Todd Funfar, Dave Hemmes
- Started and completed construction inspection on Bjerke water and sediment erosion control basins #3,4,5.
- Held pre-construction meeting on Bollig water and sediment erosion control basins.
- No-till drill has been rented out a couple times about 200 acres seeded to date.

Red River Valley Conservation Service Area (RRVCSA) Joint Powers Board Officers' Meeting:

Jerome reported on the April 7th meeting of the RRVCSA officers meeting held in Mahanomen. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and decide on the re-location of the RRVCSA and select a secondary host SWCD to provide a supervisory role for the RRVCSA engineer. It was decided to allow the engineer to re-locate his office to his house, and that East Polk SWCD will serve as the secondary host district for the RRVCSA. This will begin June 1st.

Spring Administration Session – Ginger reported on the Administration Training held March 30-31st in Alexandria.

Envirothon Program – Ginger noted that the Spring Envirothon is set for April 28th at the Prairie Wetlands Center in Fergus Falls. Twenty teams are registered so far. We received contributions from the Cormorant Lakes Sportsmen Club, Cormorant Lakes Watershed District, Bremer Bank and the Buffalo Red River Watershed District.

Detroit Lakes Transportation Planning Study Committee – Brad reported on the Transportation Planning Study Committee meeting held March 30th. The group discussed several areas for the Detroit Lakes area. These include Airport Road, County Road 6 and U.S. 59 intersection and west, U.S Highway 59 to the South of Hwy 10, Bridge over Hwy 10 by Walmart, Washington Ave. and State Hwy 34 intersection, Cty. Road 22 and U.S. Hwy. 59 intersection, and the expansion of the airport runway. One of the main concerns for the areas is wetland impacts and permitting. The committee will meet again in late May or June.

Tree Program – Brad noted that all the tree stock for this year has arrived. Potted trees were handed out yesterday. Tree pick-up will be Saturday. Sales this year were around 28,500 compared to 31,500 for last year. We have 5 planting jobs to do this year.

Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) :

- Ed and Brad attended a WCA meeting in Mahanomen on April 14th. The meeting reviewed enforcement proceedings and the new rule changes.
- The Technical Evaluation Panel met April 1st. Items reviewed included a possible wetland banking site, an access issue for a driveway that is near Tamarack Refuge.

Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 21

Page | 3

- Attend a planning and zoning TEP meeting for two tract splits.

Ag Inspector Program – Marsha completed and submitted our application for an LCCMR Grant to continue our invasive weed program. If approved it would run through December of 2013.

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

Cont. # 09-44 with Dave Hemmes, windbreak. Total cost \$1,072.25. Eligible cost-share 75% not to exceed \$804.00.

Cont. #09-45 with William Eckberg, windbreak. Total cost \$1,232.00. Eligible cost-share 75% not to exceed \$924.00. (\$799.46 to come from 2009 funds and \$124.54 from 2010 cost-share funds).

Cont. #10-3 with Marty Jorschumb, windbreak. Total cost \$1,477.50. Eligible cost-share 75% not to exceed \$1,067.00.

Motion (Stenger, Flottemesch) to approve the above listed cost-share contracts as presented for the amounts listed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Cont. #10-4 with Hein Farms, water and sediment basins. Total cost estimate \$9,000.00. Eligible cost-share, 75% not to exceed \$6,750.00 (\$3,375.00 from state cost-share, and \$3,375.00 from Buffalo Red River Watershed District (BRRWD)).

Cont. #BR-2 with Art Anderson, sediment basin construction. Estimated cost \$5,100.00. Eligible cost-share from BRRWD funds 12 ½ % not to exceed \$636.00.

Cont. #10-5 with Eugene Kaiser, water and sediment basins. Total cost estimate \$3,217.00. Eligible cost-share, 75% not to exceed \$2,413.00. (\$1,207.00 from state cost-share and \$1,206.00 from the BRRWD).

Cont. #10-6 with Chad Okeson, water and sediment basins. Total cost estimate \$10,535.00. Eligible cost-share, 75% not to exceed \$7,901.00. (\$3,951.00 from state cost-share and \$3,950.00 from the BRRWD).

Cont. #10-7 with Larry Enget, water and sediment basins. Total cost estimate \$4,380.00. Eligible cost-share \$3,285.00. (\$1,643.00 from state cost-share and \$1,642.00 from BRRWD).

Motion (Beck, Flottemesch) to approve the above listed contracts for the amounts listed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

A cost-share contract with Charlie Head to establish 24 acres of native seeding was presented for consideration. Estimated cost is \$8,700.00. Eligible cost-share is \$6,500.00. This contract will be considered using the Native Buffer cost-share from the pooling agreement funds with Wilkin, and Ottertail SWCD's that was established from an earlier grant and administered through East Ottertail SWCD.

Motion (Flottemewch, Beck) to approve the cost-share contract with Charlie Head for 75% of the cost not to exceed \$6,500.00. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried. The contract number will be given by the East Ottertail SWCD.

Cont. #NB-08-4 with Keith Carlson to establish a rain garden on Island Lake. Estimated cost \$1,000.00. Eligible cost-share \$750.00.

Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 21

Page | 4

Cont. #NB-08-5 with Don Goering to establish 12 acres of native buffer. Estimated cost \$3,142.00. Eligible cost-share 75% not to exceed \$413.00.

Cont. #NB-08-6 with the City of Detroit Lakes to establish 5.8 acres of native buffers. Estimated cost \$4,500.00. Eligible cost-share 75% not to exceed \$3,375.00. (\$1,100.25 from 08 funds, \$588.40 from 09 funds, and \$1,686.35 from 2010 CWL funds).

Moved (Lefebvre, Flottemesch) to approve the above listed cost-share contracts as presented and for the amounts listed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The following cost share contracts were presented for payment authorization:

Abandoned well sealing contact # AW475, with Tom Bergh. Total cost \$485.00. Eligible cost-share payment \$240.00 from water plan funds

Cont. #09-27 with Chad Okeson, abandoned well sealing. Total cost \$480.00. Eligible cost-share payment \$240.00.

Moved (Flottemesch, Beck) to approve payment of the above listed cost-share contracts for the amounts presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Brad noted that Tyler Johnson has not yet sealed his abandoned well. We have contacted Tyler and he indicated that it probably wouldn't be sealed by the end of May. We suggested that he cancel this contract (#09-32) and resign up when he has a well sealer contracted to seal the well.

Moved (Flottemesch, Lefebvre) to cancel cost-share contract #09-32 with Tyler Johnson. Affirmative: Unanimous: Carried.

Election Filings – Brad noted that supervisors Jerome Flottemesch and Don Lefebvre terms are up in this year's election. Filings open May 18th through June 1st. Brad also informed the supervisors he intends to file for the open county commissioner seat from District 4.

Resolutions – Brad noted that we have received the call for 2010 Resolutions from the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts to be acted on at area meetings and forwarded for action at the State Conference in December. If the supervisors feel they wish to submit a resolution, we have to act on it at our May 19th meeting and present it at the June 10th Area I meeting for consideration.

Informational Items:

- WesMin RC&D minutes were distributed.
- Notice of Hearing on the Becker Dam project.
- Cormorant Watershed District Petition to expand the number of Managers from 3 to 5.
- Buffalo Red River Watershed District Advisory Committee meets tomorrow.
- Notice of Hearing on Boyer and LaBelle Lake project.
- E-mail on Forest Conservation Easement Program

Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 21

Page | 5

Upcoming:

- Envirothon – April 28th
- Fifth Grade Conservation Tour – May 19th & 11th

Being no further business, moved (Stenger, Flottesch) to adjourn. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Approved: Don Lefebvre

Date: May 19, 2010