

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

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, July 21, 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, Tony Beck, Jerome Flottesmesch, Don Lefebvre, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, Dist. Administrator Brad Grant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Grossman.

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

The financial statements, bills payable, and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter supervisors' vouchers and extra meetings were presented for approval. Extra supervisors' meetings were: MASWCD Area I Meeting- Don, Duane, Tony, Jerome; RRVCSA Executive Mtg. – Jerome.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Lefebvre) to approve payment of bills, financial statements and the Supervisors' vouchers and extra meetings as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Reports:**

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

- The AWEP program allowed 7 additional EQIP contracts to get funded totaling \$300,000. A large portion was for grazing and nutrient management systems.
- The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) had 28 applications, for 20,000 acres, 4 didn't qualify. Should know toward the end of July which ones will get funded.
- A general Conservation Reserve Program sign-up is scheduled to begin in early August.
- The Rice Lake Restoration Project is progressing. Twenty-three of twenty-four landowners have signed on.
- Brink Lake restoration project near Frazee is moving forward.
- Construction of sediment basins is going on and the Randy Lefebvre waterway will start construction when the wheat is harvested.

**Dist. Technicians Report** – Dean is out on inspection and Ed Clem is on vacation, so Brad reported on the following;

- Ed and Brad met with the City of Detroit Lakes Wellhead Protection Plan Committee as the City is updating their Wellhead Protection Plan. Ed is compiling a list of abandoned deep wells that we have sealed through our cost-share program.
- Dean is inventorying the South Branch of the Wild Rice Watershed for buffers, sediment basins and other conservation practice needs as part of the joint CWL Gant with Norman, Mahnomen, and Clay SWCDs.
- Construction in the Hay Creek Project area is taking place on the Lunde project.

**Water Plan Committee Meeting** – The Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan committee met on July 20<sup>th</sup>, to update the implementation schedule of the CLWMP for the next 5 years as required. The committee deleted some completed items and added new ones. Emphasis was placed on surface water

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quality and stormwater management. The revised implementation schedule will be presented to the county commissioner for approval and then forwarded to the BWSR for approval.

**Big Toad Lake** – Tony reported on the Big Toad Lake Association meeting he attended on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Junior Envirothon** – Ginger updated the supervisors on the Junior Envirothon, it will be held October 6<sup>th</sup> in Fergus Falls. Ginger indicated that we have received \$500 in donations for the Senior Envirothon and some contributors indicated some should go to the Junior Envirothon. The balance would be forwarded to the Area I Envirothon treasurer.

Motion (Flottemesch, Lefebvre) to designate up to \$200 toward the Junior Envirothon if needed and forward the balance to the Senior Envirothon Program. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Health Care Savings Plan** – Ginger presented information and the language for the Health Care Savings Plan through the Minnesota State Retirement System, which the full-time employees would like to enter into with their severance pay when leaving or retiring from employment with the Becker SWCD. The policy will be stated as follows:

**The Becker Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) employees are eligible to participate in the Minnesota Post Employment Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP) established under Minnesota Statutes, section 352.98 (Minn.Supp.2001) and as outlined in the Minnesota retirement Systems' Trust and Plan Documents. All severance pay will be deposited by the Becker SWCD into the employees post employment health care savings plan account.**

**All full-time employees eligible for the severance payment outlined in the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District's Personnel Policy, Article XIII, Severance Pay, will contribute to the Post Employment Health Care Savings Plan as described: 100% of employee severance to the HCSP (Health Care Savings Plan).**

Motion by Lefebvre, second by Flottemesch to approve the creation of a Health Care Savings Plan for District Employees as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Ag Inspectors Program** – Marsha reported on the recent invasive weeds tours that were held in four locations across Becker County. The tours went well with township officials in each tour area attending. Marsha will be on Hodge-Podge on July 22<sup>nd</sup> talking weed issues. Also noted that with some changes in the weed law, the weed appeals committee should be re-established. The appeals committee is set by the county commissioners.

Motion by (Flottemesch, Beck) to recommend to the county commissioners that the noxious weed appeals committee be re-established. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Wetland Conservation Act** – The following wetland issues were reported on:

- Site visit to Pump Lake with DNR and Buffalo-Red Watershed Dist. Discussed solution with landowner and required permits.
- Driveway easement on Island Lake. Discussed wetland issues with lawyers representing the two property owners.
- Met with landowner on access issue near Big Rush Lake.

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- Reported on the violation and corrective measures on Lake Ida.

**Cost-share Contracts** – The following cost share contacts were presented:

- Cont. #9-NPBG-2009 with Charles Head was forwarded to East Ottertail SWCD as it is part of the funds we have a pooling agreement on with Wilkin, and East and West Ottertail SWCD's. Payment authorization will be made by the East Ottertail SWCD Board of Supervisors.
- Cont. #09-44 with Dave Hammes, windbreak, for payment authorization. Total cost of project \$1,072.25. Eligible cost-share payment \$804.00.

Motion (Flottemesch, Lefebvre) to approve payment on contract #09-44 for \$804.00. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

- Cont. #10-1 with James Hokenson, well sealing, for payment authorization. Total cost \$450.00, eligible cost-share \$225.00.

Motion (Lefebvre, Beck) to approve payment on contract #10-1 for \$225.00. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

- The following abandoned well sealing contracts were presented for consideration:  
Cont. #10-13, with Dale and Collen Jenson.  
Cont. #10-14, with Marvin Parvi  
Cont. #10-15, with Marlene Branden

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to approve the above list abandoned well sealing contracts for 50% of the cost not to exceed \$240.00 per contract, and fund Cont. #10-15 with \$145.00 of water plan funds and \$95.00 from state cost-share funds. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**2011 Budget** – Brad presented the 2011 budget and reviewed the cuts that the state has made on several of the programs. We will see a \$4,053 cut in our General Service Grant and Cost-share Technical and Administrative Grant, a \$3,783 cut to Wetland Conservation Act Grant, and \$4,977 cut to the Natural Resources Block Grant for the Water Plan portion. All without any reduction in workload or program responsibilities. Our total budget needs for 2011 is \$326,309, which is up \$4,173 or 1.2% over the 2010 total budget. After projected program revenues and state grants, our needs from Becker County is \$183,561.00.

After review and discussion, motion (Lefebvre, Beck) to approve the 2011 budget and budget request from the County as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried. Duane and Jerome will meet with the Becker County Commissioners during the county budget sessions to discuss our budget.

**District Capacity Award** – Discussion was held on the MASWCD District Capacity Award and how it seems to no longer relate to getting projects on the land, but awards points for how many contacts you make to legislator, whether or not you have specialists on staff such as SSTS, etc. The supervisors felt they would not submit an entry this year.

**Conservationist of the Year Award** – Brad noted that the selection of the Conservationist of the Year is due August 22<sup>nd</sup> and will have to be made at the August meeting. Supervisors were asked to bring any nominations they may have to the next meeting. Staff will also present some names to consider.

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**Rural Preserve Program** – Landowners have been coming in on converting their Green Acres land over to the Rural Preserve Program. We will be preparing their Conservation Plans for this program this winter. It is unknown at this time how many plans we will have to prepare.

**Other –**

- Information on the call for nominations for MASWCD President and Vice President was discussed.

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

**Approved: Jerome Flottemesch, Becker SWCD Secretary    Date: August 18, 2010**