

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, October 20, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, October 20, 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, Joe Stenger, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, County Commissioner Barry Nelson, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Grossman.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Lefebvre) to approve the September 22<sup>nd</sup> minutes as sent out and received by the supervisors. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

The financial statements and bills payable were presented for approval.

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

**Audit:** A draft copy of the 2009 financial audit has arrived. The final copies should be here shortly and will be presented at the November meeting.

**NRBG Audit:** BWSR Board Conservationist Pete Waller and Chad Severts conducted a compliance audit of the 2009 Natural Resources Block Grant on October 12<sup>th</sup>. The audit went well.

**Reports:**

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

- Construction of projects continues. The Randy Lefebvre waterway is complete for the winter and will be seeded next spring.
- Met with Bruce Albright on the Hay Creek Projects progress.
- Hope to get several more sediment basin projects in this fall if the weather holds.
- Reported on the EQIP Local Work Group meeting held September 30th.
- Ended up with 45 CRP sign-ups. Some are re-enrolls. Plans must be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Each NRCS office is currently conducting a workload analysis.
- Rural Development installed a new phone system for the building. We now have voice mail services.
- Lidar data is now available for all of Becker County.
- The 2011 program allocations have been made. The Conservation Stewardship Program signup will be in January, the EQIP signup in November.

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, October 20, 2010**

Page | 2

Brad noted that the MASWCD is working with NRCS on a contribution agreement for Districts that indicated a desire to prepare CRP plans. We did indicate we would be willing to do the CRP plans. The final amount has not yet been determined. Brad requested the chairperson be authorized to sign the contribution agreement when it arrives.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Stenger) to authorize Chairman Grossman to enter into a contribution agreement on behalf of the Becker SWCD for completing CRP Plans. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Dist. Technicians** – Dean and Ed are out on construction sites. No report.

**Water Plan Update** – Don, Jerome and Brad reported on the Water Plan Implementation Schedule update. The updated schedule was presented to the North BWSR Water Plan Review Committee on October 13<sup>th</sup>. The committee approved the update with the addition of one goal concerning groundwater nitrate levels in the Pineland Sand Plains area. It will now go to the full BWSR Board for final approval and presented to the Becker County Board of Commissioners for adoption.

**Water Summit Committee** – Jerome reported on the Water Summit Water Management Organization committee meeting held October 14<sup>th</sup>. This committee is discussing ways to coordinate funding for conservation programs in the future. Several ideas were presented. This is one of three sub-committees discussing a variety of conservation issues. Ideas will be brought back to the full committee for possible legislative actions in the future. The next sub-committee is scheduled for November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Buffalo-Red River Watershed Tour (BRRWD)** – Duane and Jerome reported on the BRRWD tour they attended on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The tour featured several projects that the watershed district has been involved in, such as the Hay Creek Project, Boyer Lake lowering, Oakport flood protection along with others.

**Jr. Envirothon** – Ginger reported on the Jr. Envirothon that was held October 6<sup>th</sup> at the Prairie Wetlands Center in Fergus Falls. Twenty-three teams from six area schools took part in the event. Kennedy School from Fergus Falls came in first place.

**Soil Soakers** - Office staff assisted with the Annual Conservation Days held at the Cormorant Lakes Sportsman's Club for area 4<sup>th</sup> graders. This two day educational event was held October 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> and featured a variety of conservation and environmental learning opportunities for the students.

**Redeye River Watershed TMDL Meeting** – Brad reported on the Redeye River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Meeting put on by Bonnie Finnerty of MPCA that he attended on September 29<sup>th</sup>. The Redeye TMDL is scheduled to begin in 2011 with year one monitoring and continue monitoring in 2012 and analyze monitoring and assessment in 2013. A TMDL is a process of monitoring and assessment followed by a watershed restoration and protection strategy and then an implementation schedule. The process is a ten year cycle with

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, October 20, 2010**

Page | 3

each watershed being revisited every ten years. Bonnie would like to meet with each county to review the process. Brad will schedule Bonnie to meet with us in January and invite the county commissioners to attend the session also.

**Tree Program** – Brad noted that the 2010-11 Tree Order is complete and on our web site. Brad requested the supervisor approve the tree order as prepared.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Lefebvre) to approve the tree order and pricing as prepared. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Ag Inspector Program** –

- Marsha attended the Northwest Ag Inspectors meeting in Mahanomen on October 13<sup>th</sup>. The 2011 conference will be held in Warroad in late July or early August.
- We have received a six month extension for our 2009-10 PTI grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. We will try for another PTI grant in June.
- The Annual Ag Inspector Report will be prepared and presented to the Becker County Commissioners in November.

**Wetland Conservation Act** – The monthly TEP was held on October 14<sup>th</sup>, items discussed included:

- Thermal heating using ground water and how they may impact wetlands.
- The Pump Lake issue has been corrected.
- Looking into a possible violation on some ditch cleanout.

**Cost-share Contracts:** Brad noted that cost-share contract #11-1 with Glenn Stearns for abandoned well sealing was canceled by Glenn Stearns on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

The following cost-share contract was presented for payment authorization:

Cont. #09-36 with Landrum Lake Gun Club, grade stabilization project. Cost of practice \$1,965.00. Eligible cost share payment \$1,474.00.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Lefebvre) to authorize payment of contract #09-36 in the amount of \$1,474.00. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The following abandoned well sealing cost-share contracts were presented for consideration:

Cont. #11-3, with Karen Splonkowski, abandoned well sealing.

Cont. #11-4, with Tony Beck, abandoned well sealing.

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

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, October 20, 2010**

Page | 4

The following abandoned well sealing contracts were presented for payment authorization:  
Cont. #AW467 with Keith Larson. Cost of sealing \$350.00, eligible payment \$175.00 from water plan funds.

Cont. #10-12 with the City of Audubon, well sealing. Cost of sealing \$650.00. Eligible payment \$240.00. (Upon receipt of signed voucher)

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to authorize payment of the above cost share contracts for the amounts listed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**MASWCD Resolutions** – The supervisors submitted their ballots for the 2010 MASWCD resolutions to be acted on at the annual conference in December.

**Other:**

- Brad requested the supervisors review the current policy of the SWCD paying for engineering services provided to landowners by the Red River Valley Conservation Service Area (RRVCSA) engineering staff. Currently the staff tries to provide these funds through other sources when possible. With the current budget restraints and uncertainties should our policy be changed to pass these fees to the landowner. Brad indicated even if we pass these cost on to the landowner we will still try and use other funding sources when possible.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to change the SWCD policy on paying for engineering services provided by the RRVCSA to be that these charges be passed through to the landowner when no other funding sources are available. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

- Staff will be attending the BWSR Training Academy Oct 26<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup>.
- A regional AgBMP meeting for local lenders and those administering the program will be held here on November 30<sup>th</sup>. These are held annually across the state.
- Area I MASWCD meeting November 18<sup>th</sup> in Ada.
- Red River Valley Conservation Service Area Joint Powers Board meeting will be held on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> in Ada immediately following the Area I meeting.
- MASWCD State Conference December 5-7 in St. Paul. Ginger will make reservations. All the supervisors indicated they will attend.

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

Approved: Jerome Flottemesch  
Becker SWCD Chairman

Date: November 17, 2010