

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, December 15, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, December 15, 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, Tony Beck, Jerome Flottesmesch, Don Lefebvre, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, County Commissioner Barry Nelson, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, Dist. Technicians Ed Clem, Dean Hendrickson and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Grossman.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Lefebvre) to approve the November 17th 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, Flottesmesch,) to approve the financial statements and bills payable as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

The 4th quarter supervisor's vouchers and extra meeting were reviewed. The extra meetings were:
9/30 – Local EQIP Work Group Meeting – Lefebvre, Flottesmesch, Beck, Grossman
10/13 – Local Water Plan Presentation – Lefebvre, Flottesmesch
11/1 – Water Summit Committee - Flottesmesch
11/18 – MASWCD Area I Meeting – Beck, Flottesmesch, Stenger, Grossman
12/5, 6, 7 – MASWCD Annual Conference – Flottesmesch, Stenger, Grossman, Beck, Lefebvre
12/13/10 Water Summit Committee – Flottesmesch

Motion (Flottesmesch, Beck) to authorize payment of supervisor's vouchers and extra meetings. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Brad noted that the IRS mileage rate for 2011 will be 51 cents a mile.

Motion (Beck, Flottesmesch) to authorize payment of incoming bills through the end of the year to facilitate year end reports. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Water Plan Update and NRBG Funds – Motion (Lefebvre, Flottesmesch) to use the balance of the Water Plan funds to offset the cost of meetings and staff time for updating the implementation section of the water plan. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz reported on the following:

- Making Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) payments for 2010.
- 2011 CSP sign-up is open until Jan. 7th.
- EQIP & WHIP sign-ups. Ranking period ends Jan.28th
- Expect 2 or 3 Ag. Waste Practices for 2011. Most have to do with silage leachate runoff.

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- Distributed a draft map of proposed changes in NRCS area boundaries. May go from 7 areas to 6 areas in the state.

Dist. Technician Report:

- Ed reported he has been working on completing the CRP plans from the last sign-up. These must be completed by the end of the year.
- Dean reported he has completed the as-built surveys for the sediment basins that were installed this year and plotting the surveys on the plans.
- Dean did a presentation on the sediment basin program at the legislative forum in Callaway, Dec. 2nd.

MASWCD Area I Meeting – Supervisors discussed and reported on the Area I MASWCD meeting they attended in Ada, November 18th. A new area vice chairperson was elected. Also, heard reports from the new NRCS State Conservationist and the Red River Valley Conservation Service Area (RRVCSA) engineering staff.

MASWCD Annual Conference – Supervisors and staff discussed and reported on the 74th Annual MASWCD Conference they attended Dec. 5-7th in St. Paul.

RRVCSA Joint Powers Board Meeting – Jerome reported on the RRVCSA JPB meeting held November 18th. Highlights included the election of officers, adopting a consent agenda, established an appeal policy on fees and will be sending out employee evaluations again. The next full JPB meeting will be in June with the executive committee meeting in March.

Water Summit Committee – Jerome reported on the Water Summit Sub-Committee meeting he attended Dec. 13th. Lots of discussion on how the 81 watershed areas would be used in water management planning, funding, governance etc. Commissioner Nelson wondered if a short presentation should be made to the County Board when some more information is known. Jerome noted that the three different committees that have been meeting separately will be compiling their information and present it to the Local Government Roundtable.

Comprehensive Weed Mgt. Area Committee Meeting – Brad reported on the CWMA committee meeting that was held December 9th. Marsha presented updates to the committee on invasive treatment sites, on the new weed law, gravel pit certification program and the ATV and Snowmobile Trails programs. The group also discussed future funding opportunities and how we may apply. The status and balances of the current grant funds was also presented. Funding for our invasive program should be good for 2011. We will be applying for another National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant in March. It will probably be a multi county application.

Brad reported that the 2010 Annual Ag Inspectors Report was presented and approved by the County Commissioners.

Clean Water Legacy Grants – Brad reported that the Clean Water Competitive Grants we applied for to construct water and sediment control basins in the Campbell Creek and Hay Creek watersheds have been approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources. We will be officially notified and will have to submit a plan of work. Total grant amounts total \$163,000.

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Contractors Meeting – Ed Musielewicz and Brad presented information on sponsoring a contractors meeting for area contractors to bring them up to speed on construction specifications and seeding requirements for such things as water and sediment control basins, native seeding, wetland restorations, etc. The third floor meeting room at the courthouse could be used at no cost. A light lunch with morning rolls could be provided for \$10 per meal. A \$5 registration would be charged to offset some of the lunch cost.

Motion (Flottemesch, Lefebvre) to authorize up to \$500 to sponsor a contractors meeting. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) – Brad reported on some WCA activities and a possible violation for a forestry road.

Cost-share Contracts – The following cost-share contracts were presented for payment authorization:
Cont. #10-8 with Duane Hanson, well sealing. Total cost \$450.00. Eligible state cost-share \$225.00.
Cont. AW#466 with John Foldesi, well sealing. Total cost \$350.00. Eligible CLWP cost-share \$175.00.
Cont. #10-4 with Hein Farms, sediment basins. Total cost \$10,795.39. Total eligible cost-share \$6,750.00. (\$3,375.00 from state cost-share and \$3,375.00 from Buffalo-Red River Watershed Dist. funds).

Motion (Beck, Flottemesch) to approve the above listed cost-share contracts for the amounts presented and funding source. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Tree Program – Brad noted that he would be taking some radio ads out for our tree program after the 1st of the year. He will also see about coverage for the eastern part of the county.

Other –

- Pay Equity – Brad reported that the pay equity report was completed and submitted electronically yesterday.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to approve the pay equity report as submitted. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

- Ag BMP Loan Program – Brad reported on the AgBMP Loan Program meeting for the northwest part of the state that was held here on December 10th. In Becker County we had five landowners apply for and receive a total of \$173,359.00 in loans. These were for 2 septic upgrades, one tillage equipment, one ag waste system and one erosion control project. The application for 2011 funds is due Feb. 4th.
- Commissioner Nelson noted that the Aquatic Invasive Species meeting that was postponed due to weather is rescheduled for Saturday, January 15th.
- WesMin RC&D representative appointment for 2011 is due. County Commissioner Schram currently serves as the Becker County representative.
- County budget meeting was held last night. Final budget will be acted on before the 1st of the year.
- Discussed if the SWCD is interested in providing reviews of 1026's request for drainage that come to NRCS. Ed M. will inquire of the Area Office on details.
- Annual Report and Annual Plan will be ready to review at the February meeting. Also Bonnie Finnerity of MPCA will be attending our January meeting to update us on the TMDL process.
- The 2011 NRBG Grant Agreement was presented to the County Commissioners yesterday and sent to St. Paul.

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- The comp time hours for 2010 were presented. Dean and Ed indicated they will use their comp time up. Ginger will use some and will submit the balance for payment.

Motion (Lefebvre, Flottesmesch) to approve the comp time report and payment. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

- Brad reported on the Department Head meeting held yesterday.

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

District Secretary

District Administrator