

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 19, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, January 19, 2011, 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, 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.

Chairman Grossman gave the Oath of Office to newly elected supervisors Jerome Flottemesch and Don Lefebvre.

Motion (Lefebvre, Beck) to approve the minutes of the December 15th meeting as sent out and received by the supervisors. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Official Depository and Newspaper:

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to designate Bremer Bank as the primary depository for the District and all other county banks as secondary depositories, and the Detroit Lakes Newspapers as the official newspapers for the District. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Financial Items - The December financial statements and bills were presented.

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to approve the financial statements and payment of bills as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The following organizational dues were presented for consideration:

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD)	\$2,795.00
National Association of Conservation Districts	775.00
MASWCD Area I Dues	100.00
Minnesota Association of County Ag Inspectors	75.00

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to authorize paying of the above listed organizational dues. Affirmative. Unanimous. Carried.

Final copies of the 2009 financial year audit were presented. Ginger had reviewed the audit thoroughly at an earlier meeting.

Motion (Flottemesch, Lefebvre) to accept the final 2009 audit report as prepared. Unanimous. Carried.

A request from Mary Jorgenson for a \$100 contribution toward this year Ag-In-The-Classroom program was presented. Brad noted that this is a budgeted item in our educational budget.

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Motion (Beck, Stenger) to approve the request for \$100 to the Ag-In-The-Classroom program.
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

District Conservationist - Ed Musielewicz reported on the following:

- CSP sign-up scoring period extended to Jan. 21st. Must be entered by March 1st. Should end up with 30 -35 sign-ups.
- EQIP sign-up ends March 4th, 35 application so far.
- WHIP ends Feb. 11th with 3 applications to date.
- Completed the Contribution Agreement for some of the projects completed this past year.

Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act – Ed Musielewicz presented clarification information to the supervisors on the Privacy Act and the Freedom of Information Act.

Dist. Technicians – Dean Hendrickson and Ed Clem reported on the following:

- Ed completed the Conservation Reserve Program plans from the last sign-up in December.
- Ed will be entering 2010 reportable projects and funds into the eLink reporting system. All items must be entered by February 1st. Ginger is entering the initiative and objective information into eLink also. Ed presented a short version of how eLink works.
- Dean will begin the Rural Preserve Plans.

Plat Book – Brad reported that we found 7 plat books that had pages reversed and were upside down. Rockford Map Publishers were contacted and the books were replaced by the company and the bad ones returned.

Contractors Meeting – Brad noted that the area contractors meeting that we are putting on will be held March 9th or 10th from 8 a.m. – noon at either the Lake Park Legion or the Callaway Community Center. Pre-registration will be \$10 with lunch to be served following the meeting. We will be sending out letters to contractors in the area that may be interested in doing work on our various programs. Final arrangement will be made next week. We expect 40-50 to attend.

Water Plan Update – Brad reported that the Becker County Commissioners will be acting on the approved updated water plan implementation schedule at their January 25th meeting. The update has been approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources and this is the final step in the update. Ed Musielewicz and Brad will also present a 2010 program report to the commissioners.

Lake Protection Water Plan Challenge Grant – Brad reported that he was contacted by Becker County COLA President and RMB Laboratories on applying for a Lake Protection Water Plan Challenge Grant. Eligible LGU's are Counties, SWCDs, Watershed Districts and WMOs. The purpose of the grants are to assess available water quality data and watershed information for the purpose of identifying water quality trends; develop individual lake reports and a summary assessment that integrates watershed and water quality information, evaluates trends and recommends quantitative water quality protection measures. The lake protection plans would cost \$1,000 each. A county may apply for up to 20 lakes. A 1:1 match is required. Becker COLA would provide the match; RMB Labs would prepare the plans. The SWCD would be the applicant and fiscal agent. The grant allows \$100 per lake for reporting and grant management activities. These would go to the SWCD. RMB Labs could also

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prepare a county summary for additional lakes for \$1,000 but only \$500 of that would come from the grant and the remaining \$500 from other sources. Would the SWCD be willing to fund the other \$500?

Motion (Flottesmesch, Lefebvre) to be the LGU for the Lake Assessment Grant application and fund the county summary for \$500. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Ag Inspector Program – Marsha Watland reported on the December 15th meeting of the Minn. Assn. of County Ag Inspectors Board. Marsha also reviewed the changes that are coming in 2011 concerning the new noxious weed list, which weeds are in which category and how weeds are added. She also presented a spread sheet showing the costs that townships in Becker County incurred in 2010 for weed control. The proposed NPDES permit was also discussed as to what type of permit is being proposed for applicators treating over 1,200 acres and its cost.

9:25 Glenn Yliniemi arrived

Glenn explained to the supervisors some concerns he is having with his EQIP contract for the grazing system he installed 5 years ago. The supervisors explained that as this is a Federal program and contract, there is not much they could help Glenn with on this issue.

Wetland Conservation Act – Ed Clem reported on the following WCA items:

- Met with Tamarac Refuge personnel and Al Honer on Mr. Honer's access issue.
- Met with Grant Johnson on a possible violation near Big Cormorant Lake. Will look at it after the snow is gone and determine if it is a violation.

10:00 a.m. - Mike & Leo Splonskowski chemical applicators from the Lake Park area arrived and met with the Board to discuss their chemical spraying business. They are considering expanding their operation to include unmanned helicopter application. They need a Certificate of Authorization from FAA that needs a unit of government to apply. They are requesting the SWCD to be that unit of government. Brad noted that the information had been reviewed by Becker County Attorney Mike Fritz. Mike felt the District could sign as the unit of government for the Certificate of Authorization.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Stenger) to authorize signing as the unit of government for the Certificate of Authorization when the Splonskowski's have it prepared. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Cost-share Program – The following cost-share contracts were presented for payment authorization: Cont. #10-9 with Randy Lefebvre, grassed waterway. Total project cost \$7231.11. Eligible state cost-share \$1,490.00.

Cont. #11-5 with Robert Scherzer, abandoned well sealing. Total cost \$425.00. Eligible cost-share \$212.50.

Cont. #09-35 with Nick Zurn, abandoned well sealing. Total cost \$500.00. Eligible cost-share \$240.00.

Motion by (Flottesmesch, Stenger) to approve payment of the above listed cost-share contracts for the amounts presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Area 8 MASWCD Meeting – Brad has been asked to sit on a panel at the Area 8 MASWCD meeting on March 11th. The discussion will be on how SWCDs can effectively share resources with other LGUs. The supervisors had no objection to Brad attending the meeting.

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2011 Budget – Brad presented a review of the 2011 budget and an employee compensation proposal for 2011.

Motion (Beck, Lefebvre) to approve retroactive, the 2011 employee compensation package as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Other –

- The 2010 Annual Report is being completed and will be complete by the Feb. 16th meeting.
- Brad attended the Aquatic Invasive Species meeting on Jan. 15th, and the Cormorant Lakes Watershed District long range planning meeting on January 18th.

Upcoming:

- Jan. 20th Stormwater and Raingarden workshop in St. Joseph, Ed and Brad will attend.
- Tree Week will be Feb. 28 – March 4th. Will do some radio ads.
- Becker SWCD 2011 Annual Plan will be reviewed at the February meeting.
- Bonnie Finnerity will attend the Feb. 16th SWCD meeting to explain the TMDL process.

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

Approved: Tony Beck, Vice Chairman Dated: February 16, 2011