

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 16, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, February 16, 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, 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 (Lefebvre, Beck) to approve the minutes of the January 19th meeting as sent out and received by the supervisors. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Financial Items - The January financial statements and bills were presented. Motion (Stenger, Beck) to approve the financial statements and payment of bills as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Ginger presented the 2010 Year-end Financial Statement. Motion (Stenger, Beck) to approve the 2010 financial statement and distribute as required. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz reported on the following.

- Sign-ups are currently going on for the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, Environmental Quality Incentive Program.
- Conducting interviews with landowners who signed up for the Conservation Stewardship Program. Thirty three landowners signed up and are being interviewed.
- Jeff Norby is completing the EQIP applications. We have 40 applications for various practices, including 60 erosion and sediment control basins.
- Met with NRCS State engineering staff on the Rice Lake structures. The lower structure will be moved further north due to soil conditions.

NRCS Memorandum of Understanding – Ed reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding that NRCS has with the Becker SWCD.

District Technicians Dean Hendrickson and Ed Clem reported on the following:

- Working on sediment basin designs for this spring and summer construction.
- Some tree plans, but slower than most years. Will be having tree week promotion Feb. 28th – March 4th.
- Ed completed all eLink reporting requirements.

BWSR Board Conservationist Chad Severts was present. Supervisors discussed legislative concerns with Chad and reporting. He will be working with staff on CWL grant work plan today.

Contractors Meeting – Brad noted that arrangements for the contractors meeting are complete. It will be on March 10th in Callaway, from 8:00 to noon. Thirty-five invites are being sent out. A \$10 registration fee is being charged to help with the expenses.

Stormwater / Raingarden Workshop – Ed and Brad reported on the stormwater/raingarden workshop they attended on January 20th at St. Joseph College.

Rural Preserve Program – Brad reported that the planning process for the Rural Preserve Program is on hold for now, as several pieces of legislation are pending that could change the planning requirements of the program.

Water Plan Update – Brad reported that the County Commissioners passed the resolution approving the Comprehensive Local Water Management updated implementation schedule. Information was forwarded to Board Conservationist Chad Severts. The update is also on our web site.

A Lake Protection Water Plan Challenge Grant in cooperation with Becker COLA and RMB Labs was submitted yesterday. It was for 20 lakes. As approved in January, we will serve as the fiscal agent if the grant is approved.

Ag Inspectors Program – The annual Becker County Noxious Weed meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 17th, in Callaway from 9:00-noon. Steve Skoog will be reporting on the new county container recycling program, Sandy Gunderson on hazardous waste. Other presentations include the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for chemical application, along with other reports.

Cost-Share Contracts –

Contract #NB-08-05 with Donald Goering for Native Grass Seeding was presented for payment authorization. Total practice cost \$3,102.06. Eligible state cost-share \$382.55.

Motion (Stenger, Beck) to approve payment of contract NB-08-05 for the amount presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Contract #10-17 with Don Grieser for a field windbreak. Estimated cost \$2,135.50. Eligible cost-share \$1,601.00.

Contract #NB10-3 with Prairie Oaks LLC – Randy Guetter for native grass seeding. Estimated cost \$7,750.00. Eligible cost-share \$5,812.00. Plus \$2,025.68 CRP equivalent payment.

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

Tree Program – Tree week will be held the week of February 28-March 4th.

Tree planting rates were discussed.

Motion (Stenger, Don) that tree planting rates will be: \$150.00 set up plus 25 cents per tree for up to 1,000 trees and \$75.00 set up plus 25 cents per tree for 1001–2000 trees; for over 2000 trees planting charge will be 25 cents per tree. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

AgBMP Loan Program – Brad noted that the 2011 application for AgBMP Loan funds has been submitted. We have \$89,784.00 available in re-payment and carry-over funds and have requested \$20,216.00 in new monies. If new funds are approved we will have \$110,000 available for low interest loans for ISTS system upgrades, erosion control practices, tillage equipment and ag waste systems.

9:30 a.m. - Bonnie Finnerity, Watershed Project Manager for MPCA, presented information on the 10 year intensive watershed monitoring schedule being under taken to identify impaired waters in the state. Currently two major watersheds with parts in Becker County are being monitored. One is the Crow Wing watershed in eastern Becker County and the other is the Buffalo River watershed in western Becker County. Bonnie explained the monitoring steps that take place over a four year period to find impairments, followed by implementation of practices over 4-6 years, and then the watershed is re-evaluated at the end of the 10 years to document improvements and the cycle starts again. Becker County has 5 major watersheds which will begin the process between now and 2017.

10:00 a.m. – Leo Splonkowski, of L&M Road Services LLC arrived. Leo presented the Memorandum of Understanding between the Becker SWCD and L&M Road Services LLC creating a framework of cooperation between L&M Road Services and the Becker SWCD to implement an unmanned helicopter spraying program. This action was approved last month and Leo now has the document ready for the SWCD to sign. This document is the first step needed for L&M to obtain proper licensure to operate the helicopter. Next the SWCD will assist them in completing the Certificate of Authorization application to the FAA.

Motion (Lefebvre, Beck) to authorize the chairman to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with L&M Road Services LLC. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2010 Annual Report – Brad noted that the 2010 SWCD Annual Report is completed as sent out to the supervisors and will be place on our web site.

2011 Annual Plan of Work – The supervisors reviewed the draft of the 2011 Plan of Operations for the District. Adjustments, additions and suggestion were added to the plan.

Motion by (Lefebvre, Beck) to approve the 2011 Annual Plan of Operations as completed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried. (Plan will also be placed on our web site.)

Upcoming meetings and events:

- Ag in the Classroom will be held March 15 in Detroit Lakes and March 22 in Frazee
- Red River Valley Conservation Service Area Meeting, March 9

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

Approved: Jerome Flottesch, Secretary

Date: March 16, 2011