

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

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, March 16, 2011, 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, Joe Stenger, Jerome Flottesmesch, Tony Beck, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, Assistant State Conservationist Colleen Oestreich FO Fergus Falls, 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, Stenger) to approve the minutes of the February 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting as sent out and received by the supervisors. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The supervisor's first quarter vouchers and extra meetings were reviewed. Extra meetings were:  
March 9<sup>th</sup> – RRVCSA Committee Meeting in Mahnomen – Jerome  
March 17<sup>th</sup> – MASWCD Area 1 Meeting in Ada – Jerry will attend.  
March 17<sup>th</sup> – Annual Noxious Weed Meeting in Callaway – Duane and Tony will attend.

Motion (Beck, Stenger) to approve the first quarter supervisors vouchers and extra meeting as presented and upon attendance of meetings on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Financial Items** - The February financial statements and bills were presented.

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

**Reports:**

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

- Have 17 contracts for AWEF funds approved totaling \$225,000 for 66 sediment and erosion control basins.
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) scoring period has been extended to Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Currently there are 30 applications totaling \$2.7 million dollars in contracts if all were approved.
- Nine EQIP applications totaling \$330,000. Practices applied for include nutrient management plans, ag waste, water & sediment control basins and grazing systems.
- Discussed the Rice Lake Project with the Area Office concerning different flood elevations and easement boundaries. Additional easements may be needed.

**Colleen Oestreich, NRCS Asst. State Conservationist FO Fergus Falls** –

- Reported on the federal budget concerns and possible program reductions. Current projections show a 3.5 million dollar shortfall for this year. They are currently operating on a continuous resolution.

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

Page | 2

- State Conservationist Don Baloune offered Minnesota for a complete program audit.
- Four SWCD's, two in Area 2 have been selected as pilots for doing the federal wetland reviews for 1026's, 038's and 569's. The SWCD's are now reviewing the proposals offered to decide if they wish to provide this service to NRCS.
- NRCS will be going from 7 areas down to 6. Becker and Clay would become part of NRCS Area 1, with the Area Office being out of Thief River Falls.

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

- Prepared 5 tree plans, 3 for state cost-share and 2 for CRP funding. Overall tree sales are down.
- Attended a meeting with Brad on the TMDL process put on by Houston Engineering.
- Attended an Upper Becker Dam meeting Option D. Discussion was on upland treatment.
- Dean working on sediment basin designs and a couple of tree plans.

**Contractors Meeting** – The District sponsored a contractors meeting that was held on March 10th in Callaway. Thirty eight contractors attended. Presentations were given on the wetland restoration process for the Wetland Reserve Program, Minnesota Weed Law changes, weed management, staking and installation of sediment and erosion control basins, and native grass seeding.

**Red River Valley Conservation Service Area (RRVCSA) JPB Committees** – Jerome reported on the RRVCSA Personnel and Executive Committee meetings held on March 9<sup>th</sup>. The group decided to do employee evaluations once a year rather than twice, discussed capital outlay needs, will recommend combining executive committee and personnel committee, will meet on April 6<sup>th</sup> to develop 2012 FY budget and review employee salary and benefits.

**Rural Preserve Program** – Legislation is moving forward revising the Rural Preserve Law (Green Acres Program) that will remove the conservation plan requirement.

**Envirothon** – Ginger reported that seeking contributions for the Area I Envirothon have been sent out. The senior Envirothon is scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup> and the Junior Envirothon will be held October 5<sup>th</sup>. Both events will be at the Prairie Wetlands Center in Fergus Falls.

**AgBMP Loan Program** – Brad noted that the final allocations for the AgBMP low interest loan program have been announced. We will have \$90,000 for the loan program. Eligible categories are tillage equipment, septic system upgrades, erosion control practices and ag waste facilities and equipment.

**Clean Water Legacy Grant** – The grant agreement for the Campbell Creek grant has arrived and can be signed and submitted to BWSR. Once the work plan is submitted on eLink and approved the funds will be sent out to the District.

Motion (Flottesch, Beck) to authorize the chairman to sign the grant agreement. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

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

Page | 3

**Ag Inspector Program** – The Annual Noxious Weed Meeting is scheduled for tomorrow in Callaway. The changes to the new weed law will be discussed with those attending. The Minnesota Commissioner of Agriculture signed the new weed list on Monday, March 14th. Becker County Environmental Services Director Steve Skoog will give an update on the new county recycling program.

Brad noted that our PTI Grant ends March 31<sup>st</sup>, we will be ordering chemicals to spend the balance of the grant and submit the final report. We also will be requesting an extension to our CWMA grant with BWSR and revising that budget. Our goal is to continue the program as is through 2012 and keep pursuing grants to extend it past 2012.

The Annual Ag Inspectors Conference is scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> in Baudette, Minn.

**Cost-share Program** – The following cost-share contracts were presented for consideration:  
Cont. #10-18 with Shirley Rader, windbreak. Estimated cost \$296.29. Eligible cost-share \$222.00.  
Cont. #10-19 with Art Anderson, windbreak. Estimated cost \$444.00. Eligible cost-share \$306.00.

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to approve the above listed contracts for the amounts presented.  
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Cost-share amendment #1 for contract #NB-08-6 with the City of Detroit Lakes was presented for consideration. The amendment requests an additional \$1,500 in cost-share due to the technical determination to add live plants to the planting site.

Motion (Beck, Flottemesch) to approve amendment #1 to contract #NB-08-6 for \$1,500 with \$30.45 from 2008 Buffer and \$1,469.55 from 2010 fiscal year native buffer additional cost-share funds. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Other –**

- Brad reported that he sent a letter of support for a grant to assist in the purchase of a parcel adjacent to the Sucker Creek Preserve that Sally Hausken is preparing.
- Area I MASWCD Meeting tomorrow in Ada – Jerome and Ginger will attend. Tony and Duane indicated they will attend the weed meeting in Callaway.
- Commissioner Nelson indicated he will be submitting a letter of interest in being appointed to the Board of Water and Soil Resources Board, as openings will be coming up.
- Commissioner Nelson also noted that the county is reviewing its space needs.

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

**Approved: Jerome Flottemesch, Secretary**

**Date: April 20, 2011**