

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 15th, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, June 15, 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, Jerome Flottemesch, Tony Beck, Don Lefebvre, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, District Technician Dean Hendrickson and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Grossman.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to approve the minutes of the May 18th meeting as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Brad noted that our request to extend our BWSR – CWMA Grant to December 31, 2012 was approved, along with the request to use an additional \$5,000 of 2011 cost-share funds for technical assistance.

The supervisor's 2nd quarter vouchers and extra meetings were presented. Extra meetings included:
April 6th, RRVCSA Committee meeting – Mahnomen – Jerry
June 23rd, Area I, MASWCD meeting in Ada will be added to vouchers – planning to attend Jerry, Don, Tony, Duane

The May financial statements and bills were presented for consideration.

Motion (Beck, Flottemesch) to approve the financial statements, payment of bills, and 2nd quarter supervisor vouchers. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Dist. Conservationist Report – Ed Musielewicz and Ed Clem are attending Hydric Soils training in Fergus Falls. Ed M. wanted mentioned that 13 additional CSP contracts were approved.

Dist. Technicians Report – Dean Hendrickson reported on the following:

- Checked cost-share hand planted tree jobs. Tree plantings are looking very good.
- Completed review of possible sediment basin sites in the South Branch of the Wild Rice River Watershed.
- Reported on the Lake Protection Challenge Grant Workshop he attended on June 9th in Brainerd.

8:30 a.m. – Colleen Oestreich, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist (FO) arrived.

Public Hearing: Chairman Grossman recessed the regular board meeting and called to order a public hearing on a wetland replacement plan for the City of Detroit Lakes.

Brad reviewed the wetland replacement plan that will impact 0.177 acres of wetland along Tower Road for a hiking and biking trail. The trail will be 20 ft. in from the toe of the road slope. Brad noted that no comments have been received for or against the wetland replacement plan.

Chairman Grossman asked for comments for or against the wetland replacement plan. Hearing none Chairman Grossman adjourned the public hearing and called the regular board meeting back to order.

The supervisors discussed the wetland replacement plan further.

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Motion (Flottemesch, Lefebvre) to approve the wetland replacement plan for the City of Detroit Lakes Towner Road hiking and biking trail. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Joint Implementation of Wetland Conservation Act and Swampbuster – The supervisors discussed a contribution agreement being offered by the NRCS to have Becker SWCD carry out the Swampbuster provisions of the Federal Farm Bill. Colleen Oestreich noted that the final agreement is not complete. The supervisors asked about reimbursement rates. If it is by each 1026 that presents a concern, as several tracts of land could be listed on one 1026. Discussed if each tract could have a separate 1026? FSA noted that could not happen. Colleen noted that possibly a different rate could be developed if a 1026 exceeds a certain number of tracts. She will ask that question of Paul Flynn in the state office. Paul is gathering questions and is preparing the final agreement. Can the SWCD use the federal vehicle to conduct site visits? Colleen felt they could. Discussed termination of the agreement. The agreement can be terminated with 30 day notice.

Motion (Flottemesch, Lefebvre) to authorize the Chairman to enter into a contribution agreement with NRCS on wetland determinations for swampbuster provisions of the Federal Farm Bill once the final rates are determined. If the Chairman decides that further discussion is needed once the final agreement is developed, he may bring it back to the full board for further discussion. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Colleen reported on the following:

- The NRCS employees that were RC&D coordinators have been offered a buyout.
- Early outs are also being offered for NRCS employees.
- The Becker and Clay county NRCS offices will be administered out of NRCS Area I in Thief River Falls beginning October 1st, 2011.

Equipment Needs – Ginger reported that the color printer that the District owns is on the blink. The original cost of the printer was around \$400. The repair is estimated at \$200 and then something else could go. Ginger presented information on leasing a color printer. Staff did look at a leased copier at the assessor's office. The lease would be per copy. Ginger presented information on the number of color copies we printed on the existing machine. When you consider toner costs, etc. a lease may be the way to go.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to replace the color printer via lease or purchase and appoint a committee to make the decision. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Chairman Grossman appointed Flottemesch and Lefebvre to the committee. Brad will contact them when pricing information is known.

Well monitoring contract – The DNR well monitoring contract for FY2012 was presented. The amount is the same as last year and is for monitoring wells in the Pineland Sands Area and the Pelican River Sands area.

Motion (Lefebvre, Beck) to approve the 2012 well monitoring contract. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

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Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) – Brad reported on the following WCA activities:

- Driveway issue near Little Bemidji Lake
- Viewed possible tract split for wetland impacts for Larry Oswald.
- Jay Walz on excavation request
- Wayne Crawford on creating a parking lot.

Ag Inspectors Program -

- Gravel pit inspections have been completed.
- Will begin harvesting spotted knapweed weevils and leafy spurge beetles soon
- Assisted Wadena SWCD with their annual township meeting
- DuPont has established an herbicide test plot in Riceville Township for Plumeless Thistle.
- Conducting township tours with township supervisors

Cost-share Program –

Contract #10-11 was presented for cancelation at landowner's request.

Motion (Lefebvre, Beck) to cancel cost-share contract #10-11. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The following cost-share contracts were presented for consideration:

Cont. #11-14 with Al Bergquist, abandoned well sealing.

Cont. #11-15 with Ralph Bergquist, abandoned well sealing.

Cont. #11-16 with Kevin Olson, abandoned well sealing.

Cont. #11-17 with Brad Hanson, abandoned well sealing.

Cont. #10-27 with Richard Jasken, abandoned well sealing.

Motion (Flottesch, Beck) to approve the above listed abandoned well sealing contracts for 50% of the cost not to exceed \$240.00. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Cont. #NB-10-2 with Richard Hecock was presented for partial payment for native grass seeding and site prep.

Eleven acres. Total project cost at this time \$3,630.00. Eligible cost-share at this time \$2722.50.

Cont. #11-13 with Charles Wendt abandoned well sealing. Total cost \$600.00, eligible cost-share \$240.00.

Motion (Lefebvre, Beck) to authorize payments of the above listed cost-share contracts as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Resolutions – The resolutions from the Clay SWCD and Wilkin SWCD to be presented at the MASWCD Area I meeting were reviewed.

Tree Program Review – The supervisors reviewed and evaluated the District's Tree Program as encouraged by MASWCD President Kathryn Kelly. Upon review the supervisors felt it is still a needed and beneficial program for both the District and the residents of Becker County.

Other –

- Brad reviewed an email from John Jaschke, Executive Director of BWSR on the potential state government shutdown and the BWSR contingency plans. Relevant documents are posted on the BWSR home page.
- The tentative dates for the 2011 BWSR Academy are October 25th – 27th. Location to be determined.
- Next round for submitting Clean Water Legacy Grant Applications starts August 1, 2011. Will be preparing an application for the South Branch of the Wild Rice that Dean has inventoried for conservation practice needs.

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- Area I MASWCD Meeting and Red River Valley Conservation Service Area Joint Powers Board Meeting is June 23rd in Ada. We will leave the office at 7:45 a.m. The supervisors indicated they plan to attend.

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

Approved: Jerome Flottemesch Date: July 20, 2011