

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

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, November 16, 2011, at 8:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Ag Center Building, 809 8<sup>th</sup> St. S.E., Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Those present were supervisors Duane Grossman, Jerome Flottesmesch, Tony Beck, Don Lefebvre, County Commissioner Barry Nelson, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Grossman.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Beck) to approve the minutes of the October meeting as sent out and received by the supervisors. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The October financial statements and bills were presented. Ginger also presented the year-end financial closeout of the 2009 cost-share program.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Lefebvre) to approve the financial statements, payment of bills, and the 2009 final financial cost-share closeout report as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Brad noted that the grant agreement for the 2012 Natural Resources Block Grant arrived and will present it to the county commissioners at their December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Reports:**

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

- Ed Clem is attending training on the wetland determinations for farm bill compliance.
- Dean and Jeff are completing as-built surveys on the sediment basin dikes that have been constructed.
- Began making CSP payments
- Nikki has been doing status reviews.
- Six to seven CSP contracts will be spot checked.
- EQIP Program role out meeting in Ada on November 17, 2011. Scoring period ends Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Will have a conference call on the Rice Lake Project November 18<sup>th</sup>, Additional easements will be needed. Also discussing road concerns with the County Engineer.
- Farm Service Director Nathan Peterson is leaving for the same position in Farmington. His last day will be December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Area I MASWCD Meeting** – Supervisors Beck, Lefebvre, Flottesmesch reported on the Area I meeting held in Ada on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ken Pederson was elected as Director from Area I to serve on the MASWCD Board of Directors. Approved the budget and set the area dues for 2012 at \$150.00. Heard a flood mitigation presentation from Henry VanOfeleon.

**Red River Valley Conservation Service Area (RRVCSA) Joint Powers Board Meeting** – Jerome reported on the RRVCSA JPB meeting that was held in Ada following the Area I meeting. The JPB authorized upgrading the survey equipment and purchasing a new ATV. Host

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Districts will work with Board Conservationists Brian Dwight and Chad Severts to develop a uniform fee schedule for CWL grants.

**BWSR Academy** – Ginger and Brad reported on the BWSR Training Academy that they and Ed Clem attended Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>. Over 320 County, SWCD, and Watershed District staff attended the event. Ginger reviewed some of the cost-share and other items that the Board could authorize to staff. Flottemesch suggested that these be compiled and brought to the January board meeting.

**Pheasants Forever Technical Assistance Program** – Brad noted that he contacted Matt Holland of Pheasants Forever as instructed last month concerning the possibility of sharing the position that Clay SWCD is considering. Matt thought this maybe something that could be worked out once the position is established. Brad will keep in touch with the Clay SWCD as to how this program proceeds for possible partnering in the future.

**Envirothon** – Ginger reported on the pre-planning meeting for the Senior and Junior Envirothon that was held Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>. The 2012 Senior Envirothon will be held April 25, and the Junior Envirothon will be October 3, 2012.

**Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force** – Brad reported that the Becker County Board of Commissioners have passed a resolution forming an Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force to explore avenues in combating aquatic invasive species such as zebra mussels or others that may appear in the future. Marsha Watland has been asked to serve on the task force. Becker County Planning and Zoning is taking the lead at the present time for the task force meetings etc.

**Unmanned Aircraft** – Brad presented the latest information from the FAA concerning our request for a Certificate of Authorization (COA) to operate an unmanned aircraft in cooperation with L & M Road Services to conduct aerial spraying. Due to several concerns expressed by the FAA on the role of the SWCD in this operation it is unlikely that a COA would be approved. Brad has contacted L&M Road Services concerning the concerns. They agreed that it is unlikely a COA will be issued and also noted that proposed changes in the FAA rules may make it easier for them to obtain permissions on their own.

Motion (Beck, Flottemesch) to respond to the FAA and withdraw our request for a COA.  
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Shoreland Specialist Position** – Discussion was held on the establishment of a shoreland specialist position for Becker County. The establishment of this position is a goal in the updated implementation schedule of the Becker County Local Water Management Plan. With 21 Becker County Lake Protection Plans to be completed in the next couple months, now may be an opportune time to move ahead with creating a shoreland specialist position. Items discussed included, location of the position (SWCD or County), duties, how are these positions working in other counties, costs, job description, etc. The supervisors felt the position would be a good fit for the SWCD. Commissioner Nelson also felt the SWCD would be a good location for the position.

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Motion (Flottemesch, Lefebvre) to have the Administrator research information on establishing a shoreland specialist position and bring back to the supervisors. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Ag Inspector Program -**

- The next PTI committee meeting will be December 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Marsha is preparing the year-end Ag Inspectors Report. This will be presented to the County Commissioners as required.

**No-till Drill** – RDO has not picked up our no-drill yet, but it is listed on their web site as being for sale.

**Wetland Conservation Act –**

- Viewed the Lakeswind Wind Project site in SW Becker and SE Clay counties for a wind generator project.
- Viewed a possible wildlife excavation site with a landowner near Cotton Lake. May be exempt from WCA but will send out joint notification form to Army Corp and DNR.

**Cost-share Contracts** – The following cost-share contracts were presented for payment authorization:

Cont. #11-21, with Lloyd Jirava, well sealing. Total cost. \$650.00, eligible payment \$240.00.

Cont. #11-22, with Lloyd Jirava, well sealing. Total cost. \$850.00, eligible payment \$240.00.

Motion (Flottemesch, Lefebvre) to approve payment of the above listed contracts as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Cont. #AW477 with Diane Vareberg, well sealing. Total cost \$510.00. Eligible cost share \$240.00. Brad noted that \$161.50 is available from water plans funds and requested the balance of \$78.50 come from District funds, due to the shortfall in water plan cost-share dollars.

Motion (Lefebvre, Beck) to approve payment of the Diane Vareberg well sealing contract as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Upcoming events** – Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> MASWCD Conference in Bloomington  
Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> PTI Committee Meeting  
Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> AgBMP Loan Program Mtg. in Detroit Lakes  
Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> Ag Forum in Callaway

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

**Approved: December 21, 2011**

**Jerome Flottemesch, Secretary**