

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, December 21, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, December 21, 2011, at 8:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Ag Center Building, 809 8th St. S.E., Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Grossman.

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

The 4th quarter supervisors' vouchers and extra meetings were presented and reviewed.

Extra supervisor meetings:

Nov. 3rd, Area I, MASWCD Meeting in Ada – Flottesch, Beck, Lefebvre

Dec. 4th – 6th, MASWCD State Conference in Bloomington – Flottesch, Beck, Lefebvre, Grossman

The financial statements and bills were presented. Brad reviewed the 2011 cost-share contracts for sealing of abandoned wells. Requested that consideration be given to canceling some of the abandoned well sealing contracts, as some are over 6 months old. If canceled landowners desiring to complete the sealing could re-signup under the 2012 program.

Motion (Flottesch, Lefebvre) to approve the financial statements, payment of bills, supervisors 4th quarter vouchers and authorize payment of bills through the end of the year to facilitate year end reports, to cancel the 2011 cost-share contracts for well sealing that are over 6 months old, and have applicants re-apply for cost-share assistance to seal their wells if they desire.

Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The supervisors reviewed the 2011 comp time/overtime report.

Reports:

Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz reported on the following:

- Attended an EQIP program roll out meeting and payment schedule for 3 states.
- EQIP sign-up deadline is Feb. 2nd
- CSP application period ends Jan. 13th
- Attended a technical meeting on the structure for Rice Lake restoration project. Will be meeting with permitting agencies in January or February. Construction could take place in 2012.
- Reap Marsh restoration project. The Buffalo Red River Watershed District is taking the lead on obtaining flowage easement.

Technicians Report –

- Dean is completing as built surveys on sediment basins.
- Ed reported on the Certified Wetlands determination work he is doing.
- Elink reporting is due Feb. 1st. May have to ask for an extension.
- Have about 20 tree planting plans to prepare.
- Ed M. explained the need for increasing the job approval authority for District staff.

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MASWCD Conference – The supervisors reported on and discussed the MASWCD Annual Conference they attended Dec. 4th – 6th in Bloomington.

Clean Water Legacy Grants – Brad reported that we have been approved for 3½ of the six Clean Water Legacy Grants that we applied for. Amount approved is \$120,203 for erosion control measures in the Hay Creek area, Buffalo Red Watershed Dist. Area, and the Cormorant Lakes watershed area. The final work plans will be prepared sometime in January. The new rules call for us to receive 50% up front, 40% when projects are installed and 10% at the end. We also were approved for a \$20,000 CWMA grant, this will enable us to continue our efforts with our weed management area program.

Ag BMP Loan Program – Brad reported on the Ag BMP Loan Program meeting held here on December 9th. Applications are due February 3rd. Brad indicated he will apply for a similar amount as last year, around \$110,000. The activity in the loan program was down in 2011.

Ag Inspector Program – Marsha reported on the December 8th, Comprehensive Weed Management Area Committee meeting. Highlights of the meeting included:

- Update of the 2009 Weed Law
- Visited the CWMA Work Plan and changes
- Status of grant applications for 2012. \$20,000 BWSR grant approved, still waiting to hear from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation on our PTI Grant Application.
- Gravel Pit Certification update.
- Biological control efforts from this past summer.

Marsha also reported on the Dec. 14th Minn. Assn. of County Ag Inspectors meeting she attended as Dist. 1 representative.

2012 Budget – Brad updated the 2012 District budget and presented information on salary comparisons and health insurance benefits. An employee compensation and benefit proposal was also presented.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Beck) to increase the health insurance benefit by \$20 per month for full time employees and a 2% salary increase for Ginger, Dean, and Brad and a 2½% increase for Marsha and Ed.
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Wetland Conservation Act Report –

- Held the monthly Technical Evaluation Panel meeting Dec. 13th.
- Reviewed an excavation application to excavate up to ½ acre.
- Viewed a possible wetland violation in Lake Eunice Twp. Will be working with landowner to try and correct the issue.

The following Cost-share and Clean Water Legacy Contracts were presented –

Cont. #12-1 with Mark Rodewald, abandoned well sealing, was presented for consideration.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Lefebvre) to approve contract #12-1 for 50% of the cost not to exceed \$240.00.
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Cont. #11-24 with Roger Foltz for payment authorization. Cost of sealing two wells was \$530.00.
Eligible cost share payment \$240.00.

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Cont. #11-17 with Brad Hanson for payment authorization. Cost of sealing well \$365.00. Eligible cost share payment \$182.50.

Motion (Beck, Lefebvre) to authorize payment of the above listed well sealing contracts in the amounts presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The following Native Buffer Cost-share contracts were presented for payment authorization:

Cont. #NB-10-2 with Richard Hecock. This payment represents 75% of a 3 year CRP rental rate for the 11 acres seeded, (\$3,080.88). Total eligible payment is \$2,310.66.

Cont. NB-08-6 with the City of Detroit Lakes for establishing 5.2 acres of native buffers. Total cost \$6,500.00. Eligible cost-share payment is \$4,875.00.

Motion (Lefebvre, Flottesmesch) to authorize payment of the above listed native buffer cost-share payments as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Amendment #1 for cost-share contract #NB-10-4 with Kristi Flynn was presented for consideration. The original contract used an estimate of \$9,000 total cost and was preliminary. After technical review the landowner is requesting additional cost-share due to changes made, such as greater density of plants, erosion control matt etc. The new estimate total cost is \$12,000. Landowner is requesting and additional cost-share amount of \$4,500.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Beck) to approve amendment #1 for contract #NB-10-4 for an additional \$4,500 of cost share funds, to bring the total to 75% not to exceed \$9,000.00. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The following Clean Water Legacy (CWL) contracts were presented for payment authorization:

Cont. #CWL-11-1, with Curt Nelson for projects on the Mike Odegaard property, for 5 water and sediment control basins. Total cost of project \$54,184.55. Eligible CWL payment \$33,943.00.

Cont. #CWL-11-7 with Curt Nelson for projects on the Aaron Kjelland property, for 6 water and sediment control basins. Total cost of project \$34,679.50. Eligible CWL payment \$6,038.00.

Cont. #CWL-11-3 with Cuba Lake Trust for 2 water and sediment control basins. Total cost of project \$10,500.00. Eligible CWL payment \$2,773.50. This is \$933.50 more than originally estimated due to changes in the project and less EQIP funds.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Lefebvre) to authorize payment of the above CWL contracts in the amounts presented including the increase of \$933.50 for contract #CWL-11-3. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

State cost-share contract #11-7 with Larry Enget for 1 water and sediment control basin was presented for payment authorization. This is a joint funded project with the Buffalo-Red Watershed District. Total cost of project \$3,804.37. Eligible cost-share payment \$1,426.00 from BRRWD and \$1,427.00 from state cost-share funds.

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Motion (Lefebvre, Flottemesch) to authorize payment of contract #11-7 for \$1,427.00 from state cost-share program and request BRRWD payment of \$1426.00. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Amendment #1 for cost-share contract #11-20 with Elvin Anderson was presented for consideration. Due to quantity changes in the plan the cost of the project increased. Mr. Anderson is requesting an additional \$835.00 in BRRWD funds and \$834.00 in state cost-share funds.

Motion (Beck, Flottemesch) to approve amendment #1 for contract #11-20 for the amounts presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Cost-share contract #11-20 with Elvin Anderson for 1 water and sediment control basin was presented for payment authorization. Total project cost \$6,854.00. Eligible cost-share \$2,570.00 from state cost-share and \$2,570.00 from BRRWD funds.

Motion (Beck, Flottemesch) to authorize payment of contract #11-20 in the amounts presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Contract #NB-10-5 with Richard Hecock for a controlled burn for the establishment of a native buffer area seeded in 2011, was presented for consideration. Burn to be completed in 2013. Estimated cost \$1,320.00. Eligible cost-share \$990.00.

Motion (Beck, Flottemesch) to approve contract #NB-10-5 for 75% of the cost not to exceed \$990.00. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Brad noted that the Matter/Bergren water and sediment control basin (2) project is complete and the request for the incentive payment for the landowner can be submitted to the Wild Rice River Watershed District (WRRWD) along with our construction supervision payment. Incentive payment is \$2,750.00 to the landowner and supervision payment of \$1,292.50.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to submit the request for the above listed payments to the WRRWD. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Other – The following items were discussed:

- WesMin status.
- Todd SWCD changes.
- Aquatic Invasive Species Committee.

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

Approved: Don Lefebvre, Secretary

Date: January 18, 2012