

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, February 15, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 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, Kathy Stenger, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, Dist. Technicians Ed Clem and Dean Hendrickson, and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Beck.

The Oath of Office was given to newly appointed supervisor Kathy Stenger.

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

The January financial statements and bills payable were presented. Jerome commented on the sale of the no-till drill and wondered if those funds should be placed in the capital outlay for future purchases such as vehicle updates etc.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Grossman) to set aside the amount of the no-till drill sale to the capital outlay account for future capital purchases. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

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

Ginger presented the final 2009 Native Buffer Cost-share Grant report. Motion (Lefebvre, Stenger) to approve the report as presented and forward to BWSR. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Reports:**

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

- Preparing plans. Currently have 22 EQIP signups totaling \$500,000, AWEP signups totaling \$122,000 and 18 CSP signups. The first scoring period for EQIP ends on February 17<sup>th</sup>. The AWEP signup runs until the end of April.
- There will be another general CRP signup March 12<sup>th</sup> – April 6<sup>th</sup>. There are 110 expiring CRP contracts in Becker County.

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

Ed presented an updated Conservation Practice Technical Job Approval Authority recommendation for practice #606 subsurface drains to an approval of Job Class III for Dean Hendrickson.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Grossman) to approve the changes to Dist. Technician Dean Hendrickson's job approval authority as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

## **Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 15, 2012**

**Page 2**

### **District Technicians Report:** Dean and Ed reported on the following:

- Ed and Ginger completed the required eLink reporting to BWSR for the various practices and grants etc.
- Working on tree plans for spring planting.
- Will be going back to making wetland determinations for NRCS when tree plans are completed.
- Dean reported on the 10 tree plans he completed.
- Noted that the Detroit Lakes Newspaper was over and interviewed Jeff and him on the sediment basin and tile programs. Should be published in the next week or so.

### **Ag Inspector Program:**

- Marsha reported on the recent Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Committee meetings and what has been happening and what efforts will be taken this season to combat AIS.
- Met with USFWS and representatives from Cuba, Callaway and Lake Park townships concerning a bull thistle issue.
- A meeting of the Recreation Trails Invasive Weed Management Sub-Committee will be held tomorrow. This committee was formed as part of our recent CWMA Gant received from BWSR.

**Ag Wetland Banking Program:** Dale Krystosek, Senior Wetland Specialist for BWSR North Region and BWSR Wetland Specialist Steve Hofstad of Fergus Falls arrived and presented information to the supervisors on the Agricultural Wetland Banking program, which is trying to be established for mitigation of degraded farmed wetlands. Dale inquired if the Becker SWCD would be available to assist with the ag wetland banking process if sites were available. This may include developing an application for a landowner, managing the bank or other type duties. The supervisors took no formal action, but indicated they would consider any request for assistance.

### **Wetland Conservation Act (WCA):** Ed reported on the recent WCA activities.

- Monthly Technical Evaluation Panel meeting was held yesterday. Met with a landowner concerning an undefined easement across someone else's property and how it could impact a wetland.
- Request to construct a driveway to provide access.
- Met with a Little Cormorant Lake resident on an old wetland issue and worked out some issues to avoid a violation. An agreement on correction action was arrived at.
- Brad reviewed the 2011 WCA year-end report that was submitted to BWSR.

**AgBMP Loan Program:** Brad noted that the 2012 AgBMP Application was submitted. We applied for \$106,000 in new allocation and carried over \$90,000 from last year. Also provided Becker County Planning and Zoning with flyers on the loan program to insert with noncompliant septic system letters to make landowners aware of the loan program.

**Tree Program:** Reported that we will be running some radio ads on the 2012 tree program next week. Will purchase additional week long ads in March and April. Costs are \$78 for 12 spots during the week.

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 15, 2012**

**Page 3**

**Central Sand Plains Private Well Nitrate Monitoring Network Program:** Ed and Brad attended a meeting on the Central Plains Private Well Monitoring Network in St. Cloud on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>. The goal of the network is to determine current nitrate concentrations in private wells throughout the 15 county area; and also, determine trends whether nitrate concentrations are stable, increasing or decreasing. Five hundred fifty- eight well owners volunteered to participate in the long term network throughout the 15 county area. In Becker County, 46 wells will be monitored. Our role will be to make one site visit, document the well and conduct an interview with the owner. We will be compensated through the grant program for this effort. An agreement through the Wadena SWCD will be coming for the Board to enter into for the project.

**Surface Water Assessment Grants Program (SWAG):** Brad reported that we have completed our third SWAG grant in cooperation with MPCA, and RMB Labs. We have been involved with this program since 2008. The SWAG grants program has gathered water quality data on 39 water bodies in Becker County. We have no further grants for this program at this time.

**Buffalo-Red Watershed District** will hold a public hearing on February 23<sup>rd</sup> in Barnesville to hear public comment on expanding the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District and increasing the number of managers from 5 to 7.

**2011 Year End Financial Report:** Ginger presented and reviewed the 2011 Year End Financial Reports.

Motion (Lefebvre, Stenger) to approve the 2011 Year End Financial Reports as presented.  
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Annual Report:** The 2011 Annual Report was presented and reviewed.

Motion (Flottemesch, Lefebvre) to approve the 2011 Annual Report and forward to BWSR and place on our web site. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**2012 Annual Plan of Operations:** The 2012 Plan of Operations for the Becker SWCD was presented and reviewed by the supervisors. Several additions were offered during the review. After completion, motion (Lefebvre, Stenger) to approve the 2012 Plan of Operations and forward to BWSR and also place it on our web page. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Cost-share Contracts:** The following State Cost-share contracts were presented for consideration.

Cont. #11-24 with John Austinson, windbreak. Cost estimate \$1,190. Eligible cost-share \$892.  
Cont. #11-25 with Chad Okeson, windbreak. Cost estimate \$1,065. Eligible cost-share \$776.  
Cont. #11-26 with Riceville Twp. windbreak. Cost estimate \$621. Eligible cost-share \$422.  
Cont. #11-27 with Rich Jaksen, windbreak. Cost estimate \$1,225. Eligible cost-share \$814.  
Cont. #11-28 with Cormorant Lakes Sportmens Club, windbreak. Cost estimate \$353. Eligible cost-share \$264.

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

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 15, 2012**

**Page 4**

A cost-share assistance contract amendment for Contract #11-12 with Brian Stalberger was presented. Due to changes in his plan Mr. Stalberger is requesting an additional \$206.00 in cost-sharing.

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to approve the amendment to contract #11-12 for an additional \$206. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Other:** The following information was discussed and reviewed with the Supervisors:

- Letter on MASWCD position on Agency Restructuring and moving of BWSR.
- 2010 Statements of Revenues and Expenditures for SWCD's in Minnesota.
- Reviewed the information sheet on the new Biennial Budget Request (BBR) that BWSR will be implementing this spring. Training on this process will be in April. The two year budget request for FY14 and FY 15 will need to be submitted by the end of June.
- Brad noted that Ginger and he are compiling information on updating job descriptions, policies and personnel handbook. Rather than Ginger and Brad writing the final documents they would like to have a couple special board meetings to get Board input. The supervisors felt that would work.

**Upcoming:**

- Area I MASWCD Mtg. – March 8<sup>th</sup> in Ada
- RRVCSA Joint Powers Board Mtg. – March 8<sup>th</sup> in Ada
- Becker County Township Ag Inspectors Mtg. – March 15<sup>th</sup> in Callaway
- Ag-in-the-Classroom – Detroit Lakes schools – March 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>
- Ag-in-the-Classroom – Frazee schools – March 20<sup>th</sup>

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

**Approved: Don Lefebvre, Becker SWCD Secretary**

**Date: March 21, 2012**