

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 18, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 18, 2012 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, Kathy Stenger, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, County Commissioner Barry Nelson, Dist. Technicians Ed Clem, and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Beck.

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

The March financial statements and bills payable were presented.

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

Brad reported on the Easement Implementation Grant.

Motion (Flottesch, Grossman) to authorize chairman Beck to sign the Easement Implementation Grant and send in. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Reports:

Dist. Technician Ed Clem reported on the following:

- Trees have arrived, will be preparing orders and handing them out on the 21st.
- A few wetland issues have come up.
- Have almost completed the wetland determinations for our NRCS agreement. Supervisors asked if it is feasible to continue the determinations with NRCS. Ed felt once the process is caught up it should not be too bad.

Red River Valley Conservation Service Area JPB Executive Committee Meeting – Jerome reported on the RRVCSA Executive Committee meeting held on April 11th in Mahnomen. The committee reviewed employee evaluations, compensation, and a tentative FY13 budget. These recommendations will be brought to the full JPB at their June 21st meeting.

Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz reported on the following:

- Completed the 2nd scoring period for the EQIP program. Thirteen contracts were funded, 1 was an Ag Waste System and 3 Forestry Contracts.
- Had 18 applications for the Conservation Stewardship Program, (CSP), resulting in 11 contracts.
- Contribution Agreements are being offered for some projects.
- The Waterbank Program is again being offered in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota.

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 18, 2012**

Page | 2

- Thanked the District for their assistance with the wetland determinations.
- Met with landowners and the Buffalo Red River Watershed Dist. on the Reap/Marsh restoration proposal.
- Attended a meeting with DNR, BRRWD on Stinking Lake and managing the structure elevation, etc.

Admin. Session – Ginger reported on the administrative training session she attended in Walker on March 29th and 30th.

Biennial Budget Request (BBR) Meeting – Ginger, Ed Clem and Brad attended BBR meeting put on by BWSR on April 28th in Fergus Falls. Requests are due June 30th and will be for projects to be completed in FY14 and FY15. The supervisors reviewed the flow chart that was handed out at the meetings. Refinement of the BBR Workplan will be due in August of 2013. Additional training on the BBR will be held in May.

Crow Wing Watershed TMDL – Ed Clem and Brad reported on the Crow Wing Watershed TMDL meeting they attended April 4th. Data has been collected and will now be brought to the public through several meetings.

Tree Program – Tree stock arrived last Thursday. We are in the process of wrapping orders and will have pick-up day on Saturday the 21st. Overall sales were good. We will start planting on the 23rd. We have a total of 11 planting jobs.

Wetland Conservation Act –

- Met with landowner on excavation for wildlife.
- Staked wetland edge for tract split.

Discussion was held on the decisions for wetland conservation act permitting when approved by staff and the appeal process. Currently we have no formal appeal process for staff decisions. The process for appealing an LGU governing body decision is through BWSR and has a petition and \$500 filing fee. After discussion, the supervisors felt we should have an appeal process for staff decisions.

Motion (Lefebvre, Grossman) that an appeal of staff decisions to the Board of Supervisors can be made in writing within 30 days of the date of the mailing of the notice and have a \$50 filing fee. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Ag Inspector Program -

- Marsha attended the quarterly Ag Inspectors meeting in Mahanomen on April 11th.
- Otter Tail County Ag Inspector is retiring.
- Will be completing the spring certified gravel pit inspections.
- Lost some leafy spurge beetle sites due to land going back under cultivation.

Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Page | 3

Clean Water Legacy Project Requests –

Cont. #CWF-2012-3 with Joe Crabtree, for 5 water and sediment control basins. Cost estimate \$33,000. CWL funds requested \$24,750.

Cont. #CWF-2012-6 with Matt Bjerke for 5 water and sediment control basins. Cost estimate \$30,315. CWL funds requested \$2,109.

Cont. #CWF-2012-7 with Gary Villard for 10 water and sediment basins. Cost estimate \$51,400. CWL funds requested for engineering & design. \$40.00 per hour. Estimate \$2,000.

Motion (Flottemesch, Lefebvre) to approve the CWL contracts as presented. Affirmative. Unanimous. Carried.

Buffalo-Red River Watershed Dist. cost-share agreement #BBRWD-12-3 with Gary Villard requested \$2,907.00 in cost-share for water and sediment basin project. This is in conjunction with the CWL project.

Motion (Flottemesch, Grossman) to approve contract BBRWD-12-3 for 75% of the cost, not to exceed \$2,907.00. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

State Cost-share Contracts – the following cost-share contracts were presented for consideration:

Cont. #12-15 with Janalee Wyckoff, windbreak. Estimated cost \$1,049.00. Eligible cost-share \$693.00.

Cont. #12-16 with Duane Salmen, well sealing. Estimated cost \$480.00. Eligible cost-share 50% not to exceed \$240.00.

Dennis Fechtner contacted the office and requested re-consideration of his cost-share payment for sealing an abandoned well. Cancellation letters had been sent in December. The well driller came and sealed the well in February. The landowner noted he had been trying to get the well sealed for months, but it is difficult to find well drillers to get it done. The board discussed the lack of communication with the well driller and the fact that prior approval had been given. If the supervisors approve payment it would have to come from funds other than state cost-share funds.

Motion (Lefebvre, Grossman) to approve payment of the Dennis Fechtner well sealing in the amount of \$240 with funds from the water plan allocation. Affirmative: Grossman, Stenger, Lefebvre. Abstain: Flottemesch. Motion carried.

Vehicle Bids –

The following vehicle bids were presented.

½ ton Regular Cab – V8 - Chevy 4x4 - \$21,330

½ ton Regular Cab – V6 - Ford 4x4 - \$20,412

½ ton Extended Cab – Chevy - \$23,695

½ ton Extended Cab – Ford - \$22,694

Discussed the extended cab or do we want crew cabs, with 4 full doors.

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 18, 2012**

Page | 4

Motion (Flottesch, Kathy) to authorize purchase of a vehicle up to \$25,000 excluding tax and license and appoint a committee to make final decision. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried. Chairman Beck appointed supervisors Stenger and Grossman to the committee.

MASWCD Call for Resolutions for the 2012 convention was discussed. If we have any resolutions they will need to be presented at the June 21st Area I Meeting.

SWCD Personnel Policy was discussed. The supervisors would like a list of all employee responsibilities and the percent of time spent on each. They felt a meeting devoted to updating the employee job descriptions, and handbook should be held.

Chairman Beck scheduled a meeting of the Committee as a Whole to discuss these issues for 8:00 a.m. on June 21st

Other :

- Minutes of the WesMin RC&D were discussed briefly as to what may become of RC&D's.

Upcoming:

- April 25th Sr. Envirothon
- May 7 – 8th 5th Grade Conservation Tour
- May 15th Biennial Budget Request training
- May 22nd thru June 5th – filing for election
- May 23rd – Area I MASWCD Meeting in Detroit Lakes

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

Approved: Don Lefebvre, Becker SWCD Secretary

Date: April 18, 2012