

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 16, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 16, 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 Flottesmesch, Tony Beck, Don Lefebvre, Kathy Stenger, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, County Commissioner Barry Nelson, Dist. Technicians Ed Clem, Dean Hendrickson, BWSR Board Conservationist Chad Severts and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Beck.

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

The April financial statements and bills payable were presented.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Grossman) to approve the financial statements and payment of bills as presented. And noted the East Otter Tail SWCD bill included the amount that appeared in the March financial reports. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Reports:

Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz reported on the following:

- 12 of 18 Conservation Stewardship Program contracts were funded. Two decided to drop out after being approved. The 10 remaining totaled \$500,000 in payments over the 5 year life of the contract. Contracts must be completed by May 18th.
- The current scoring period for the latest EQIP signup ends on May 18th.
- Summarized the progress on the Rice Lake Restoration Project. Four easements left to get. Also waiting for some utility easement clarification.
- Met with Buffalo River Watershed District representatives and a landowner on the Reap Lake RIM/WRP proposal. Hope is to get a flowage easement from one of the landowners so the project can move forward.
- Assisted with the 5th Grade Conservation Tour.

District Technicians Report:

- Working on tree season, wrapping and planting.
- We had 17 cost-share contracts for windbreaks with 11 being planted by the District.
- Dean supervised construction of 7 water and sediment control basins that were installed on the Gary Villiard property.
- 5th Grade Conservation Tour.
- Ed has been assisting the Pelican River Watershed District with permit reviews. Have completed 10 to date.

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Biennial Budget Review Training (BBR) – Ginger, Ed Clem and Brad attended a Webinar training on the BBR process. BBR applications are due June 29th. The webinar went through the process of applying for and submitting the BBR.

Discussed applying for BBR for some lake projects and erosion control projects. Also may consider additional application for the Hay Creek Watershed area. Also discussed the Accelerated Implementation Grant (AIG) to jump start a shoreland program.

Also will be submitting a BBR for the Red River Valley Conservation Service Area JPB for an AIG grant.

Upper Mississippi River Watershed Plan (UMRWP) – Brad noted that the minutes of the April 24th meeting of UMRWP were received. As we only have a very small portion of the watershed in Becker County a file on the information will be kept in case we have any issues in the future.

Sr. Envirothon – Ginger reported on the Senior Envirothon held April 25th at the Prairie Wetlands Center in Fergus Falls. Twenty-three teams from 5 schools took part. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams were from Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton. The Junior Envirothon will be Oct. 3rd in Fergus Falls also.

5th Grade Conservation Tour – Brad reported on the 45th Annual Fifth Grade Conservation Tour sponsored by the District that was held May 7th and 8th at the Ike Fischer Farm. Schools from Detroit Lakes, Lake Park/Audubon, Waubun/Ogema, and Frazee took part. Agencies assisting were MPCA, DNR, NRCS, Ducks Unlimited, Minnesota Waterfowl Assn., Becker County Natural Resources, Becker County Environmental Services, Pelican River Watershed District, Detroit Lakes Police Department, and volunteers Ike Fischer and Wilma Hanson.

AgBMP Program - Brad reported that we have requested an additional \$76,000 in loan funding for the year. To date we have encumbered \$276,000 for two ag waste systems and a smart sprayer.

Buffalo Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) Advisory Committee Meeting – Jerome reported on the advisory committee meeting he attended.

- The BRRWD is constructing a new office building in Barnesville.
- A part of Otter Tail County will be added to the BRRWD area.
- Discussed membership to the Red River Management Board.

BWSR Board Conservatoinist Chad Severts discussed the following with the Board:

- Biennial Budget Request process is open until June 29th. Be realistic in your request. Targeting is key. Fund for outcomes.
- Board discussed with Chad on the correspondence received on the Field Office of the Future. Chad had no information on this.
- Discussed the adoption of the new cost-share rules.
- Filled BWSR office administration staff position in Bemidji.
- Planning is underway for the BWSR Training Academy for this fall.

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Tree Program – Brad noted the Tree Program is complete for the year and all went well. Tree sales were good. Did a few radio ads near the end for leftover stock.

Wetland Conservation Act –

- Issued one restoration order for a filling Hamden Tep.
- Investigated a report in Lake View Twp. Will be meeting with the landowner on Tuesday to discuss corrective measures.

Ag Inspector Program – Marsha Watland reported on the following:

- Have two gravel pit inspections to complete. Gravel pits are looking better and the certification program seems to be working well.
- Began working with some landowners on Houndstongue control.
- Will be starting to harvest leafy spurge beetles for the bio-control program.
- Early spring has meant earlier weed complaints.
- Met with Becker County Highway Dept. on spraying.
- Attended MNDOT training and gave presentation on weed law and management.
- Met with USFWS on a problem site from last year.

Vehicle Purchase – Brad noted that he did not call the purchase committee as he is waiting on some possible state bid quotes from dealers that Becker County went through. Will have more information at next the special meeting next week.

CWL Program Contract –

CWL-contract #11-8 with Gary Villiard was presented for consideration. CWL funds requested is \$3,602.00.

Motion (Lefebvre, Flottesmesch) to approve Cont. #11-8 with Gary Villiard for \$3,602.00 in CWL funding. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Cont. #NB10-3 was discussed. This is an approved contract for the Native Buffer Cost-Share Program. As the contract will not require the in-lieu of the 3 year CRP rental payment, but will cost more to install, the landowner is requesting to use the land funds set aside to cover the increased cost-share for establishment.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Stenger) to authorize 75% of the cost not to exceed \$7,837.00 for site prep, seeding, and establishment. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Cont. #11-30 with Mike Lockhart for abandoned well sealing was presented for consideration.

Motion (Grossman, Stenger) to approve the above contract for 50% of the cost not to exceed \$240.00. With \$68.00 cost-share from 2011 funds and \$172.00 from 2012 funds. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

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Cost-share Program – Brad presented the following cost-share contracts for payment authorization, pending the receipt of all landowner signatures:

Cont. #11-11, John Babb Jr., windbreak. Cost \$1,360.75. Total cost-share \$1,020.00.
Cont. #11-12, Brian Stalberger, windbreak. Cost \$1,219.25. Total cost-share \$837.00.
Cont. #11-24, John Austinson, windbreak. Cost \$1,190.00. Total cost-share \$892.00.
Cont. #11-25, Chad Okeson, windbreak. Cost \$1,065.00. Total cost-share \$776.00.
Cont. #11-26, Riceville Twp. windbreak. Cost \$620.90. Total cost-share \$422.00.
Cont. #11-27, Richard Jasken, windbreak. Cost 1,225.30. Total cost-share \$814.00.
Cont. #11-28, Cormorant Lakes Sportsmen Club, windbreak. Cost \$353.22. Total cost share \$246.00.
Cont. #11-29, Cecil Hensel, windbreak. Cost \$1057.00. Total cost-share \$792.00.
Cont. #12-4, Bryan Christensen, winbreak. Cost \$756.25. Total cost-share \$527.00.
Cont. #12-5 Maurice Tretbar, windbreak. Cost \$423.50. Total cost-share \$317.00.
Cont. #12-6 Travis Hoban, windbreak. Cost \$2,709.50. Total cost-share \$2,026.00.
Cont. #12-7 Spadgenske Dairy, windbreak. Cost \$1,941.25. Total cost-share \$1,455.00.
Cont. #12-9 Rhonda Fleming, windbreak. Cost \$781.00. Total cost-share \$585.00.
Cont. #12-11 Troy Hazelton, windbreak. Cost \$2,562.75. Total cost-share \$1,922.00.
Cont. #12-12 Jason Askelson, windbreak. Cost \$1,627.75. Total cost-share \$1,140.00.
Cont. #12-13 Vance Jirava, windbreak. Cost \$1,365.50. Total cost-share \$1,007.00.
Cont. #12-15 Janalee Wyckoff, windbreak. Cost \$1,049.00. Total cost-share \$693.00.

Motion (Flottemesch, Grossman) to authorize payment of the above listed cost-share contracts in the amounts presented upon receipt of all needed signatures and project certification of completion. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

MASWCD Call for Resolutions – None.

Red River Valley Conservation Service Area Joint Powers Board meeting will be held June 21st. Jerome is our representative, but will be unable to attend.

Motion (Flottemesch, Grossman) that all board members be considered alternates to the RRVCSA JPB, and that the Chairman will assign a member to attend in the absence of the regular representative. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The chairman will appoint a member to attend the June 21st meeting at our June 20th regular meeting.

Job Descriptions – The supervisors discussed the need to update the employee handbook, and job descriptions. Chairman Beck scheduled a committee meeting of the whole to discuss job descriptions, etc. for Wednesday, May 23rd from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

Elections – Supervisors were reminded that filing's for election opens May 22nd thru June 5th. Stenger, Beck, and Grossman terms are up.

Area I MASWCD is June 21st.

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Discussed the BBR process. Felt that the District should submit a BBR for some of the lakes that we have completed Lake Assessments for, also for the Hay Creek project area. Also will be preparing a BBR (AIG) for the RRVCSA JPB.

Capital Assets – Ginger reported on the discussion she had with Bill Eisle and Jim Maiser on our capital assets schedule.

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

Approved: Don Lefebvre, Becker SWCD Secretary

Dated: May 16, 2012