

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, July 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, July 18, 2012, 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 Flottemesch, Tony Beck, Don Lefebvre, Kathy Stenger, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, County Commissioner Barry Nelson, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, Dist. Tech. Dean Hendrickson, and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Beck.

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

The June financial reports and bills payable were presented.

Motion (Lefebvre, Grossman) to approve the June financial statements and payment of bills. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Ginger presented financial close-out reports for the 2008 Native Buffer Cost-share Program and the 2010 Cooperative Weed Management Area Grant.

Motion (Grossman, Stenger) to approve the above listed close-out reports and send to BWSR. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Reports:**

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

- The recent CRP sign-up resulted in 94 contracts and 7 continuous sign-ups. Clay County NRCS is assisting with the status reviews on the CRP contracts. Completion has been extended by two weeks.
- Waiting for regional approval on one EQIP contract for an agriculture waste system. Regional approval is needed for contracts over \$150,000.
- Rice Lake project – 5 easements left to close on. Will be closing on one on Friday.
- WRP Grazing.- Ed explained the grazing on WRP easement lands and how it can work. We have been receiving some inquiries on grazing of WRP acres.
- Will be reviewing the Hay Creek Project area with Bruce Albright, of the Buffalo Red River Watershed District, to determine if some 3<sup>rd</sup> year maintenance clipping is needed, as this is the final year of the watershed district's three year commitment.
- Brink Lake restoration is moving forward. Three of five easements are completed.
- It's time for the Local EQIP Work Group meeting. It must be held by the end of August. Ed asked the Board for possible dates. Scheduled for August 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Ag Inspector Program** – Marsha reported on the following:

- Harvested 111,000 leafy spurge beetles and distributed.
- Completed 43 gravel pit inspections. This program seems to be working well.
- Spotted knapweed weevils are ready to harvest. Have seen areas in the county where they have moved into on their own.

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- Annual Ag Inspectors Conference is July 23-25<sup>th</sup> in Hibbing.

**Dist. Technician Report** – Dean reported on the following:

- No construction currently going on. Waiting for the crop to come off.
- Working with the RRVCSA Technician on sediment basin projects.
- Completed 3<sup>rd</sup> year status reviews on 2008 cost-share program contracts.
- Tree contacts for 2013.

**Area I MASWCD Meeting** – The supervisors discussed the Area I MASWCD meeting that they attended June 21<sup>st</sup> in Detroit Lakes. Three resolutions were presented and passed to be forwarded to the resolution committee. The Becker SWCD will be the host district for the fall meeting of Area I MASWCD.

**Red River Valley Conservation Service Area Joint Powers Board Meeting (RRVCSA)** – Chairman Beck reported on the RRVCSA –JPB meeting that he attended during the Area I meeting. He noted that Jerome Flottesmesch was re-elected chairman of the JPB. The FY2013 JPB budget was approved along with office in home agreements with staff, and compensation packages for FY2013. They also approved the Biennial Budget Request that will be submitted to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

Ginger noted that we do not have a formal agreement with the RRVCSA for providing services to them. Is it something we want to consider? This will be discussed at the next executive committee meeting in September.

**Biennial Budget Requests (BBR)** – Brad reported on the BBRs that were recently submitted to BWSR for FY14 & FY15. Also one was submitted for District operations and programs, which include the Wetland Conservation Act, Water Plan activities, Planning and Zoning SSTS program and Shoreland Program, and the State Cost-share Program. The competitive BBRs that we submitted were for lake shoreland programs and sediment and erosion control measures on agriculture land in western Becker County. Total funds requested in BBRs for the District is \$904,424.

The following BBR applications were submitted to BWSR for consideration from throughout the state.

- 196 competitive requests totaling \$288,000,000 were submitted. (it is estimated \$75,000,000 will be available).
- 90 were submitted for Program and Operations
- 87 submitted for NRBG funds.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Lefebvre) to approve the BBR applications submitted to BWSR as presented.  
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Conservationist of the Year Award** – The supervisors reviewed several nominations to receive the 2012 Conservationist of the Year Award from the Becker SWCD.

After discussion, motion (Stenger, Grossman) to award the Conservationist of the Year to Becker COLA.  
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

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**MASWCD Area I Fall Mtg.** – Discussed the Area I MASWCD Meeting. Area Chairperson Ken Pederson would like a late October meeting. MASWCD would like to invite legislative candidates to attend meeting. Discussion was held on possible locations for the fall Area I MASWCD meeting.

**Candidate Prospectus** information from MASWCD was discussed as received from MASWCD on District Supervisors and Association offices.

**Leadership Workshop** – The MASWCD is sponsoring a Leadership Workshop for SWCD supervisors and staff on September 6<sup>th</sup>, in Alexandria. Registration is due by August 27<sup>th</sup>. Kathy, Duane and Tony indicated they would like to attend. Ginger will make registrations.

### **Wetland Conservation Act –**

- One of two Restoration Orders has been satisfied. The other has until next February to comply.
- Received a report for USFWS on a possible wetland fill violation east on Highway 34.
- Landowner called on a neighbor plugging a ditch. Ed Clem went out and met with the owner.

### **Cost-share and Clean Water Legacy Contracts –**

Cont. #NB-10-6 with Jeff Perkins was presented for payment authorization. Eligible cost-share amount is \$1,702.20.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Lefebvre) to authorize payment of Cont. #NB-10-6 in the amount of \$1,702.20 once landowner signature is received. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

A contract amendment was presented for contract #NB-10-1. Due to increased seed cost to local ecotype he is requesting an additional \$1,786.47 in cost share funds. Staff has reviewed the seeding and agrees with the request.

Motion (Lefebvre, Flottesmesch) to approve the amendment request for additional funds for Cont. #NB-10-1 As presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

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

Cont. #NB-10-4 with Eric Flyen. Total project cost was \$14,550. Eligible cost share as approved is \$9,000.

Cont. #NB-10-1 with Randy Guetter. Total project cost was \$3,397.96. Eligible cost-share \$2,548.47.

Cont. #NB-10-3 with Prairie Oaks LLC. Total project cost \$9,813.10. Eligible cost share \$5,402.33.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Stenger) to approve the above listed cost-share payments for the amounts presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The following abandoned well sealing contracts were presented for payment authorization:

Cont. #12-1 with Mark Rodewald. Total sealing cost \$500. Eligible cost-share payment \$240.00.

Cont. #2-3 with Brad Hoffert. Total sealing cost \$400. Eligible cost-share payment \$200.00, upon receipt of well sealing log from well sealer.

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Motion (Grossman, Flottesmesch) to approve payment of the above listed well sealing contracts for the amounts presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The following abandoned well sealing contracts were presented for consideration:

Cont. #12-17 with Tim Meir, abandoned well sealing.

Cont. #12-18 with Eric Klein, abandoned well sealing.

Motion (Stenger, Lefebvre) to approve the above listed well sealing contracts for 50% of the cost not to exceed \$240.00 per contract. Affirmative. Unanimous. Carried.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Grossman) to forward the incentive payment request to Norman SWCD for the Nick Zurn sediment basins recently installed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The following projects requesting Clean Water Legacy funds were presented:

Cont. #CWF-2012-3 with Joel Crabtree, water & sediment control basins. CWF funds requested \$24,750.

Cont. #CWF-2012-4 with Barry Nelson, water & sediment control basins. CWF funds requested \$24,750.

Cont. #CWF-2012-1 with Todd Andresen, water & sediment control basins. CWF – Technical and engineering funds requested \$3,780.

Cont. #CWF-2012-5 with Marlin Larson, water & sediment control basin. CWF funds requested \$5,512.

Cont. #CWF-2012-2 with Okeson Farms Partnership, (Richwood site) water & sediment control basins. CWF funds requested \$29,700.

Cont. #CWL-11-6 with Okeson Farms Partnership (Campbell Creek site) water & sediment control basins. CWL funds requested up to \$52,400. (may be less depending final costs and other contributors.)

Motion (Flottesmesch, Stenger) to approve the Clean Water Legacy grant requests as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Committee Meeting of the Whole** is set for tomorrow July 19<sup>th</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Other –**

- Brad noted the 2013 budget is due to the Auditor/Treasurer August 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Ginger noted that we do not have a formal agreement with the Red River Valley Conservation Service Area Joint Powers Board to serve as the Host District. This will be discussed with the executive committee of the JPB in September.
- The BWSR Academy is set for October 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Beck.

**Approved: Don Lefebvre, District Chairman**

**August 22, 2012**