

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

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 15, 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. Secretary Ginger Flynn, County Commissioner Barry Nelson, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, Dist. Technician Ed Clem, and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Beck.

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

Financial Reports – Under financial issues Brad noted that he will be asking for a one year extension on the Clean Water Legacy Grant for the Campbell Creek Project. It is all ready to go but if weather or other factors prevent it from being completed an extension would provide that cushion. It was also noted that our new pick-up should be in shortly after Labor Day. Also requested cancelation of cost-share contract #12-2 for an abandoned well sealing as the 6 month deadline is passed. Brad will invite the landowner to re-sign up for the sealing.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Grossman) to cancel cost-share contract #12-2 as requested. Affirmative:
Unanimous. Carried.

The July financial reports and bills payable were presented.

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

Ginger reviewed the year-end financial report for the Red River Valley Conservation Service Area Joint Powers Board that we are the Host District for. This will be presented to the Joint Powers Board at their October meeting.

Reports:

Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz reported on the following:

- Had 94 CRP contracts with two canceling out. Plans must be done by August 24th.
- 12 continuous CRP sign-ups, with September 14th as the completion date.
- Brink Lake restoration is proceeding. Three easements left to close on.
- Reep Marsh restoration and flood control is moving forward in cooperation with landowners and the Buffalo Red River Watershed District.
- The Campbell Creek Project is ready for construction to begin. This will be 13 water & sediment control basins, two side inlets and a wetland restoration.
- Hopeful to receive another contribution agreement for the SWCD to assist with wetland determinations through FY2013.
- Reminded Board of the EQIP workgroup meeting to be held on Aug. 21st at 10:00 a.m.

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Technician Report: Ed Clem reported on the following:

- Working on wetland certifications.
- Some minor wetland issues.
- Construction inspection on the Tom Bergren sediment basins.

Conservationist of the Year – Brad reported that the Becker COLA has accepted the Conservation Award for 2012. Arrangements will be made for story and pictures for the conference.

MASWCD Area Meeting - Ginger reported that the Beautiful Savior Church in Callaway is reserved for the MASWCD Area I meeting for October 25th. The church ladies will do the morning coffee and noon lunch for \$10 - \$12 per plate. We have let Area I President Ken Pederson know and will be working with Ken on arrangements and agenda items.

Clean Water Legacy Grants for FY2013 – Brad reported that the FY2013 Clean Water Legacy grant requests are due Sept. 14th. We will be submitting three applications for the areas that we applied for the BBR requests in July. Total requests will be around \$578,000. We will be notified in December or January on any approvals. We will also be submitting one for the Red River Valley Conservation Service Area JPB.

MASWCD Leadership Workshop – Supervisors were reminded of the Leadership Workshop on September 6th in Alexandria. We will leave the office at 7:30. Tony, Duane, Kathy and Brad will be attending.

Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) – Ed Clem and Brad reported on the following WCA activities:

- Reported that a violation last month was determined to be exempt from WCA.
- Met with a landowner on a wetland concern on White Earth Lake.
- DNR completed an OHW determination on a wetland on Big Toad Lake and determined it was connected to the lake so it is not a WCA jurisdiction. The property had been sold prior to this decision, so we have received calls from the buyer and realtor. This site was visited in 1993 and a concern on the OHW was expressed to the owner at that time.
- Met with a member of the Sugar Island Improvement Corporation concerning a potential WCA violation on Little Cormorant Lake. A letter explaining WCA and the issue involved was sent to the property owners.
- Reported on the Gil Gigstead land sale to the Bad Medicine Lake Area Foundation.

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

- Leafy Spurge beetle harvest and placement is done for the year.
- Collection of spotted knapweed root weevils for bio-control is underway.
- The annual ag inspectors conference held in Hibbing, July 23rd -25th was well attended. Emphasis was on weed identification this year as there are many new ag inspectors.
- Working with townships and Becker County Highway on the fall roadside treatment.

Cost-share Contracts – The following contracts were presented:

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Cont. #12-8 with Tim Aho, for payment authorization on an ag waste system. Total cost for the slurry store was \$189,278. Eligible cost-share for payment per board policy on ag waste systems is \$3,500. Cont. #12-17 with Tim Meier for payment on an abandoned well sealing. Total cost of sealing \$800.00. Eligible payment \$240.00.

Motion (Flottesch, Stenger) to approve payment of the above listed contracts for the amounts presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Legacy contract CWL-11-8 with Gary Villiard was presented. Due to the size and alignment of some of the water and sediment basins changing the cost increased significantly. Mr. Villiard is requesting an amendment to the contract and is requesting an additional \$2,460.70 of CWL funds. Brad noted that in addition to the CWL funds our Buffalo –Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) allotment will provide \$1,728.00 of cost-share to the project and \$1,617.50 in technical funds for the survey and design of the project.

Motion (Flottesch, Grossman) to approve the amendment to contract #CWL-11-8 for \$2,460.70 of CWL funds. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Motion (Flottesch, Stenger) to approve the \$1,727.00 payment from BRRWD funds for the Villiard project and send payment request to BRRWD for payment. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Motion (Flottesch, Lefebvre) to request payment from BRRWD allotment for survey and design of the Villiard project in the amount of \$1,617.50. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Motion (Flottesch, Stenger) to authorize payment of CWL contract #11-8 in the amount of \$6,062.70. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Other –

- Office received notice that the City of Frazee will be amending their Wellhead Protection Plan.
- WesMin RC&D minutes and agenda for its August 8th meeting, which includes a resolution to dissolve WesMin RC&D.

Job Descriptions – The revised employee job descriptions that were completed and sent out to the supervisors were reviewed.

Motion (Grossman, Lefebvre) to approve the new employee job descriptions as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Discussed the Employee Handbook and qualifications to be listed in future position opening announcements when hiring. A committee meeting of the whole was scheduled for September 20th from 8 a.m. to noon to begin updating the employee handbook.

Shoreland Specialists Position – Discussion was held on the creation of a shoreland specialist position for the Becker SWCD. Brad presented information on possible cost to the District to create the position beginning September 1st of this year. Discussion was also held on expanding the part-time position the District currently has and the qualifications of the person in that position.

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The supervisors discussed the position with part-time employee Marsha Watland and her qualifications. Marsha explained her knowledge gained in working with landowner and committees with the Ag Inspector Program and her experience in her landscape business. Discussion was also held on workload concerns and how the ag inspection program could impact the workload.

Motion (Lefebvre, Stenger) to create a Shoreland Specialist Technician position in the Becker SWCD. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Motion (Lefebvre, Flottesmesch) to offer Marsha Watland the Shoreland Specialist Technician position beginning September 1, 2012 at a salary of \$17.10 per hour. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2013 Budget – The 2013 final budget to be presented to the Becker County Commissioners on August 30th was presented and reviewed.

Motion (Grossman, Stenger) to approve the 2013 SWCD budget. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

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

Approved: Don Lefebvre, Becker SWCD Secretary

Date: September 19, 2012