

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 17th, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 17, 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, County Commissioner Barry Nelson, Dist. Administrative Assistant Ginger Flynn, Dist. Technicians Ed Clem, and Dean Hendrickson and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Beck.

Motion by (Lefebvre, Stenger) to approve the September 19th minutes as sent out and received by the supervisors. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The September financial statements and bills were presented.

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

Reports –

Audit - Ginger reported on the audit of the 2011 financial records that was completed on October 2nd. The final report will be coming out at a later date.

Dist. Technicians Reports – Ed and Dean reported on the following:

- Ed has begun to contact individuals that are taking part in the long term nitrate well monitoring program. Will be locating wells and asking the participants a few questions about their wells. Forty-six wells will be logged in Becker County.
- Dean reported on the conservation practices that were installed this summer. Due to dry conditions the construction went well. Sixty-five water and sediment basins were installed this summer. There are a couple of small jobs that may get done yet this fall.

Area I MASWCD Mtg. – Ginger and Brad reported on the MASWCD Area I meeting arrangements that we are hosting October 25th, in Callaway at the Beautiful Savior Church. The agendas have been sent out and some registrations are coming in. Brad will do the welcome, introductions, and have a short presentation on the Becker SWCD. The Red River Valley Conservation Service Area JPB will meet following the area meeting.

Buffalo-Red River Watershed Dist. (BRRWD) Tour – The supervisors reported on BRRWD tour they attended September 20th. The tour featured several projects the watershed district has been working on. A tour of their new office building in Barnesville was also included.

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Soil Soakers Presentations – The District and NRCS staff assisted with the outdoor classroom for fourth graders from the Detroit Lakes schools. It was held September 27th and 28th at the Cormorant Lakes Sportsmen Club.

Jr. Envirothon – Ginger reported on the Junior Envirothon that was held October 3rd at the Prairie Wetlands Center in Fergus Falls. Thirty-nine teams totaling 200 students took part. Hillcrest Academy of Fergus Falls took first and second place, with Holy Rosary School of Detroit Lakes taking third place honors.

2012-13 Tree Order Form – The 2012-13 was reviewed for species and prices.

Motion (Grossman, Stenger) to approve the 2012-13 tree order form and prices as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Fund Applications – Reviewed a summary of the Clean Water Legacy grant applications that were submitted to BWSR. Two hundred and eighty-six applications were submitted requesting \$67.9 million dollars. Approximately \$18.4 million is available. Decisions on the grants will be made in December and notification sent to recipients in January 2013.

Bad Medicine Lake – Brad attended a meeting on Sept. 25th with the Bad Medicine Lake intensive study proposal group. The grant application is moving forward. Dr. Welle of Bemidji State University is working on the application. They are requesting the SWCD to serve as the fiscal agent for the grant. They would like to know the charges from the SWCD for this service so it can be part of the grant. After discussion.

Motion (Grossman, Flottemesch): to charge 15% of the grant amount for serving as fiscal agent for the Bad Medicine Lake study. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Administrative Assistant Position – It was noted that we are now receiving applications for this position until October 26th. Discussion was held on how the Board wishes to proceed with the hiring process. It was felt that two supervisors would review the applications and select the top candidates for interviews. Chairperson Beck appointed himself and supervisor Stenger to review the applications. They will do this on November 1st. Staff will give Kathy and Tony their copies of the applications after the 26th. November 15th was set for the interviews of the top candidates. Interview will be conducted by the whole board.

Wetland Conservation Act –

- Ed and Brad viewed some snowmobile trails with Becker County Parks and Natural Resource Director Marty Wiley. Off road vehicles have caused damage to the trail system by creating large ruts through wetland areas. Corrective measures were discussed and agreed on.
- Attended a Wetland Conservation Assessment meeting on Oct. 16th concerning the Governors Executive Order concerning the supporting and strengthening implementation of the State's wetlands policy.

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- Met with a couple of landowners concerning driveway issues that may result in replacement plans being prepared.

Ag Inspectors Program – Marsha reported on the following ag inspector issues:.

- Held the south half of Dist. 1 Ag Inspectors meeting here on Oct. 16th. Discussions included seed laws, new pesticide test, MNDOT spraying program.
- Reviewed spotted knapweed bio-control efforts of this past summer.
- Conducted a houndstongue inventory in Height of Land and Silver Leaf Township.
- Will be attending the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference. Marsha has been awarded the Carol Mortenson Award; this will be presented to her at the conference.
- Reported that FSA will no longer be conducting weed checks on CRP sites.

Shoreland Projects – Marsha and Brad have viewed a few lakeshore restoration projects that may qualify for cost-share with our remaining Native Buffer Cost-share funds. They will present them at the November meeting for consideration.

MASWCD Convention – The arrangements for the annual MASWCD Conference to be held Dec. 2-4th in Minneapolis were discussed. Ginger will make arrangements and registrations. All supervisors indicated they will be attending. The supervisors turned in their resolution ballots to be forwarded to MASWCD in St. Paul.

Cost-share Contracts – The following cost-share contracts were presented for payment authorization:

Cont. #11-30 with Mike Lockhart, abandoned well sealing. Cost of sealing \$565.00, eligible cost-share payment \$240.00.

Cont. #12-20 with Rian Heimark, abandoned well sealing. Cost of sealing \$475.00, eligible cost-share payment \$237.50.

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

**Upcoming – October 25th Area I MASWCD meeting – Callaway
October 29th- 31st. BWSR Training Academy**

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

Approved: Don Lefebvre, Becker SWCD Secretary

Date: November 21, 2012