

**Becker Soil & Water Conservation District  
Board of Supervisor's Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, June 19, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, June 19, 2013 in the Conference Room of the Ag Center Building located at 809 8th Street SE, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Those present were Supervisors Tony Beck, Duane Grossman, Kathy Stenger, Jerome Flottesmesch, and Don Lefebvre. Others present include Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson, District Administrator Peter Mead, District Administrative Assistant Jen Wentz, District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz and District Technician Marsha Watland.

The meeting was called to order at 8:07 a.m. by Chairman Beck.

**Minutes** – the May 15 regular meeting minutes and the May 23 special meeting minutes were presented for approval.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Stenger) to approve the May meeting minutes as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Financial Reports and Bills for Approval** – the financial reports and bills for approval were presented, reviewed, and discussed.

Comments were made regarding the cost-share funds on Floyd Lake that are to be completed by August 8. Plans aren't finished yet and will be discussed further in the meeting.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Grossman) to approve the financial reports and bills for approval as listed and amended. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Reports – District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz reported on the following:**

- Completed HEL and Wetland spot checks in Mahnomen County.
- Busy on construction: 2 projects finished – Haycreek and Springcreek. AWEP and Legacy funds were used to fund the projects. Jeff Norby has been working on CWL 2012 projects.
- CRP sign-ups ended Friday. We received a total of 40 applications for this year which is down quite a bit. Many areas are finding the same results. Most are re-enrolls and tree projects.
- CSP ended Friday, June 14. We received 5 contracts. Four are leftover from last year and one is new. We will know by July 15 for funding of these. Contribution agreements have not been decided yet. He believes that we'll get most of the contracts through.

**Reports – Peter Mead reported on behalf of District Technician Ed Clem:**

- Ed Clem is absent as he is attending a TMDL meeting in Crow Wing this morning
- Tree plan inspections have been completed
- Continues to work on nitrate well monitoring

- DNR Observation wells have been completed
- There will be a TEP meeting tomorrow regarding WCA

**Reports – Co Ag Inspector/Shoreland Specialist Marsha Watland reported on the following:**

*County Ag Inspector*

- The annual MACAI Summer Short Course will be held in Red Wing. Commissioner of Ag will be there. Noxious weed ID will now be incorporated in every stop. Noxious weed discussed and its resistance to herbicides.
- Tours are going well and various speakers will be there. One tour has been completed. CRP is being checked with township inspector assistance.
- There has been Emerald Ash Bore testing in our area, Marsha's not involved. Nothing new has been announced on control. Moving firewood is the main objective right now. Extension service may send customers here for Marsha's input.
- Weed inspections continue in gravel pits – 2 remain near Cormorant Township. Forest Township gravel pit is still causing concern. She's working with Marty to treat this with herbicides.
- Road sides – Leafy Spurge is abundant in the area and the Becker County Highway Department is providing treatment. MNDOT is working with her as well as Township weed inspectors. She's optimistic that we're staying on top of it and working through the weed issues.
- Bio Control – Spotted Knapweed control is being researched. Weevils were deposited a few years ago. She's assuming that it will fill-in where the weevils have moved out.
- Recreation Trails – Marty is moving forward with treatment

*Shoreland*

- The Meadowlark Grant is finished. There was a meeting held on May 31 for Big Toad, Little Toad, and Cotton Lakes and again on June 14 for Lake Maud and Lake Eunice. Supervisor Grossman attended the last meeting and commented on the interesting information presented by Moyria from RNB Labs as well as Marsha's presentation on lakeshore improvements for the future.
- Cotton, Toad, and Little Toad had 16 people in attendance including the presenters. Only Toad Lake residents were present. Marsha discussed the objectives of the meeting as well as the organization and style of the café meeting atmosphere. There were 30 people in attendance for Lakes Maud and Eunice. Area culverts were discussed and shoreline planting ideas were brought forward. She gave additional contacts for the lakeshore property owners.
- There's another Meadowlark opportunity for the future that will be available late August through October. Grant funding from \$10,000 to \$200,000 is available. Marsha is looking at implementing the shoreline with funds such as this. She would set-up a training meeting again with similar objectives as the earlier Meadowlark Grant. Marsha mentioned the difficulty she's having in contacting some of the smaller lake associations. Supervisor Flottesmesch advised that she should contact COLA and find a position on their annual meeting agenda to spread the word about these café meetings.
- Lake Association visits – Floyd, Detroit, Toad, Cotton, Little Toad, Eunice and Maud, Elbow, Juggler and Little Bemidji were completed recently.

- COLA – Marsha has been asked to attend their monthly meetings at M State in Detroit Lakes. She’s looking for Board approval on moving forward with this. Discussion. Board agrees that attendance monthly will be too much time lost from other projects.
- She and Peter attended the shoreline and native plantings workshop in Cross Lake at the Trout Lake Access. During their travels, they discussed a fee schedule for her efforts on improving shoreline in Becker County. She and Peter decided on a base structure; handouts were given to all in attendance. \$50 per hour for on/off-site planning. \$60 for a site visit and 2 hours of planning time, and \$150 for mediation visits and 2 hours of planning time. Cost-share dollars will factor into this as well with a focus on plant material, seed, and labor. This recoupment will be delivered to the landowner at up to 50% of the total cost. Discussion.

Motion (Flottemesch, Grossman) to implement the shoreland fee schedule for technical costs and projects, offered by the District, that are not covered by a grant specifying those technical services. In this case, we are asking for a supplementation by the landowner to cover the additional costs involved in providing these services. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

- \$3,000 has been encumbered thus far for 8 shoreline sites using cost-share funds from Floyd Lake Cost-Share dollars. The remaining \$8,400 will be used as well.
- She continues working with Planning & Zoning to help landowners with retaining walls and various mitigations
- CWMA grant will be available for a total of \$200,000. She believes we should apply for this grant on various invasive plant controls.

#### **Area I MASWCD Meeting –**

- The meeting will be held on June 26 in Bejou, MN. Duane, Jerome, Tony, and Kathy will attend, as well as Peter and Jen. The JPB of the RRVCSA TSA 1 meeting will be held immediately afterward at the same location.
- MASWCD Governance meeting to be held on September 4 and 5, 2013 in Alexandria, MN was discussed as well. Peter and Jen will attend.
- Leadership Training seminar was discussed for Peter. Registration closes mid-July. Peter will attend.

#### **Farm Bill Assistance Grant –**

- Funding for this project comes directly from BWSR. Peter has been speaking with other Districts that have utilized this funding. He’s been in touch with Pheasants Forever as well as looking at a Farm Bill Biologist. These funds can either be used for an additional staff person or additional funding throughout the existing office. The contract agreement positions for John Voz and Phil Doll are a bit unsettled for the future.
- Discussion regarding WRP –Wetland Reserves Program is funded and sign-up runs through mid-July. This allocation helps to fund flood water projects throughout the Red River Valley.

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to approve the Farm Bill Assistance grant application that Peter wrote and is pursuing. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

### **WQExPertApp and LCCMR Proposal –**

The Water Quality Practitioner Expert System for Project Implementation Application (WQExPertApp) is part of a local/state government and private company partnership led by the International Water Institute recently proposed to LCCMR. WQExPertApp will allow users to identify implementable, on-the-ground BMPs and CPs and evaluate the environmental and economic benefits of proposed practices. If funded, Becker and other SWCDs, several watershed districts, environmental services and statewide offices will serve as project partners.

### **Healthcare Changes –**

The District is no longer eligible for the Becker County health plan through a statewide audit of Blue Cross & Blue Shield. Peter and Jen recently sat down with a representative from Lakes Country Coop and BCBS of MN to find that there are many unknowns at this point with major healthcare changes in effect January 1, 2014.

### **Budget Committee –**

Peter announced that the Board should appoint a Budget Committee. Duane and Tony have been appointed and will help to make decisions regarding the future budget planning before our August deadline.

### **Equipment and Software –**

- Peter is looking to purchase a laptop for additional and extensive GIS work that needs to be performed in the District. He found a last year's model from Dell that would work well with assistance from Becker County IT. The costs for the ArcGIS software and program will be nearly \$2,500. However, as a collaborator with IWI, a discounted license may be available for \$100.00

Motion (Stenger, Flottemesch) to move forward with the updates of ArcGIS software and the laptop purchase. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

- Additional equipment needs were discussed. The office cell phone is outdated and lacking the service necessary to be used in the field. For that reason, personal cell phone use has increased. Peter will contact IT for the recently updated cell phone policy that Becker County currently uses. This will be discussed further at the budget review.
- Recent equipment purchases and sales were discussed. The Ford pickup and the Buick Rendezvous were sold earlier this month. We now have three pickup trucks in our fleet. In addition, the District will need a trailer to haul the ATV. Also, with the recent purchase of the 2013 Dodge pickup, we have a need for running boards. Discussion.

Motion (Flottemesch, Lefebvre) to authorize the committee, chairman, and administration to look at the options and come up with a recommendation on the purchase of an enclosed trailer for hauling the ATV and shoreline native plants as well as running boards and a box cover for the 2013 Dodge RAM. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

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

All C-S tree planting vouchers were presented for approval.

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to approve the payment of the vouchers for C-S tree plantings. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The following cost-share contracts were presented for consideration:

Clean Water Legacy contract #CWL-2-2013—Gary Villiard. Installation of 5 Water and Sediment Control Basins in Cuba Township. Estimated cost \$44,726. This project will receive EQIP funding of \$23,238 and the landowner share will be \$11,182. Eligible CWL funding to be applied to the project is \$10,306 based on 75% cost-share as per policy for 2013 grant funds.

Motion (Grossman, Stenger) to approve contract #CWL-2-2013 for 75% of the cost not to exceed \$10,306. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Shoreland buffer agreements were presented for approval in the Floyd Lake area.

Motion (Stenger, Flottemesch) to approve the Floyd Lake project and use of 2011 CWL grant funds. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Other –**

WIA program discussion and authorization of the Board to extend the contract for the coming year.

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to approve the extension of the WIA program. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Being no further business, motion (Grossman, Flottemesch) to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 a.m. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Approved: Jerome Flottemesch, Becker SWCD Vice-Chair**

**Date: July 17, 2013**