

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 19, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, February 19, 2014 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 Eugene Pavelko. Others present include District Administrator Peter Mead, District Secretary Alisa Wendt, District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, District Technician Ed Clem, District Technician Marsha Watland, Pheasants Forever Biologist Adam Kleinschmidt and Soil Conservationist Ray Hummel.

Call to Order- meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m. by Chairperson Stenger

The Oath of Office was given to the newly appointed supervisor Eugene Pavelko.

January Meeting Minutes-

Motion (Beck, Grossman) to approve the January regular meeting minutes as presented.
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried

Financial Reports and Bills for Approval- Peter reviewed financial reports for January with the Board.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Beck) to approve the January Financial Reports and Bills for Approval.
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Reports-

District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz reported on the following:

- Introduced Ray Hummel as the new NRCS Soil Conservationist.
- The 2014 Farm Bill was passed. Handed out information to the board about the new Farm Bill and discussed important details that will affect us.
- The Regional Conservation Partnership Program will replace initiatives such as the Red River Basin AWEP program. This will now be a competitive application with 500 million available annually and 7% of program allocations (EQIP, CSP).
- Will need to contact landowners that have signed up, to give them an update on their application process.
- Rice lake meeting discussed. Wetland permitting process and wetland permits. Talked about O&M/MOU. A copy was sent for OGC review for NRCS. DNR has their Attorney General looking at the MOU. Still waiting to hear from Tera about time frame and wetland permits. Tentative date for restoration plans end of April, hopefully getting bids in May, and restoration in mid-summer/fall.

- Attending meeting with Phil Doll, John Voz, and Peter Mead at Buffalo-Red Watershed District to discuss WRP and flood retention projects such as Reep Lake that are moving forwards and other projects the watershed district wants to proceed with.
- Reviewed the memorandum of understanding, the original document is from July, 1948. Discussed NRCS civil rights and EEO policies. Discussed the process for internal and external partners to file a complaint using information from the "And Justice for All" and EEO posters.

District Technician, Ed Clem reported on the following:

- Wetland Conservation Act activities, Rice Lake Restoration, needs various permits / replacement plans for access to the embankment structures. The dams and structures are exempt from wetland law - Access roads are not exempt, there will be a public hearing once permit work is done.
- TEP members attended meeting with Federal agencies on the airport project. Collin Peterson and Al Franken are now involved with the proposed expansion of the airport. While we play a small role as the local WCA LGU, it is a complex project involving numerous local, state and federal agencies, including the FAA, USCOE, EPA, DNR, MPCA, & MNDOT.
- Public hearing for Susan Schlossman, property is for sale. Being contacted daily by seller and buyer's realtor.
- Meeting with City of Detroit lakes and MDOT for expanding Holmes Street out to Walmart, thru Hwy 59. City engineer brought over purchase credits for wetlands. Need an application before they can look at the plans. Will have to go thru replacement plan and public hearing process next month.
- Tree plans, cost share projects to be approved. Tree sales lagging slightly, but coming along. We still have 2013 cost share dollars available for shelterbelt establishment, 2014 dollars cannot cost share shelterbelts due to legislative changes
- Worked on David Sherbrooke project that is not cost-share, but over 7 miles of trees, we will be doing the planting.
- Reviewing Water & Sediment Control Basins for Jeff Haverland.

District Technician Marsha Watland reported on the following:

County Ag Inspector

- Completed the Non-Commercial Pesticide Exam and is now certified for Rights-of-Way thru the MN Department of Agriculture Pesticide Program.
- District 1 meeting on February 26, 2014. Has been working with the commissioner of agriculture, and getting the new weed list for 2014 completed. County Ag inspectors will have training in March with all of the most current information. Asking all the counties in district on where to host the meeting.
- Cooperative weed management grant, received full amount of grant at \$15,000. Dupont emailed and asked what herbicides we want donated. Goal is recreational trails, working on inventory from trail ambassadors; 73 miles have treated in the northwestern part of the county.

- March 20, 2014 is the annual township weed inspector training. Mailing going out this week for those needing to attend.

Shoreland

- Conservation Core Grant, working with them on what 11 days we will have them working on installing shoreland projects. Planning for the last week in May doing installation for shoreland, and weed removal on shoreland.
- Worked with Eric Jones for Berg Cormorant Lake project.
- Native shoreland plant list is complete.
- Attended the Erosion Sediment Control Workshop with Peter.

Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist Adam Kleinschmidt reported on the following:

- Working on proposals for landowners for expiring CRP contracts from 2012-2014. Had a couple landowners contact him back for more information.
- Attended the National Pheasant Forever Conference in Wisconsin.

Clean Water Legacy, DNR Aquatic Habitat & Conservation Corps grant awards-

- Clean water legacy: shoreland projects not funded. Shared Services and drainage ditch inventory and inspection project received awards of \$250,000 and 41,000 respectively.
- TSA 8 also awarded \$250,000 for shared services. Entering into joint powers agreement to pool funds and share a GIS specialist located out of Perham and two interns located out of Bemidji. Becker SWCD will serve as the Fiscal agent and receive the administrative funds for both. Peter is finishing the position descriptions and legal staff is reviewing the joint powers agreement.
- DNR Aquatic Habitat Grant, requested \$71,000, awarded \$35,000. Over \$500,000 in requests and only \$250,000 available. Becker and Stearns County received the highest amount of the grant.
- Conservation Corps: a labor crew of 5 people coming in to assist for 11 days, maintenance and installations on 6 lakes; Marsha has the crew booked for late May and will begin with the Berg site on Big Cormorant.
- Conservation Corps: Awarded a summer apprentice. Apprenticeship will start mid-May and work largely with shoreland and Ag inspector programs. Currently executing work plan and positions will be posted by MCC next month.

Annual Plan of Operations-

- Though BWSR does not require this for Districts with a BBR in place, Peter feels we should have an annual plan of operations; we also need to complete a new BBR.
- Discussed how this was done in the past. Held separate meeting with board to understand management's vision and examine work load. Ginger would email out questions regarding operations and board supervisors would review and bring questions forward.
- Will hold staff meeting to identify / clarify resource needs and workload and incorporate suggested changes into drafted plan

- Agreed to hold special meeting after March's Regular Board meeting.

Shallow Lake Landowner meeting-

- Peter explained plans for a meeting and luncheon on March 6 with landowners in the 2013 CWL grant area at the American Legion in Lake Park.
- Discussing the water quality issues, conservation practices, practice effects, available cost share and incentives thru EQIP, CRP and Clean Water Legacy.
- Have staff on hand with laptops available to show interested landowners how the incentives and payments will pencil out and how practices will address their specific needs.

WCA Public Hearing- Susan Schlossman

Started at 9:30am by chairperson Stenger

Discussion

- Application for driveway access to 5 acres. Total of 40% of 43 acres is wetland
- 210 feet by 240 feet wide. 2:1 ratio by purchasing credits from the Minnesota wetland credit bank
- Wetland type is number 6, willow, sedge, cattail, shallow, no open water, adjacent to the lake, connection to back water lake to the north
- Fairly high quality, functioning wetland, within 1000 feet are fair quality wetland
- Type of project: construct access to parcel
- Gravel 3 foot depth, (get details from applications) use mat to help support fill
- Alternatives: do nothing (does accomplish objective), build a bridge (not practical and too costly)
- Wetland credits (get from application)
- Checked they don't believe they are affecting endangered species

TEP recommendation: Peter Mead, Ed Clem, Steve Hofstad (BWSR)

- Application was complete
- No special considerations were identified for endangered
- Sequencing requirements are deemed to be met, alternate
- Alternative proposed to TEP: do nothing: building bridge (get from application)
 - Additional, constructing home on upland area, adjacent to road and walking to lake (need info)
- Noted applicant is aware of wetland impact: single lane private access road to access sub divided lots
- Proposed road location, in the narrowest wetland area, less prone to impacts and erosion, chosen most reasonable areas

Speaking in favor: none

Disapprove: none

Chairperson closed testimony of the hearing 9:41 a.m., open for discussion.

Findings

- Mat is necessary under road
- Culvert needed ensure hydrologic connectivity of wetland

Motion (Pavelko, Flottemesch) to approve the application: with the conditions of a culvert and mat at the direction of WCA technician. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Alisa Wendt Resignation as of March 5, 2014

- Board to accept the resignation letter
- Looking at reopening the same position with district 8 hours
- Ed will contact Ultima about opening the position back up, talk with Celeste about what to do, advertise.

Motion (Flottemesch, Grossman) to accept letter of resignation with great regret. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Motion (Flottemesch, Grossman) authorize administration to co-work with Ultima position. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

District Technician II Position-

Authorize the staff to put together the position and hire

Motion (Grossman, Flottemesch) to hire a district technician II position. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Cost Share Applications- the following contracts were presented for consideration:

Clean Water Legacy:

Contract #CWL-13-16 with Curtis Nelson, water & sediment control basins & grade stabilization. Estimated project cost \$51,895. Additional funds through EQIP \$35,383. Eligible cost-share \$16,512.

Contract #CWL-13-15 with Matthew Bjerke, water & sediment control basins. This replaces the previously approved contracts #CWL-13-11 and CWL-13-14. Estimated project cost \$36,146. Additional funds through EQIP \$13,596. Eligible cost-share \$13,513 with project landowner costs of \$9,036.

Motion (Beck, Flottemesch) to approve the cost-share contracts as presented and for the amounts listed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

State Cost Share:

Contract #13-23 with Jason Coley, shelterbelt establishment and planting. Estimated project cost \$794. Eligible cost-share \$561.

Contract #13-24 with Beau Jacobson, shelterbelt establishment. Estimated project cost \$1,125. Eligible cost-share \$720.

Contract #13-22 with Don Maninga, shelterbelt establishment and planting. Estimated project cost \$1,510. Eligible cost-share \$1,132.

Contract #13-25 with Dolcye Johnson, shelterbelt establishment. Estimated project cost \$970. Eligible cost-share \$475.

Motion (Beck, Grossman) to approve the cost-share contracts as presented and for the amounts listed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

RRVCSA Issues- Mead/Flottemesch-

- Peter discussed February 20, 2014, Camp Ripley; they were asked to attend Soil & Water conservation capacity. Legislative committee, TSA host and chairs, MASWCD, BWSR to identify factors that are affecting conservation delivery, recommendations brought to legislators
- March 24-25th, legislative briefing and day at capital registration packet, if board is interested to attend. MASWCD seeking more base funding for districts, moving forward
- 2014 MN Chapter of SWCD conference annual meeting, March 3, 2014. Peter has application if interested.

Other-

HCSP plan: Peter reviewed the key points of the health care savings plan. Have been taking the voucher and dealing with the tax on their own. Still unsure if individuals or the group has to go in together. Have let employees do their own thing. Kathy suggested doing more research.

Non-profit organization permit, fill out form from the post office, IRS letter of exemption from federal, any documents supporting the primary purpose of SWCD. Contact MASCWD for guidance and check into if we qualify for non-profit postage rates.

As being no further business, motion (Grossman, Beck) to adjourn at 10:30 a.m.

Approved: Duane Grossman, Becker SWCD Secretary Date: March 19, 2014