

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, July 16, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, July 16, 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 Admin Assistant Jen Wentz and District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz.

Call to Order – Chairman Stenger called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

Approve June Meeting minutes – minutes were distributed to board members earlier. Flottesmesch and Stenger made corrections to page 2, 5, and 6.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Beck) to approve meeting minutes as corrected. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Financial Reports and Bills – Peter reviewed the June financial reports and bills for approval.

Motion (Beck, Grossman) to approve the June financial reports and bills for approval. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Reports –

District Conservationist, Ed Musielewicz reported on the following:

- EQIP update – final application is this Friday. No scoring period in August. We have two sign-ups: sediment basins and cover crops.
- Attended a CSP conference call last week. Expiring 2010 contracts have been given the opportunity to reapply or back-out. If they reapply they must take land out with no control or add land in that they do control. Applications must be completed in September in order to rank and score by October and November. This will be a non-competitive application period if currently in the program, but resource concerns will need to be addressed. Additional enhancements may be necessary to meet CSP guidelines. We have 28 contracts expiring. Only four applications were funded in Becker County. One was deemed ineligible.
- CRP conference call today. Peter has a contribution agreement with MASWCD. Adam has been working on eligibility determinations. At this point, he has 52 contracts among 38 producers. There is no general CRP this year. We don't have acreage totals as of yet. Contract terms will be 10-15 years.

- The District has a WRP contribution agreement to complete monitoring; NRCS will have to complete some also. Due at the end of July.
- Rice Lake updates: met with PRWD board of managers regarding NRCS not being able to do off-easement work. Tera Guetter will write a letter to BWSR staff to gain easement rights and certification. John Voz has been working with Ducks Unlimited staff as well. Wetland Restoration portion may be completed with DU. At some point we may need to back off entirely and let PRWD take the lead on their project.
- Financial assistance programs meeting – local work group sets priorities for using the financial assistance program funds. We need to gather locally in order to work through these priorities. Ed will organize a meeting August 14th at 9:00 a.m.
- Review section 1619 provisions of the Farm Bill regarding Personally Identifiable Information. Soil & Water and our partners work with NRCS on data that the public does not and should not have access to. Our Board will need to acknowledge this and sign their authorization in understanding.

Motion (Beck, Pavelko) to approve the NRCS 1619 compliance agreement. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

District Technician, Ed Clem is on vacation; Peter Mead reported in his absence:

- Busy with WCA related issues especially the Charlie Beaton site. Landowner picked up his copy of the restoration order yesterday and was diligently working to relocate the wetland flow.
- Claire is helping with survey shots and using CAD for many project designs.
- Claire is also working with one of Marsha's shoreland design plans
- Stephanie has been running inventory reports for Marsha's weed notices; her comments are being uploaded using our software and then to the county's website.

Shoreland Technician, Marsha Watland is attending a CAI meeting; Peter Mead reported on the following:

- We still have issues working with Natures' Design contractors. They've been given a second chance from a previous blunder. Becker SWCD has been involved in much of the supervision of project guidelines.

Approval of Revised 2014-15 DNR Ground Water Monitoring Agreement – Peter explained the reason for the amendment. Time spent on this project has increased, and the DNR is installing additional equipment at monitoring sites. Because of this, DNR decided to double the reimbursement amount per reading.

Motion (Flottemesch, Pavelko) to approve the revised agreement for DNR Ground Water Monitoring. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2015 NPEA grant agreement – Peter noted receipt of this grant agreement to be executed. Jerome Flottemesch will approve this on behalf of the RRVCSA.

2015 Farm Bill Assistance grant agreement – Peter reviewed the newly awarded 2015 FBA grant agreement to be executed for the coming year.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to approve the 2015 Farm Bill Assistance grant agreement.
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Outstanding Conservationist Selection – Peter reviewed the discussions last month with the options we brought forward. Peter and Ed M. made their recommendations to the Board members. Three options were chosen. Should the first choice not accept, remaining nominees will be notified for acceptance in the order listed.

Motion (Pavelko, Grossman) to approve the selections above and in the order listed.
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2013 Audit Results and Submission to State – Peter reviewed the audit draft copy with board members. He and Jen have reviewed this draft and gave permission to Michael Peterson to forward a final copy to the State Auditor's office. Each board member will receive a bound, final copy once received by the District.

2013 State Cost Share Cancellation – Peter explained that Mark Groth did not meet his contract requirements for tree planting this year. We will need to return these funds to the state. In addition, Groth has an outstanding invoice with the District for the cost of the trees. We have sent him a final invoice and letter to make payment immediately. Peter discussed the option of selling the trees to him, which have since died, at a discounted price.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to cancel the cost-share contract and authorize administration to settle the outstanding debt. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2013 State C-S Voucher – the following contract was presented to the Board for payment approval.

Contract #13-16 with Ken Huesman, rain garden. Total project cost \$3,490.08; cost-share payment \$1,149.45.

Motion (Grossman, Pavelko) to approve the voucher payment as noted above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2013 CWL Voucher – the following contract was presented to the Board for payment approval.

Contract #CWL-2-2013 with Gary Villiard, water and sediment control basins. Total project cost \$43,563.93; AWEP payment \$23,255.45; cost-share payment \$10,286.

Motion (Flottemesch, Grossman) to approve the voucher payment as noted above.
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2014 State C-S Voucher – the following contract was presented to the Board for payment approval.

Contract #14-3 with Dave and Sally Suby, rain garden. Total project cost \$2,888.06; cost-share payment \$1,444.03.

Motion (Beck, Grossman) to approve the voucher payment as noted above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Other –

DNR Aquatic Habitat grant. Set to start at the beginning of July; however, we've been waiting on the signed grant agreement copy in order to begin project work. Landowners involved: Magnusson-Lake Eunice, Hanson-Elbow Lake, Trostad-Lake Maud, Garret-Elbow Lake, Bateman-Two Inlets, Dietz-Many Point Lake, Koontz-Many Point Lake, Seaberg-Strawberry Lake, Oppegard-Tulaby Lake, Van Dam-Tulaby Lake, and Poling-LaBelle Lake.

Motion (Flottemesch, Grossman) to authorize administration to move forward with the DNR Aquatic Habitat grant projects listed above for sake of time restraints. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Reminder: Becker County Fair will be held at the end of the month. We will conduct water testing on Thursday, July 31st.

Flottemesch noted that Becker SWCD has an allowance for employee apparel. With a new board member in the ranks as well as several new employees, all staff should have at least one piece of District apparel.

Motion (Flottemesch, Grossman) to authorize two articles of clothing for new employees, one for current employees, one for new board members and current board members at their request. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Stenger noted the additional comments made by LeeAnn Buck at the Area I MASWCD meeting regarding shoreland technicians and lake access inspections. Discussion.

Being no further business, motion (Grossman, Pavelko) to adjourn meeting at 10:15 a.m. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Approved: Duane Grossman, Becker SWCD Secretary Date: August 20, 2014