

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, September 17, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, September 17, 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 Flottesch and Eugene Pavelko. Others present include Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson, District Administrator Peter Mead, District Admin Assistant Jen Wentz, District Technician Ed Clem and BWSR Board Conservationist Brett Arne.

Call to Order – Chairman Stenger called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

Approve August Meeting Minutes – no changes noted.

Motion (Grossman, Flottesch) to approve the August meeting minutes as written. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Financial Reports and Bills – Peter reviewed the financial statements with the Board.

Motion (Grossman, Pavelko) to approve the financial statements and bills for September. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Reports –

Peter Mead reported on behalf of District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz:

- Kudos to Ray for doing a great job of filling in for Ed during the August meeting reports.
- He and Ray are attending a Drainage Water Management meeting today.
- Final 2014 CSP obligations were completed August 25th. 9 contracts were approved on 8,399 acres for a total obligation of \$705,470.
- Ed attended the Pelican River Watershed District board meeting held September 11th and presented the Clean Water Legacy proposal that Peter is working on for the South Branch. His budget included a \$25,000 commitment from Wild Rice Watershed District. The Managers approved the request on a 6-1 vote.
- Participants with 2010 CSP contracts due to expire on September 30 or December 31, 2014 had an opportunity to re-enroll their land for a 5-year contract extension. 24 of 26 participants did re-apply. Participants will need to meet current farm bill eligibility for CSP. This fall will be spent working on these contracts—making sure they meet minimum eligibility requirements, planning additional enhancements and contracting.
- NRCS nationwide is running into issues with DUNS/SAM registration. A recent audit showed virtually no compliance with this contract requirement.
 - As part of NRCS financial program eligibility, entities (corporations, LLC, Partnerships, etc.) are required to obtain a Dun & Bradstreet Number (DUNS number) and register with System for Award Management (SAM). SAM is a Web-enabled government wide application that collects, validates, stores, and disseminates business information about the federal government's trading partners. It supports contract awards, grants (all NRCS financial program payments are a grant) and electronic payment processes. SAM registration must be renewed at least once every 12 months to remain valid and to be eligible to receive a program payment as set out in the Conservation Program Contract (CPC) Appendix.
 - Ed sent letters to entities this week and discussed this issue with others. This is pretty serious as NRCS is threatening cost recovery on entities who received 2014 program payments without registering with

SAM and/or cancelling 2014 contracts with entities that do not comply by September 30. The DUNS requirement has been on the application since 2010 and SAM registration since 2012.

- WRP Updates – NRCS received funds to start work on approved 2013 applications (yes 2013). Becker Co. has 3 applications for approximately 400 acres. Ed met with all applicants & Meadowland Surveying the last few days for pre-survey meetings.
- WRP Updates – Funds were also released for government contracts for project restoration. The contractor for Glenn Yliniemi's restoration project mobilized September 8th to complete the wetland restorations.

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

- He has been working with CRP and continuous CRP landowners over the past few months and has been able to secure 44 contracts and 55 plans with 173 acres of wetlands protected or restored.

District Technician Ed Clem reported on the following:

- Construction inspection – continuing work on Crabtree's wetland restoration
- Project installations – water & sediment control basin at Bjerke's farm
- Bruce Nelson on Boyer Lake is our next project but we're down to one contractor for many of our remaining contracts in 2014.
- We have 8 or 9 projects remaining to complete this year.
- He recently met with a TEP wetland violation. There are many agencies involved. The landowner has been instructed to remove the fill that was in place. This was completed last Saturday and was a much bigger project than anticipated by all.

Ed Clem reported on behalf of District Technician Marsha Watland:

Shoreland Specialist

- Shoreline projects recently completed include: Dietz on Elbow Lake, Welte on Detroit Lake and Thompson on White Earth Lake. All projects are quite labor intensive and consist of meeting with landowners and instructing on site prep, installation and ordering/picking up of plant material. Ed updated the Board with photos of these completed projects.
- Carol McCarthy with TV3 joined Marsha, Claire and their Conservation Corp crew at the Welte site on Big Detroit Lake last week. The broadcast will air sometime this week.
- Ben Tjepkes is our new high school intern working with the District until October 31st. He's been working in and out of the office. He assisted with shoreland construction on the Welte site last week.

County Ag Inspector

- County Ag Inspector now has the authority to begin treating phragmites sites. Forest Hills has also been given authority to treat with USFWS assistance.
- Recent weed violation – landowner canceled his CRP but is now re-enrolled into the program with plumless thistle taking over his property; all notices have been avoided and ignored. Their CRP enrollment is in jeopardy of termination. Clipping has finally been completed with follow-up in May 2015.
- Two pesticides applicator exams were administered.
- Gravel pit inspections have been completed.

BWSR Updates –

Board Conservationist Brett Arne reported on the following:

- Brett explained his section of Minnesota with the redistribution of Chad Severts and Matt Fischer. He is now officially moved into the Detroit Lakes DNR office.

- BWSR is now accepting proposals on PRAP (Performance Review and Assistance Program) for the 81 major watersheds in the state and should review about 3-4 per year. Crow Wing Watershed will be reviewed this year. There are three options for this appraisal process: Level I and Level II performance standards for LGUs by type and Watershed-based performance standards. The grant is intended to assist LGUs with organizational improvement and can include activities such as: staff capacity assessment, strategic planning, conflict resolution and reorganization.
- Becker County Local Water Management request for extension –Brett met with the BWSR North Region Committee last week. They approved the recommendation. BWSR board should approve this extension next week.
- Targeted Watershed demonstration program – Brett has not heard any specifics. Applications were submitted, ten have been cut and the remaining 9 will be interviewed. Interview calls should happen within the next week or so. Approval for funding will come after the January board meeting.
- BWSR has started accepting applications for Clean Water funds. They have \$17.5 million to offer this year. There has been some streamlining of programs and additional money to work with as well. Of his five counties, there were 8-10 applications

Supervisor Payroll and Expenses and Approval of Special Meetings – the special meetings for the 3rd Quarter of 2014 are as follows:

July 9th – MASWCD Northwest Area I meeting held in Bejou

August 14th – NRCS Local Work Group held in Detroit Lakes

Motion (Flottemesch, Grossman) to approve the special meetings as mentioned above. Affirmative: Unanimous.
Carried.

RRVCSA – FY 2014 Audit Agreement – as the TSA is climbing higher with revenues from the Shared Services agreement between TSA 1 and TSA 8, we require an audit of 2014 financials. The audit agreement must be signed by the RRVCSA Chairman and returned to Peterson Company.

Clean Water Legacy Grant Contracts – the following contracts were presented for consideration:

Amendment to Chris Erickson contract #CWL-5-2013, Chris decided to add buffers to his original contract of water & sediment control basins. The project will now pay 100% of the total costs. The new cost-share amount is not to exceed \$17,901.14 with the remaining \$40,421.20 from EQIP.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to approve the amended Clean Water contract as noted above. Affirmative: Unanimous.
Carried.

Contract #CWL-23-2013 with Sean Felker, filter strips. Estimated project cost \$6,599.01; eligible cost-share \$3,150 with \$3,449.01 from 2014 CRP.

Contract #CWL-22-2013 with Clint Felker, filter strips. Estimated project cost \$9,164.84; eligible cost-share \$4,650 with \$4,514.84 from 2014 CRP.

Contract #CWL-24-2013 with Ruth Erickson-Lumb, filter strips. Estimated project cost \$41,972; eligible cost-share \$21,000 with \$20,972 from 2014 CRP.

Motion (Beck, Grossman) to approve the above listed 2013 Clean Water Legacy contracts. Affirmative: Unanimous.
Carried.

DNR Aquatic Habitat Grant Agreements – all were authorized by the Board at a prior meeting, but we thought it practical to address them again.

Contract #DNR-01 with Marcus Garrett, shoreland protection. Estimated project cost \$10,162.

Contract #DNR-02 with Kevin and Cindy Hanson, shoreland protection. Estimated project cost \$6,142.

Contract #DNR-03 with Scott and Shyrlee VanDam, shoreland protection. Estimated project cost \$7,116.

Contract #DNR-04 with Bruce and Beth Thompson, shoreland protection. Estimated project cost \$6,412.

Motion (Grossman, Pavelko) to approve the contracts noted above and payable with the DNR Aquatic Habitat grant.
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2013 State Cost-Share Vouchers –the following contract was submitted for payment approval:

Contract #13-30 with Don and Andrea Hochhalter, rain garden and shoreland buffer. Total project cost \$15,752; cost-share payment \$498.23

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to approve payment of the above noted shoreland protection project. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Legacy Vouchers – the following contract was submitted for partial payment approval:

Contract #CWL-5-2013 with Chris Erickson, WASCOD. Total project cost \$58,322.34; partial payment of cost-share funds \$3,220.75

Motion (Flottemesch, Grossman) to approve the partial payment for the project noted above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Chairperson Stenger recessed the Board meeting and opened the public hearing at 9:32 a.m.

Public Hearing – Curtis Zachariason Wetland Replacement

Clem gave testimony. He met with Curtis in mid to late July who would like approval for access to his property. Clem presented a map of the area in question to the Board members. There is an existing wetland trail that was in place before WCA stipulations to allow for a driveway to the existing site. The trail is established as a private driveway. Description of the project is to raise and widen existing trail as it is not adequate for normal traffic to and from a future home construction site. Application proposes to impact 2,160 square foot of wetland. Wetland replacement is proposed to be mitigated through purchasing credits from the MN Wetland Bank at a 2:1 replacement ratio.

Findings from TEP – purchase credits from wetland bank at a 2:1 ratio. No threatened or endangered species were identified after the review. The TEP recommends approval of the wetland replacement plan. Sequencing requirements were met based on the TEPs analysis.

Applicant's avoidance analysis reads: project purpose is to access home, other options to build on another site or not build at all were not feasible. Minimize wetland impact is of utmost concern.

After additional discussion, Chairperson Stenger asked for any parties in agreement of the proposed plan. Co-owner of the property, Mrs. Curtis Zachariason voiced her approval.

As there were no disagreeing parties, Chairperson Stenger closed the public hearing at 9:39 a.m.

Regular Board meeting resumed –

Discussion continued amongst Board members. TEP findings were agreeable. The property to be accessed is adequate for sewer and water construction and fill used to construct the driveway. Flooding shouldn't be an issue.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to approve the Curtis Zachariason wetland replacement plan. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Other –

2013 State Cost-Share well sealing contract set to expire at the end of September. We have amended the contract to be installed by November 30, 2014.

Contract #13-15 with Ken Huesman, well sealing. Contract has been amended and extended to November 30, 2014.

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

Bailey's Nursery credit application to be signed by Board members.

Wild Rice Watershed District has approved \$25,000 to in match for a \$257,000 CWL application to install BMPs in critical areas of the South Branch of the Wild Rice Watershed. Buffalo-Red River Watershed District has pledged \$50,000 in match for a \$398,000 joint application with Clay SWCD to expand the 2013 Grant area and install additional BMPs in critical areas of the Shallow Lake/Hay Creek and Buffalo River mainstem. Applications are due by September 26th.

Upcoming Events:

September 18-19: 4th grade Conservation Tour at Cormorant Sportsman's Club

September 30: Contractor Certification Program. Peter, Marsha, and Patty Swenson will work out the specifics.

October 1: Junior Envirothon at Prairie Wetlands Learning Center

October 28-30: BWSR Academy at Breezy Point in Brainerd

Being no further business, motion (Grossman, Flottemesch) to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Approved: Gene Pavelko, Becker SWCD Secretary Date: October 15, 2014