

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

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, December 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, Kathy Stenger, Jerome Flottesmesch and Eugene Pavelko. Others present include Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson, District Administrator Peter Mead, District Admin Assistant Jen Wentz, NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz and District Technicians Ed Clem and Marsha Watland.

Call to Order – Chairman Stenger called to order at 8:04 a.m.

Approve November Meeting Minutes – no changes noted.

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

November Financial Reports and Bills for Approval – Peter reviewed the November reports with board members.

Motion (Beck, Pavelko) to approve the November financial reports and December bills for approval. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Supervisor Vouchers and Approval of Special Meetings – the following special meetings occurred during the 4th quarter of 2014.

October 20: Committee of the Whole, Detroit Lakes
October 23: MASWCD Area 1 meeting, Perham
November 18: RRVCSA-TSA 1 meeting, Mahnomon
December 7-9: MASWCD state convention, Bloomington

Motion (Flottesmesch, Pavelko) to approve the vouchers and special meetings as noted above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Reports –

NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz reported on the following:

- 18 CSP contracts have been approved thus far.
- Working on payment approvals for 78 CSP contracts.
- Ray and Leticia have both helped a lot on CSP sign-ups.
- We have 45 EQIP applications as of this morning. Final application period and scoring is Friday, December 19th.
- Jeff, Claire and Ed have been working on surveys.
- We have acquired our second VRS and now have two survey grade systems in the office.

- We've been completing surveys and I and E's for engineering.
- Many recent EQIP applications are Prairie Pothole and Pollinator honey bee initiative and consist of grass planting, hay land planting and other bee-food applications.
- He and Ray will travel to Walker in January for rollout training on EQIP.
- There have been 3 scoring periods all together.
- We anticipate 3 Ag waste systems this coming year.
- Don Baloun is retiring at the end of the year and there will be an acting NRCS State Conservationist appointed in his absence.

District Technician Ed Clem reported on the following:

- With the recent changes in weather, construction has finally come to a halt.
- The past month has been busy finishing as-built certifications and compiling invoices, which is a huge job in itself.
- More payments will be coming for next month on projects that weren't completed in time for this meeting.
- He was skeptical of finishing many of the construction projects this year but we have pulled through as a team to get the job done.
- We will now begin coordination of grants, payments and reporting in eLINK.
- We are working on presenting an overall success story of our accomplishments this year. There were many and we worked very hard to complete them.

District Technician Marsha Watland reported on the following:

Ag Inspector

- She met at the Capitol last week and attended the CWMA meeting at USFWS the next day. Nothing can be added to the noxious weed list until 2017. Exception to the rule Palmer Amaranth.
- Purple Loosestrife is on the rise throughout state. She is working together with the DNR to control this noxious weed with biocontrol.
- Due in part to the Polar Vortex, Emerald Ash Bore larvae has been reduced by 70-80% in 2014. The state of Wisconsin has seen an increase. We are at a 5% increase. Southwestern MN saw most of this increase.
- CWMA committee is looking at the month of June for a workshop on treatment of natives and invasive species.
- Non-native phragmites will see Round-up treatment for the next 2-3 years. This has been discovered at the head of Hamden Slough headwaters.
- Tansy treatment will continue on recreational trails and in the timber industry.

Shoreland Technician

- She presented photographs and gave a review of each project that was completed this year with the help of the Conservation Corps and our Becker SWCD crew. Future maintenance schedules will need to be developed and should go beyond what is necessary for the grants involved.
 - Berg site, Cormorant Lake with 40' shoreline
 - Dietz site, Many Point Lake with 150' shoreline
 - Fogelson site, Elbow Lake with 60' shoreline
 - Garrett site, Elbow Lake with 200' shoreline
 - Hanson site, Elbow Lake with 100' shoreline
 - Harbeke site, Lake Maud with 65' shoreline

- Hochhalter site, Stakke Lake with 40' shoreline and a rain garden
- Huesman site, Maud Lake with 20' shoreline and two rain gardens
- Swangler site, Cotton Lake with 75' shoreline
- Suby site, Pickerel Lake with rain garden slough repair and buffer on ledge
- Thompson site, White Earth Lake with 60' shoreline and rain garden
- Van Dam site, Tulaby Lake with 60' shoreline and two-tier planting
- Welte site, Detroit Lake with 93' shoreline
- West site, Cotton Lake with bareroot shrub planting
- Jolly Fisherman Resort, Elbow Lake with shrub planting & repair work

2013 District Audit Summary – Michael Peterson's office has completed our audit and mailed the bound copies which were distributed to all Board members. No deficiencies were found.

Motion (Beck, Flottesmesch) to approve the 2013 District Audit. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Grant Applications – Peter reviewed the recent grant applications that were written and submitted. Both are for the Conservation Corps – Conservation Apprenticeship grant and Crew Labor CWF grant.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Beck) to authorize administration to submit the grants listed above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Equipment Storage – We received a nice letter from Roger Engstrom thanking us for our efforts with conservation and explaining his move from the farm. He is no longer able to offer tree planter storage for the District. His yearly rate to store this equipment is \$125. We may be able to get acceptance from the new owners. Administration will look into this and/or other options such as the Cormorant Sportsman's Club.

Supervisor Retreat – We talked about holding this event and planning meeting a few months back. We should hold this early in January and work through the annual plan all in one day.

The retreat will be held on Wednesday, January 7th from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm preferably at USFWS in the BWSR conference room with a catered lunch at noon. We will also discuss making an appointment for Duane Grossman's position.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Pavelko) to authorize this retreat and special meeting on January 7, 2015. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

NACDE Membership – Should we or shouldn't we? Our District paid this minimal registration fee (\$10 per employee) last year, but we had no attendance at meetings and see no specific purpose for the organization. Board feels this is a decision of administration.

Contract Amendments – the following contracts saw changes during the construction season and need amendments.

Clean Water Legacy

Cameron Ullrich, CWL-8-2013 with an increase in costs and additional practices

Kevin Lunde, CWL-20-2013 with an increase in costs

Curt Nelson, CWL-16-2013 with an increase in costs

Matt Bjerke, CWL-15-2013 with an increase in costs

Motion (Flottemesch, Pavelko) to approve the Clean Water Legacy amendments as listed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2014 State Cost-Share

Arlene Hedlund, contract #14-5 with an extension

Motion (Beck, Flottemesch) to approve the state cost-share extension as listed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

State Cost-Share Contracts – the following contracts were presented for consideration.

Contract #14-10 with Spadgenske Dairy, well sealing. Estimated project cost \$500; eligible state cost-share \$240.

Contract #14-11 with Andrew Ingvalson, Ag waste system. Estimated project cost \$198,000; eligible state cost-share \$3,500

Motion (Beck, Pavelko) to approve the 2014 state cost-share contracts as listed above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Discussion continued regarding the cost-share eligible amount on an Ag waste system. A CNMP has been completed by Shane Kjellberg. Historically what EQIP has done is provided landowners with technical assistance dollars to have private engineers perform contract certification and design. There are no more technical assistance dollars through EQIP for these systems. Landowners will need a completed plan before they can apply, which must be signed off by an engineer. Our board historically has given \$3,500 toward construction costs of Ag Waste Systems in the past. Design alone is \$6,000 and additional certification for MPCA and NRCS will run another \$6,000. We're looking at total out-of-pocket costs of \$12,000 for the landowner. The Board should look at changing the minimum to a certain percentage of engineering costs or up to a certain capped limit. A landowner can always request to have NRCS complete the design but time constraints seem to hinder this.

We have a little under \$10,000 remaining in 2014 state cost-share funds. Board discussion continued based heavily on high demand for limited state cost-share dollars for shoreland projects for the coming season.

Historically, the board has stated the following: cost-share will pay 75% of eligible costs not to exceed \$3,500 and payable when project is completed. Cost-sharing on engineering and design only could create concerns if the project isn't completed. Then, we're left with cost-share funds encumbered but not spent and beyond the date requirements of the grant period. When private consulting non-NRCS professional engineers are involved, this is less likely.

After extensive discussion, the cost-share policy and \$3500.00 limit for Ag Waste System practices will remain the same.

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

Contract #CWL-25-2013 with Barry Nelson, grade stabilization and WASCB. Estimated project cost \$43,116; eligible cost-share \$21,567.

Contract #CWL-26-2013 with Barry Nelson, filter strips. Estimated project cost \$26,360; eligible cost-share \$13,050.

Contract #CWL-27-2013 with Darwin Hendrickson, filter strips. Estimated project cost \$5,229; eligible cost-share \$3,150.

Motion (Flottesch, Pavelko) to approve the 2013 CWL contracts as listed above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2012 Clean Water Legacy Vouchers – the following contracts were submitted for payment approval.

Contract #CWL-3-2012 with Joel Crabtree, WASCBs and Wetland Restorations under Bijou-Shoe-Dahlberg sediment control area. Total project cost \$34,013; CWL final payment \$24,750.

Contract #CWL-5-2012 with Curt Nelson, grade stabilization under Buffalo-Red Watershed District sediment control area. Total project cost \$67,927.18; CWL final payment \$1,536.73.

Contract #CWL-3-2012 with Matt Bjerke, WASCBs under Buffalo-Red River Watershed District sediment control area. Total project cost \$33,157.17; CWL final payment \$3,214.

Contract #CWL-4-2012 with Kevan Nelson, WASCBs under Buffalo-Red River Watershed District sediment control area. Total project cost \$34,399.77; CWL final payment \$3,618.

Motion (Flottesch, Pavelko) to approve payment of the above listed 2012 CWL vouchers. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2013 Clean Water Legacy Vouchers – the following contracts were submitted for payment approval.

Contract #CWL-18-2013 with Kevin Lunde, grade stabilization structure. Project not yet finished. Project cost to date \$8,229.60; CWL partial payment \$8,228.

Contract #CWL-20-2013 with Kevin Lunde, WASCB. Total project cost \$18,915.95; CWL final payment \$11,264.

Contract #CWL-8-2013 with Cameron Ullrich, WASCBs with Wetland Restoration. Total project cost \$21,107.67; CWL final payment \$12,771.77.

Contract #CWL-10-2013 with Norma Nelson, WASCBs. Total project cost \$8,364.73; CWL final payment \$3,660.92.

Contract #CWL-12-2013 with Roen Family Investments LLC, Wetland Restoration. Project not yet finished. Project cost to date \$1,272.50; CWL partial payment \$1,272.50.

Contract #CWL-15-2013 with Matt Bjerke, WASCBs. Total project cost \$38,362.96; CWL final payment \$16,387.56.

Contract #CWL-21-2013 with Gary Villiard, WASCBs. Project not yet finished. Project cost to date \$27,756.48; CWL partial payment \$4,740.

Motion (Pavelko, Flottemesch) to approve payment of the above listed 2013 CWL vouchers.
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

State Cost-Share Vouchers – the following contracts were submitted for payment approval.

Contract #14-1 with Todd Andresen, WASCBS. Total project cost \$16,533.84; state cost-share final payment \$500.

Contract #14-2 with Bill & Geri Harbeke, shoreline restoration. Total project cost \$3,577.29; state cost-share final payment \$1,789.

Motion (Flottemesch, Pavelko) to approve payment of the above listed 2014 state cost-share vouchers.
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Other –

USPS Non-Profit Mailings – Jen noted the past discussion about obtaining non-profit mailing authorization. The District has looked into this further and was recently approved. This includes a one-time application fee of \$220 and a yearly fee to hold the permit of \$220. Once in place, pieces delivered to zip codes beginning with 565 cost 12.8 cents per piece with all other zip codes charged at 19.1 cents per piece. In order to receive this reduced rate, mailings must meet a minimum quantity of 200 pieces. Anything less than this will be charged at standard postal rates.

Motion (Pavelko, Flottemesch) to approve that administration move forward with the non-profit mailing application and the annual permit with costs as noted above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Being no further business, motion (Flottemesch, Pavelko) to adjourn at 10:41 a.m. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Approved: Gene Pavelko, Becker SWCD Secretary Date: January 21, 2015