



The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 in the Conference Room of the USDA Ag Center Building located at 809 8th Street SE, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Those present were Supervisors Tony Beck, Kathy Stenger, Jerome Flottemesch, Travis Schauer and Eugene Pavelko. Others present include Becker County Director of Planning & Zoning Eric Evenson-Marden and Don Buckhout, BWSR-Water Planning Project Coordinator. District Administrator Peter Mead, Admin Assistant Jen Wentz, NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, District Technician Ed Clem, Shoreland Specialist Marsha Watland, AIS-Water Quality Coordinator Karl Koenig and BWSR BC Brett Arne. Additional attendees were Debi Moltzan, Tera Guetter and Willis Mattson.

Call to Order – Chairman Stenger called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. Introductions were made.

Approval of April Meeting Minutes

Motion (Flottemesch, Pavelko) to approve meeting minutes as written. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Financial Reports and Bills for Approval

Motion (Pavelko, Schauer) to approve April financial statements and payments for May. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

District Reports

District Conservationist – Ed Musielewicz

- 2nd round EQIP completed; Friday is the obligation deadline.
- CSP has 36 applications, but the Red River Basin funding didn't fare as well. 4 Ag and 5 Forestry applications were funded.
- EQIP 3rd and 4th rounds and CSP re-enrollments. Many program driven operations will be completed in the office from now until winter.
- CRP Wetland Restorations have been completed with Adam's help. McCarther and his son completed 6 or 7. Another 3 or 4 will be installed this spring in Lake Park.
- CSP anticipated additional dollars, especially for the Red River Basin area.

District Administrator – Peter Mead

- Brandon Dahring started with the District May 11th; he is our new seasonal technician.
- He began working with tillage transect surveys which were last completed in 2008. They measure field residue across the county. About 300 data points in all. Lots of residue has been noted; Brandon is doing very well with this project. All data has been entered into spreadsheets.
- He will be performing EQIP spot checks too. WAE hours from NRCS has not been clarified yet; the District may be on the hook for all of his salary.
- Our 2015 Conservation Corps apprentice is starting next Tuesday. Lauren Allen is from Northfield, MN.

- Our Pheasants Forever Wildlife Biologist, Adam Kleinschmidt has accepted a new position with USFW in Morris, MN. He will surely be missed. He has done a great deal of work with CRP in our office. Many buffer installations in our county are the result of his work in the field and with landowners.
- PF has made stringent changes to their contracts with SWCDs and BWSR. We are looking at not continuing our agreement with them, even though FBA grant agreements have been submitted.
- Mead would like to make this a District paid position. Many of Adam's successes have been overlooked or misrepresented to the public and agencies alike. We have a right to cancel the grant agreement at any time with 30 days' notice. Refilling the position is still a high priority. The state funds the position and monies are passed through the District to PF, yet they do none of the contracting with our office. PF doesn't bring any financial assistance to the county. Making the position District paid will allow us to keep any CRP contracting income in our District as we have in the past. Otherwise, PF's new contract with NRCS removes this additional revenue for our District.

Motion (Flottemesch, Pavelko) to authorize administration to cancel the agreement with Pheasants Forever and create a new position with our District. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Program Updates

District Technician – Ed Clem

- WCA site visits have included informative discussions or follow-up with violations and complaints.
- Currently working with Becker County Highway Dept. for wetland impacts and delineations on road reconstruction and repairs. We will establish a fee structure to assist them with this.
- Trees are pretty much finished. We sold 17,000 trees this year. We have just a few remaining in the DNR cooler; our cooler at Hartman's has been shut down and closed since last week. We decided to pot some small shrubs and trees to be used in our various shoreland projects. We are taking outside orders to anyone looking for this remaining stock.
- Completed 3 planting jobs this year.
- Villiard WSCBs have been finished; Nelson has several WSCBs completed. We have been at a standstill since the rain but will soon begin with wetland restorations. After Memorial Day, we will work with the Bijou Lake access erosion and sediment issues. Haverland has engineered a storm water plan that filters into a rain garden before it reaches the lake.

Shoreland Specialist & County Ag Inspector – Marsha Watland

County Ag Inspector

- Gravel pit inspections were finished May 12th. She presented a list of 2015 Certified Gravel Pits. This information will go to MN DOT. 85% are in their 5th year of certification.
- President of MACAI has been working on funding for noxious weeds since 1939. We were not successful at obtaining that money. Nature Conservancy has been the lead with this too. The only funding was for industrial hemp registration. Many counties will be hurt by this decision.
- 6 Township tours have been planned. Weed inspections to be performed: Mead in the west and Watland in the east.
- The recent area-wide Water festival was a success with 450 elementary students in attendance. There were 16 different stations for the students to attend. Karl Koenig assisted Marsha.

- Shoreland installations have begun. The Hwy 10 overlook project begins next week. She'll be working with City of DL and PRWD. She and Claire will lead this project. Partners are providing time and money. Becker SWCD is donating the plants and trees.
- There are many installations planned throughout June and August.
- Additional \$10,000 has been received for the DNR Aquatics Habitat grant.

Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator – Karl Koenig

- He has been scrambling with hiring and training of inspectors at lake accesses. He's hopeful that the current staff will work well. Inspectors will be situated on Bad Medicine, Island and Many Point Lakes with others working on busier lakes near the city of DL.
- There have been COLA talks regarding staffing inspectors and treating existing AIS populations on infested lakes. We hope to have money remaining for the future on this.
- The following invasives are currently affecting 75-100 lakes: Curly Leaf Pondweed, Flowering Rush and Eurasian Watermilfoil.
- Lakes that are currently infested must use lake service providers that have separate equipment for lift and dock removal and placement. Many area lake associations are concerned that these practices could lead to further infestations, especially regarding Pickerel Lakes recent labeling.
- Private accesses will be assisted by resort owners and private landowners for assistance.
- DNR has set a meeting for early June for everyone to use the 2014 AIS prevention aid correctly and effectively.
- His involvement on this issue is a personal one; he hopes that the funding available has a great impact on our state AIS needs.
- RMB Labs has completed some sampling for Zebra Mussels based on water temperatures. Peak months have a definite impact on the quantity of this species. However, he wants to inform the public of more than just Zebra Mussels. There are many more species that can be a concern.
- He wants everyone to be aware of the AIS inspectors. If there are any unprofessional activities, please inform him.

Crow Wing Watershed PRAP Performance Review Report Presentation

Don Buckhout, Water Planning Project Coordinator with MN Board of Water and Soil Resources

Copies of the Local Governmental Units Joint Draft Report were offered to all in attendance. The performance review process began in 2006-2007 as a factor of a legislative review. The state has been mandated to offer periodic performance reviews of 240 local units of government including Soil & Water Districts, Counties and Watershed Districts. They are still working on the first round of performance reviews. All have long-range plans that must be approved by BWSR.

The purpose of this review process is to help the delivery system be as effective as possible. Once every 10 years, a status review is reported which is concerned with how these LGUs are implementing their projects and programs.

Watershed-based reviews were started in 2012. Becker County is in the headwater portion of the Crow Wing Watershed. Even though this is only a small portion of the watershed, it's still an important piece that need not be overlooked.

Analysis is provided and feedback given. Collaboration between LGUs that have jurisdiction in the watershed and with what degree they are communicating and which have watershed awareness within

their work plans. The most important piece in this is making the connection of similarities between collaborations that will allow all agencies to share data.

Local Water Plan adoption between a County and Soil & Water District has been used as a standard for these evaluations.

Comments and revisions are accepted by the organizations being reviewed and a final version is sent to all entities. The formal document is then posted to BWSRs website and is attached to the annual report sent to the legislature. This is a public document available to anyone who asks for it.

Discussion Items

Personnel Policy – Temporary Employees

- With our recent hire of a seasonal technician, we need to revise the personnel policy.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to revise the personnel policy Article II, Employment Classification, Letter C removing *Part Time* and extending employment length *not to exceed 180 days*. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Annual Audit – Fees and Engagement

- We are again using Peterson Company Ltd for our annual audit. His fee this year is \$2,200.

MASWCD Resolutions

- Resolution meeting will be held June 23 at McCollum's in Bejou. All resolutions must be submitted to the MASWCD office no later than July 21.

FY15 Shoreland Erosion Funding

- \$10,000 has been set-aside from FY2015 State Cost-Share for shoreland projects and has been completely expended. Mead would like to allocate an additional \$7,000 from cancelled Ag Waste systems.

Motion (Beck, Schauer) to approve the additional allocation of FY2015 State C-S funds for shoreland projects. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Peter noted the Highway 10 overlook project that is underway. We've been included as a project partner by donating \$120 of bare root stock trees and shrubs. He would like to increase this to most of our remaining stock.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to authorize administration to participate in the project and provide additional bare root stock trees and native plants. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Agreements and Contracts

DNR Rush Lake Grazing Project Grant Agreement

- John Voz contacted Peter to serve as fiscal agent in the project. We will receive \$722 for our assistance on this collaboration.

Motion (Flottemesch, Pavelko) to approve the District to enter into this agreement to serve as fiscal agent. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

- This is the second piece to the AIS awareness project.
- Miscellaneous advertisement tools have been purchased to notify the public of AIS awareness.
- Money is budgeted already for these types of awareness activities.

Farm Bill Assistance Grant – Mead has completed the FBA grant for FY2016.

Motion (Pavelko, Flottemesch) to approve the submittal of the FBA grant agreement for FY2016.
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2015 State Cost-Share Contracts for Approval

#CS15-4, Duane & Bonnie Trostad, Shoreline Stabilization on Lake Maud. Total project costs \$7,066; eligible cost-share funding \$3,375.

#CS15-5, Dawn Morgan, Shoreline Stabilization on Turtle Lake. Total project costs \$5,580; eligible cost-share funding \$2,632.

Motion (Beck, Flottemesch) to approve the FY2015 state cost-share contracts as listed above.
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2015 Clean Water Legacy Grant Contracts for Approval

#CWL-2-WR, Keith Faus, Grade Stabilization/Water and Sediment Control Basins. Total project costs \$72,571; eligible cost-share funding \$11,965 and additional EQIP assistance of \$53,349.

#CWL-3-WR, Ronald Safar, Filter Strip & Incentive. Total project costs \$3,978; eligible cost-share funding \$2,659 and additional CRP assistance of \$1,319.

#CWL-4-BR, Gary Myers, Water and Sediment Control Basins. Total project costs \$5,451; eligible cost-share funding \$3,027 and additional EQIP assistance of \$1,879.

#CWL-5-BR, Kevan Nelson, Grade Stabilization/Water and Sediment Control Basins. Total project costs \$55,604; eligible cost-share funding \$5,820 and additional EQIP assistance of \$44,224.

#CWL-6-BR, Norma (Bruce) Nelson, Filter Strip & Incentive. Total project costs \$42,094; eligible cost-share funding \$21,311 and additional CRP assistance of \$20,782.

Motion (Schauer, Pavelko) to approve the above listed Clean Water Legacy contracts. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

DNR Aquatic Habitat Grant Contract for Approval

#DNR-06, Nancy and Paddy McLaughlin, Shoreland Protection on Toad Lake. Total project costs \$6,204; eligible funding through DNR Aquatics Habitat grant \$3,102.

No motion needed as this was already approved at last year's board meeting and these are pass-through funds from the DNR.

2014 State Cost-Share Vouchers for Payment

#CS14-13, Dennis Schouviller, Field Windbreak. Total project costs \$1,982.75; eligible cost-share funding \$1,487.

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

Other

FBA Grant Agreement Amendment – the MN DNR has made available to BWSR additional necessary funds to implement the program. Districts need to submit the signed amendment to BWSR.

Motion (Flottemesch, Schauer) to approve submittal of the grant agreement amendment. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Toad Lake Association Request for Funds – Gene Monteith, Treasurer of the Big Toad Lake Association has made a request for payment of their remaining funds held with the District. The balance of \$416.22 will be paid to them.

Motion (Beck, Schauer) to approve payment request of the remaining funds held for Big Toad Lake Association. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Midwest Bank CD – coming due June 5th. Administration will research best rates in the area and request extension of the term.

New Vehicles for the District and AIS Program – Mead noted the recent purchases of 2001 Chevy for the AIS program, 2000 Subaru and 2004 Subaru for use with District and AIS needs. Mead would also like to purchase another truck for AIS use at an approximate price of \$10,000. The truck will be used mostly for transporting AIS decontamination units.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to authorize administrations use of funds toward the purchase of an additional AIS vehicle. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Being no further business, motion (Pavelko, Schauer) to adjourn meeting at 11:15 a.m. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Approved: Gene Pavelko, Becker SWCD Secretary

Date: June 17, 2015