



The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, June 17th in the Conference Room of the USDA Ag Center Building located at 809 8th Street SE, Detroit Lakes, MN.

Those present were Supervisors Tony Beck, Kathy Stenger, Jerome Flottemesch, Travis Schauer and Eugene Pavelko. Others present include Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson, District Administrator Peter Mead, District Office Assistant Leticia Kiehl, NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, District Technician Ed Clem, AIS/Water Quality Coordinator Karl Koenig and Duane Erickson, Becker County Watershed Appointee and board member of the Wild Rice Watershed District.

Call to Order – Chairman Stenger called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

Approval of May Meeting Minutes –

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

Approval of Special Meetings and Q2 Supervisor Vouchers & Expenses –

April 2, 9, 10 and 15 – AIS Coordinator interviews in Detroit Lakes

May 19th – TSA 1 Executive Committee meeting in Detroit Lakes

June 23rd – MASWCD Area 1 in Bejou

June 23rd – TSA 1 Regular Board meeting in Bejou

Motion (Flottemesch, Pavelko) to approve the special meetings for Q2. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Motion (Stenger, Beck) to approve the Q2 supervisor vouchers for payment. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Financial Reports and Bills for Approval – Peter reviewed the financial records for the month of May and presented June's bills for approval.

Motion (Pavelko, Beck) to approve the May financial reports and authorize payment of bills as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

District Reports –

District Conservationist, Ed Musielewicz

- CSP obligations are needed by the end of the month; a total of 12 have been approved. Hoping to be done with all QARs this week so we can obligate. Once finished with the new applications, we will start on reenrolls for CSP July 1st.
- We have 3 approvals for EQIP and more outstanding, but there are no remaining Red River Basin Funds. One more ranking period remains under the RRBI. More funding is needed for these applications. Most applications in our office are medium priority, sediment basins.
- He, Peter, Phil, Lynette Dietrich and Anna Bramblett from St. Paul met with Pelican River Watershed District regarding Rice Lake. Funding was discussed. The project is applicable to the RCPP. One of the programs is a PL566. It was suggested that Tera Guetter compose a RCPP proposal that could cover up to 65% of the project costs. This proposal must be completed by July 8th.
- A Local Workgroup meeting is set for July 21st at 9:00 a.m. at the USDA conference room.

District Administrator, Peter Mead

- In Marsha Watland's absence, Peter discussed the following shoreland topics:

- Brandon, seasonal technician and Lauren, Conservation Corps apprentice, have both started with the District and are working well with our office; gaining experience in all areas of our work. They're off to a great start!
- The Hwy 10 Overlook project was installed. Conservation Corps crew members were there to help with installation, as well as the city of Detroit Lakes to move dirt and rock. The entire area between Holiday Inn and The Lodge has been enhanced in some way. This has helped with many erosion issues present in that area.
- He and Ed M met with the MN Department of Ag regarding the Ag Certainty program. The Department of Ag has been legislatively tasked with taking the program from pilot status to statewide, and is looking to utilize the TSA framework to achieve statewide coverage. There would be one full-time employee who would administer the program and train field office staff.
- Peter explained recent developments regarding Adam Kleinschmidt's departure, the dissolution of our agreement with Pheasants forever and the shortage of Farm Bill Assistance funding.

Program Updates –

District Technician, Ed Clem

- Claire has been spending time with drafting and design for Craig Nelson and a few other projects for next year. The next construction project is Bijou Lake storm water. Currently, water funnels down the lake access roadway, cuts a gully and flows directly to the lake; Haverland designed a plan to prevent the erosion – water flows underground, filtering sediment before it's directed into the lake.
- Most of Ed's time has been spent on WCA with only a few violations. Jon and Sons Disposal has voluntarily fixed their violation. There is a larger violation on Dead Shot Bay – a platted lot with a wetland crossing the front and no driveway. The developer installed a road across the wetland without permits. The owners are aware that this needs to be removed by the end of July.
- Silver Leaf Township – two landowners in a legal dispute regarding a landlocked parcel. They have an agreement but it no longer allows for access. The access agreement runs directly through a wetland. He will be working on this issue.
- H-O-L Township would like to flatten in-slopes on Hubble Pond Rd; he is working on a Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Plan for the Township, which also requires a wetland delineation of the project area to accurately identify wetland impacts. There will be more projects in the future with the County Highway Department and other townships. A discussion will be held later in the meeting to establish fees for this service to local government road authorities.

Aquatic Invasive Species, Karl Koenig

- Karl has attended numerous Lake Association meetings to provide AIS program details. Everyone appears to be enthusiastic about the program. He will attend Cormorant, Sallie/Melissa, Eunice and Pickerel Lake associations this weekend.
- Pickerel Lake is currently listed as infested, with a fair degree of local concern that the lake may in fact not be infested. Karl spoke with lake association members about veliger monitoring with RMB Labs to observe infestation levels and to follow up in the fall when lake owners are removing their lifts and docks. Over time, if there are no zebras found, we could speak with the DNR about delisting this lake.
- He has accessed the DNR lake database and found the following figures:
 - Inspectors are performing an average of 1.13 inspections per hour.
 - Busier lakes will see approximately 2 inspections per hour.
 - About 1.2% of boaters arrive at the access with the plug already installed.
 - 10.16% of boaters that arrive at the access have already been to infested waters.
 - Of that 10%, only one boat was found to be carrying AIS.
 - There have been enforcement actions due to inspection refusals.
- He met with Lida Deran from the White Earth DNR. She recently held an education event for 5th – 8th graders, borrowed some education materials and has since approached Karl and hopes to share funding

that will assist in AIS awareness in the White Earth lakes area. We currently have inspectors in White Earth on priority lakes in the area.

Duane Erickson, Becker County Watershed Appointee from WRWD

- He is impressed with the working relationship between Becker SWCD and BRRWD and would like Becker SWCD to work with Wild Rice Watershed District in the same capacity. A portion of the proposed grant money will be used for this purpose.
- WRWD projects include flood damage reduction projects.
- The watershed district is trying to secure \$5.5 million in grant funds to fulfill these projects.

Review and Approve Personnel Policy Amendments – amendments to the handbook were reviewed. The board has discussed all changes in previous meetings.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to approve the amendments as written. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Establish Landowner Assistance Rates – Shoreland, State CS & CWL Projects – our BWSR BC recommended that we set assistance rates yearly. There needs to be an official hourly rate used for projects when landowners assist with construction/installation. We can possibly set these rates from NRCS cost estimates. Shoreland contracts are a little unclear; the state hasn't set guidance on the program. Tree planting rates are set with state cost-share standards. We use the established cost estimates and a max of \$25 per hour for hand planting. These estimates and information would come from sources like NDSU Crop Production Publications and Iowa State University Custom Farming Rates.

Motion (Flottemesch, Pavelko) to approve a maximum rate based on the cost estimates and a maximum of \$25 per hour on hand labor. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Discussion Items –

Farm Bill Assistance Developments

Since Adam's absence, there have been 6 producers into the office regarding their CRP contract and another 16 potential contracts. Our board supports Peter's views and the continued work to resolve this issue. There is a need for assistance with this workload even if the position is temporary.

Motion (Flottemesch, Schauer) to pass a resolution that the board supports Peter in his efforts to come to a conclusion with the issues regarding Pheasants Forever and the State's Farm Bill Assistance grant. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Motion (Flottemesch, Pavelko) That, based on the fiscal action of legislature and the staffing needs of Becker SWCD, administration create a new, temporary technician position for help with the CRP workload. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Local Water Management Plan Task Force

Given the lifespan of a local water plan, the prior task force has several members that are no longer with us. Peter has compiled a list of local decision makers, partners, interest groups and citizens to serve on the new task force. Because this is a county water plan, we should receive recommendations from our county commissioners as well.

Motion (Flottemesch, Pavelko) to approve the task force with added input from Becker County commissioners. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Wetland Determination Fee for Service

These fees are mostly related to road projects. The last fee schedule was set in 2008. The current figures are relatively accurate. We propose the addition of a fee of \$150 per project to work with local governments on wetland replacement plans and wetland delineation services.

Motion (Beck, Schauer) to approve and set wetland determination fees for local road authorities as proposed above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Shoreland Mitigation Fee for Service

With increasing site visits, planning and oversight required for mandatory stormwater mitigation imposed Becker County Planning and Zoning on non-conforming parcels and shoreland variances staff proposed a \$150.00 fee for professional services on required mitigation sites.

Motion (Schauer, Flottemesch) to approve the mitigation. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Storage Space Acquisition

With a total of 13 employees between District, NRCS and partners there is a huge need for additional space. We have an option with Curt Briggs in the north industrial park. We could free up most of our current storage area in the conference room by moving many of the items we don't need on a daily basis into storage. The offices created could house Karl, possibly new employees or TSA staff. Briggs is unsure about storage rates, and we haven't decided how much storage space we actually need.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to authorize that administration move forward with estimates on this new storage/employee workstation space. Board Chair Stenger and Vice-Chair Flottemesch will act as advisory committee once rates and space requirements have been established. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Agreements and Contracts –

2013 Clean Water Legacy Grant Amendment

#CWL-21-2013 with Gary Villiard, increase of project costs by \$45.14. This encumbers the remaining 2013 CWL grant project funds.

Motion (Beck, Pavelko) to approve the contract amendment and use the remaining 2013 CWL grant funds. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

DNR Aquatic Habitat Management Grant

The following contract was presented for approval:

#DNR-07 with Mark Fogelson, Filter Strip/Shoreland Stabilization. Estimated project costs \$4,437; eligible assistance \$3,328.

Motion (Pavelko, Flottemesch) to approve the DNR Aquatics contract as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2015 Clean Water Legacy Grant

The following contract was presented for approval:

#CWL-4-WR with Richard Faus, Filter Strip/Filter Strip Establishment. Estimated project costs \$8,690; eligible assistance from Clean Water funds \$3,697 and \$4,993 from CRP payments.

Motion (Flottemesch, Schauer) to approve the 2015 Clean Water contract as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2013 Clean Water Legacy Voucher

The following voucher was presented for payment:

#CWL-21-2013 with Gary Villiard, Water and Sediment Control Basins. Project is complete. Final payment of \$7,154.14 is due to landowner.

Motion (Pavelko, Beck) to approve the final payment voucher presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Other –

Leticia will create a Facebook page for the District. We will have a link to this page from our department page on the Becker County website.

Being no further business, motion (Pavelko, Schauer) to adjourn the meeting at 11:41 a.m.

Approved: Gene Pavelko, Becker SWCD Secretary

Date: July 15, 2015