



Regular Board Meeting - Wednesday, August 26, 2015

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, August 26th 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 and Eugene Pavelko. Others present include District Administrator Peter Mead, Office Manager Jen Wentz, NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, District Technician/Wetland Specialist Ed Clem, AIS/Water Quality Coordinator Karl Koenig, Ag Inspector/Plant Material Specialist Marsha Watland and Program Coordinator Leticia Kiehl.

Call to Order: Chairperson Stenger called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

Approval of July Meeting Minutes: Adjustment to page 3 for the motion of Records Retention section to include all "allowable" records of the District.

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

Financial Reports and Bills for Approval: Mead reviewed July financial reports and August bills for approval.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to approve the July financials and August bills for approval. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

District Reports:

District Conservationist – Ed Musielewicz

- 74 CRP contracts, 52 signed and 22 remain to be processed. FSA has yet to announce their deadline. Additional contracts will come through.
- Currently working with CSP re-enrollments and interviews. We have 19 contracts for re-enroll. Many are adding acreage. CSP renewal contract payments are significantly less than current contract amounts. The program will soon see changes. Extensive interviews and many of the current questions will end or be reduced.
- There will be a November 2015 sign-up for EQIP. Specific dates to be announced.
- He and Peter met with State Conservationist Cathee Pullman. They spoke about District capacity, space needs and the Ultima contract.

District Administrator – Peter Mead

- Clean Water Fund grant application deadline is this Friday.
- LWP members have been secured for the task force and will be handling priority resource concerns.
- Pursuing PRAP assistance funding following completion of the Crow Wing PRAP; looking at \$10,000 to meet goals and cover suggestions. Planning & Zoning and SWCD are working in collaboration. PRWD is willing to offer a money match as well.

- Shared Services meeting held in Wadena with Clean Water staff and DNR Hydrologists.. Focusing on phosphorus sensitivities and changes in lake clarity. The data is interesting. Trying to incorporate this into our strategic water plan.
- BWSR developments: Offering another \$31,000 for buffer implementation and erosion control efforts – \$26,000 for buffers and \$5,000 for erosion control.
- BWSR Academy training is coming in October. Most staff will attend. Mead will present at two separate sessions – *Field Office of the Future* and *Climate Adaptation*.
- Met with Becker County IT - all hardware has been purchased for SharePoint.
- Technical training certification meeting - BWSR, MASWCD and NRCS involved. Looking to establish core competencies for all staff in each SWCD, including a foundation in conservation planning, soils and water quality principles, and secure proper job approval authority for applicable practices in each county.

Program Reports:

District Technician/Wetland Specialist – Ed Clem

- Water and sediment control basin construction is in full swing. Bejou Lake public access stormwater control has been completed. Brandon and Lauren helped to construct a rain garden where the outlet drains into the parking lot. Natives have been planted and will add to the sediment filtering. Cormorant Lakes Watershed District provided funding for engineering and implementation.
- Okeson project has tile installed and basins to complete.
- Hein project has been started. Tile is in place for 8 of the 20 total basins that will be constructed this fall. Embankments are underway now. Additional crops will need to be harvested in order to continue.
- Foltz project consists of 3 basins. Jeff and Claire are working on staking before contractors come. Work is being completed by Kyle Schmidt.

Ag Inspector/Plant Materials Specialist – Marsha Watland

- She is involved in the plant material committee for MN and ND in Marshall County.
- MACAI meeting will be held September 9th in Northeastern MN. She has completed her Presidency term.
- MACAI short course training session was held at Thumper Pond. Several tours were made. Noxious weed management presentations. Many counties were represented.
- Semiannual gravel pit inspections are underway. MnDOT has been doing their part to control noxious weeds. Becker County Highway Dept needs to do more.

Shoreland Projects – a Power Point was presented to all. Conservation Corps crews were involved with many of the projects this year. She trained them on our different varieties of installation. Our summer interns, Lauren and Brandon, were amazing to work with this year.

- Bateman site, Two Inlets Lake – 1,100 feet of shoreland
- Briggs site, USDA parking lot - stormwater control
- Christen site, Rain Garden – plan assistance only, no install
- Christenson site, Cotton Lake – native planting and stormwater control
- Fogelson site, Big Elbow Lake – shoreline stabilization
- Franke site, Toad Lake – shoreline stabilization
- Guy site, Floyd Lake – maintenance and planting
- Hwy 10 site, Big Detroit Lake – shoreland preservation in the overlook area. PRWD, City of Detroit Lakes and our office was involved.
- Jennen North site, Big Elbow Lake – rain garden
- Jennen South site, Big Elbow Lake – native planting and stormwater control

- McLaughlin site, Little Toad Lake – shoreline protection
- Morgan site, Turtle Lake – stormwater and erosion control
- Trautner site, Eagle Lake – shoreline stabilization and stormwater control.
- Trostad site, Lake Maud – stormwater and erosion control

AIS/Water Quality Coordinator – Karl Koenig

- We had 30 inspectors working initially; down to 24 with many returning to college last week.
- Boating traffic after the end of July has decreased greatly. Limited inspections will be held from now until Labor Day weekend. Inspections for this year will continue through October 18.
- He presented AIS education and information at Cormorant Days community festival.
- He made a brief discussion at the Lions Club meeting.
- Inspections per hour: first half of August until today is 1.1 per hour. He wants to review the state's data set for activity areas, days/times and violations. He'd like to focus his staff efforts around the data.
- Violations: remain minimal with 1 needing enforcement action. Bad Medicine Lake resort boat owner was cited but cooperative.
- Veliger testing completed on Big Cormorant Lake found nothing, yet an adult zebra mussel was found a week later. False negative results can happen often. Instead of pursuing this testing, he'd rather have permission from landowners to inspect equipment once removed in the fall.
- Rapid Response efforts: a small amount of Flowering Rush has been found on Pickerel Lake. He will follow-up with this today. Treatment options are being discussed with DNR and PRWD staff. We still remain hopeful that zebra mussel infestation will not have an effect on this lake.
- Continued discussion of lake service providers and equipment removal. We need to establish training specific to AIS prevention. If zebra mussels are found on equipment and attached, they're extremely difficult to remove.

Review and Approval of CY 2016 Operations Budget – Mead reviewed the 2016 budget that was recently submitted to county commissioners. Changes include increases to our budget from AIS, added capacity with our shoreland program and Farm Bill Assistance. Office improvements are needed as well. These additional requests increase funds needed from the County by only 1.2% once we account for the 50% AIS Coordinator salary figure. We've made some staff title updates. Additional staff needed for the shoreland program to decrease Marsha's workload. AIS Level I and Level II Inspectors will be included in the District AIS budget. Additional office staff assistance of 24 hours per week is proposed. Employee and Supervisor apparel allowance has been added. Employee salary adjustments were included. Most were given a 3% increase to cover inflation; some with additional amounts to ensure longevity. Office rent may be adjusted and storage space requirements are now included. Program expenses were added and/or adjusted based on past numbers. Capital Outlay increased for equipment needs. Revenues were reviewed as well. In the end, we're pulling just over \$38,000 from our fund balance. AIS Prevention was reviewed as well. Additional inspector hours were added and include more staff. An increase of infested lakes in Becker County leads to more decontamination needs.

Motion (Pavelko, Beck) to approve the 2016 Budget as written. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Motion (Beck, Pavelko) to have administration enter into negotiations with our current landlord for more space. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Review and Approval of FY 2016 CWL Grant Applications – Mead reviewed the recent CWL grant applications. (1) Road Crossings; collaborating with the Park Rapids Hydrologist. This is ready to submit with a few minor changes. (2) Becker County Targeted Lake Protection; provide assistance with our shoreland program. There are 29 lakes that rank as good bodies of water close to the impairment level

and would be great candidates for protection. We will propose 42 projects over the period of one year, with 120 over the life of the grant.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to accept the CWL grant applications as described and written. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Agreements and Contracts:

Clean Water Legacy Grant Amendments

CWL-19-2013, Kevin Lunde – Decrease in costs, additional EQIP. Eligible cost-share \$17,862.98

CWL-12-2013, Roen Family Investments, Decrease in costs. Eligible cost-share \$1,625.50

CWL-1-BR, Loren Jetvig – Decrease in costs. Eligible cost-share \$27,585

CWL-1-WR, Dean Syverson – Federal Cost Share Implementation adjustment, Decrease in costs.

Eligible cost-share \$21,349.94

Motion (Flottemesch, Pavelko) to approve the CWL Grant Amendments as listed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2014 State Cost-Share Contracts for Approval

14-16, Sandy and Tom Christianson, Shoreland Protection. Estimated project costs \$286; eligible cost-share \$215.

14-17, Bob Penner, Shoreland Protection. Estimated project costs \$7,371; eligible cost-share \$261

Motion (Beck, Flottemesch) to approve the 2014 State Cost-Share Contracts as listed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2015 State Cost-Share Contracts for Approval

15-6, Bob Penner, Shoreland Protection. Estimated project costs \$7,371; eligible cost-share \$2,500.

Motion (Beck, Flottemesch) to approve the 2015 State Cost-Share Contract as listed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2013 Clean Water Legacy Grant Contracts for Approval

CWL-31-2013, Gary Myers, Water and Sediment Control Basin. Estimated project costs \$5,662; eligible cost-share \$3,217.

CWL-32-2013, Kevin Lunde, Filter Strip & Filter Strip Incentive. Estimated project costs \$6,090; eligible cost-share \$3,000.

Motion (Pavelko, Beck) to approve the 2013 CWL Grant Contracts as listed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2015 Clean Water Legacy Grant Contracts for Approval

CWL-10-BR, Bruce Hein, Water and Sediment Control Basins. Estimated project costs \$35,629.25; eligible cost-share \$7,036.25 with additional funds of \$8,896 from 2013 Clean Water Legacy.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to approve the 2015 CWL Grant Contract as listed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2015 State Cost-Share Vouchers for Approval

15-1, Jennifer Bateman, Shoreland Protection. Total project costs \$4,698.26; final cost-share payment \$2,349.

Motion (Pavelko, Flottemesch) to approve the 2015 State Cost-Share Voucher for payment. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2013 Clean Water Legacy Vouchers for Payment

CWL-3-2013, Kevin Lunde, Filter Strip & Filter Strip Incentive. Total project costs \$16,355.52; final cost-share payment \$16,355.52

CWL-12-2013, Roen Family Investments, Wetland Restoration. Total project cost \$1,625.50; final cost-share payment \$353.

CWL-1-WR, Dean Syverson, Filter Strip & Filter Strip Incentive. Total project cost \$23,723.94; final cost-share payment \$20,941.94 to Dean Syverson and \$408 to Cro's Custom Services.

Motion (Flottemesch, Pavelko) to approve the 2013 CWL Vouchers for payment. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Other Items:

Mead informed the Board that Bruce Nelson accepted our Conservationist of the Year nomination. He will be presented with the award during our annual MASWCD State Convention in December.

Upcoming Events:

- SWCD Governance 101 Training, St Cloud, Sept. 16-17. Board Supervisors Gene Pavelko and Travis Schauer will attend. Peter Mead will attend also.
- Outdoor Classroom, Cormorant Sportsman's Club Sept. 24-25.
- BWSR Academy Training, Brainerd, October 27-29.

Adjournment:

Being no further business, motion (Pavelko, Flottemesch) to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 a.m. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Approved: Gene Pavelko, Becker SWCD Secretary

Date: September 23, 2015