



Regular Board Meeting - Wednesday, December 16, 2015

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, December 16th 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, Jerome Flottesmesch, Travis Schauer, Eugene Pavelko and Chairperson Kathy Stenger. Others present include Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson, District Administrator Peter Mead, Admin Assistant Jen Wentz, NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, District Technician Ed Clem, AIS/Water Quality Coordinator Karl Koenig, Ag Inspector/Shoreland Specialist Marsha Watland and NRCS Area Conservationist Danny Weber.

Call to Order

Chairperson Stenger called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Approval of November Meeting Minutes

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

Financial Reports and Bills for Approval

Reviewed by Mead. District credit card statement will be reviewed by Treasurer monthly.

Motion (Beck, Schauer) to approve treasurer's report and pay the list of bills for November. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Approval of Supervisors Special Meetings, Payroll and Expenses

- Land Use Decision Makers Symposium - 10/7
- Buffalo Red Watershed District Fall Tour - 10/15
- 2015 MASWCD State Convention - 10/6 - 10/8

Motion (Flottesmesch, Pavelko) to approve the special meetings, payroll and expenses for Q4. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

District Reports

NRCS Area Conservationist - Danny Weber

- New MOU signed at our state convention to establish partnerships between SWCDs and NRCS.
- All CSP renewals were obligated last week.
- EQIP eligibility ends this Friday. Ranking will begin January and February with obligation for those contracts afterward.
- Easement sign-ups are still available such as WRE and ALE.
- Working with a 20% reduction in budget. New continuing resolution will cover payroll. The current agreement ends next week.
- Wetland determinations were completed with the Fergus Falls crew; 75-100 in total.

District Conservationist - Ed Musielewicz

- 44 EQIP applications were made eligible yesterday.
- CSP payments are about half completed. Waivers have been returned to the area office. They will be finished by early next week. 17 CSP reenrolls from the 2015 expirations. 3 decided to back out.

District Administrator - Peter Mead

- Eric Evenson joined us for our November meeting; he will soon be departing the County for a new position in southern MN.
- Attended a recent meeting for the TSA. E-O-T and East Polk have begun looking for Water Quality Specialists to be housed in their Districts. District Managers Darren and Lisa entered into contribution agreements with MDA. This agreement will provide a FTE in each location and provide funds to districts interested in planning and certification activities. The future of the program is not certain. Applications to date in each location have been limited.
 - There are large funding sources available for Shared Services and the TSA. This is noncompetitive and similar to the capacity funding for Districts. Tentatively, managers support utilizing the additional funding for technology, training and support, as well as contracted services beyond the scope of existing NPEA staff.
- 3 landowner forums are planned for the next few months in Lake Park, Callaway and Wolf Lake. We completed the informational mailing and this will be sent to the public by next week. Staff will be on hand to answer questions regarding Buffers, Soil Health, MAWQCP and other programs.

Barry Nelson clarified that once this buffer law takes effect in 2017, there will be no new CRP contracts allowed on the land within 50' of public waters. However, he is hopeful that the state and federal government can find a way to enable producers with existing CRP contracts to reenroll upon expiration

Program Updates

Structural Practices and Wetlands - Ed Clem

- We have installed 70+ conservation projects this season consisting of grade stabilizations, water and sediment control basins and filter strips.
- Entering technical information and mapping into eLINK for 2013 Clean Water, State Cost-Share and our newest 2015 Clean Water grants. He's been entering the projects into Arcmap as well including our CRP buffers that Adam and now Aaron have secured.
- Wetland issues—TEP met yesterday with ACOE, BWSR, PRWD, and DNR regarding the Detroit Lakes airport expansion. Typical sequencing for this process has been a bit different and not all parties are in agreement. According to the Army Corps of Engineers, the first process in a wetland impact negotiation, Concurrence Point One: Purpose and Need, has not been met.

Ag Inspector/Shoreland Specialist - Marsha Watland

County Ag Inspector

- Annual CAI report for County Commissioners—there are a few township reports yet to be received. She reviewed highlighted areas.
- Pesticide exams are still offered in our office and include mosquito control.
- MACAI Executive Board meeting—noted the partners involved that assist with the CAI program. MDA position funding possible for 2017 to supplement all County Ag Inspectors throughout the state. Hopes to become an affiliate member through our County.
- Noxious Weed Advisory Committee—distributed materials regarding their recommendations. Some restrictions have been updated with focus for us locally on our current tree species and sales.

Shoreland

- We received \$257,000 for shoreland projects over the next three years from Clean Water Legacy.
- Design updates and on-site handouts.
- Completed 5 site evaluations with Claire.
- Updates to the Risdahl project.

- Cost-Share is available with BRRWD for the Poling site. She will contact NRCS Plant Materials Committee for assistance with installation and possible program funding.

Water Quality and AIS - Karl Koenig

- 2015 AIS Annual report is complete and ready for Becker County Commissioners to review. MN-DNR has received a copy.
- Establishing plans for next year. Local involvement from different interest groups has been his focus.
- Area AIS Coordinators across the state are meeting at the end of this month to discuss progress over the past year and new possibilities for next year.
- Attending the Watershed Specialist Certification course in 2016 from January – May.
- Currently looking for AIS inspectors and will begin recruiting next month.

Building Developments

Leasehold Improvements & USDA Leasing Agent Meeting Recap

Office Lease Agreement Renewal—new lease for January 2016 with a slight increase of under \$80 per month. Building improvements will be paid as a lump sum directly to the Landlord in addition to our normal monthly rent costs.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to approve the execution of the new lease for our property from January 2016 – December 2017. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Amendments & Cancellations

2013 Clean Water Legacy

CWL-31-2013 Gary Myers cancellation, other funds available. Initial project funding \$3,217.

Motion (Schauer, Flottemesch) to cancel the Myers contract and release \$3,217 back to 2013 Clean Water funds. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

CWL-33-2013 Bruce Nelson amendment, redistribution of funds and split between two sources. Remaining 2013 CWL funds of \$3,217 will be allocated to this contract and contract #CWL-11-BR will be reduced to \$31.73.

Motion (Beck, Flottemesch) to amend the Nelson contract as noted above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2015 Clean Water Legacy

CWL-6-BR Bruce Nelson cancellation, other funds available. Initial project funding \$21,311.

Motion (Pavelko, Schauer) to cancel the Nelson contract and release \$21,311 back to 2015 Buffalo Red Clean Water funds. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

CWL-5-BR Kevan Nelson amendment, increased project costs. New funds to be encumbered \$10,639.16.

CWL-7-BR Kevin Lunde amendment, increased project costs. New funds to be encumbered \$38,586.37.

Motion (Flottemesch, Schauer) to amend the two Buffalo Red Clean Water contracts as noted above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2014 State Cost-Share

CS 14-8 Tom & Carol Risdahl amendment, increased project costs. New funds to be encumbered \$2,559.67.

Motion (Beck, Pavelko) to amend the 2014 State Cost-Share contract and provide additional funding as noted above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

CS 14-15 Mary Seaberg cancellation. Initial project funding \$2,199 from shoreland set-aside and miscellaneous cost-share.

Motion (Beck, Schauer) to cancel the Seaberg contract and release \$2,199 back to 2014 State Cost-Share funds.

Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Contracts & Vouchers for Approval

2013 Clean Water Legacy Vouchers

CWL-19-2013 Kevin Lunde, Grade Stabilization Structure. Total project costs \$62,721.50; final cost share payment \$17,862.98.

CWL-30-2013 Bruce Hein, Filter Strip & Filter Strip Incentive. Total project costs \$2,989.21; final cost share payment \$2,700.

CWL-32-2013 Kevin Lunde, Filter Strip & Filter Strip Incentive. Total project costs \$3,778.08; final cost share payment \$3,000.

CWL-33-2013 Bruce Nelson, Filter Strip & Critical Area Planting. Total project costs \$10,364.54; final cost share payment \$8,748.81.

Motion (Schauer, Flottemesch) to approve the above 2013 Clean Water grant payments as noted. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2015 Clean Water Legacy Vouchers

CWL-5-BR Kevan Nelson, Grade Stabilization & Water and Sediment Control Basins. Total project costs \$60,951.71; final cost share payment \$10,639.16.

CWL-7-BR Kevin Lunde, Grade Stabilization Structure. Total project costs \$62,721.50; final cost share payment \$38,586.37.

CWL-11-BR Bruce Nelson, Filter Strip & Critical Area Planting. Total project costs \$10,364.54; final cost share payment \$31.73.

Motion (Flottemesch, Schauer) to approve the above 2015 Clean Water grant payments as noted. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Upcoming Events

January 12, BSWCD Board Retreat; US Fish & Wildlife Office 10:00 a.m.

January 21, AG Landowner Forum; Lake Park American Legion 9:00 a.m.

Adjourn

Being no further business, motion (Pavelko, Schauer) to adjourn meeting at 9:58 a.m. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.