



### **Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Wednesday, February 17, 2016**

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

Those present were Supervisors Tony Beck, Jerome Flottemesch, Travis Schauer, Kathy Stenger and Chairperson Eugene Pavelko. Others present include Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson, District Administrator Peter Mead, Office Manager Jen Wentz, NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, Ag Inspector/Shoreland Technician Marsha Watland and AIS/Water Quality Coordinator Karl Koenig.

#### **Call to Order**

Chairman Pavelko called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

#### **Approval of January Meeting Minutes**

Motion (Schauer, Flottemesch) to approve the January meeting minutes. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

#### **Financial Reports**

Motion (Stenger, Schauer) to approve January Treasurer's Report and pay the February list of bills. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

#### **District Reports**

##### *District Conservationist - Ed Musielewicz*

- EQIP – Ranking deadline is February 26; there are 28 applications with a high priority ranking; all medium priority applications are through the Red River Basin area. These should be ranked and scored by March 18<sup>th</sup>. Low priority applications will be reviewed when all others are completed.
- CSP – March 31st is signup deadline. He has deferred 33 applications from last year that weren't funded. They will be contacted this year for obligation by July. Renewal deadline is the same.
- General CRP signup deadline is February 26<sup>th</sup>. We've seen some changes with FSA recently but everything seems to be flowing nicely. He is unsure of total signups at this point. 80 General CRP contracts expire September 2016.
- Phil Doll, Ducks Unlimited contracted worker has taken another job; his last day is March 4<sup>th</sup>. He begins with the DNR on March 9<sup>th</sup> and will oversee the Prairie Plan initiative to coordinate teams and funding. Brink Lake and Reep Marsh were major projects that he initiated in Becker County.
- Aaron, Ray and Ed Clem are in Alexandria for a Soil Health meeting in Arrowwood for the next three days.
- He reviewed the MOU between Becker SWCD and SCS which began in 1948. He reviewed compliance with the Civil Rights Act and other legislation.
- MOA signed at MASWCD convention last December regarding common purpose and building strong partnerships between the following agencies: BWSR, MASWCD, NRCS and MACDE. This leads into our interoffice training mentioned at the annual retreat for all staff to strengthen conservation delivery.

##### *District Administrator - Peter Mead*

- Landowner meeting was held last month in Lake Park with 20+ attendees. Wolf Lake meeting is tomorrow; we will restructure this slightly for relevance to the area.
- Work plans have been completed and submitted for CWMA, SSMAPP and Becker County Targeted Phosphorus Reduction and Lake Protection Project.
- Attended the Zoning Ordinance Advisory Committee meeting.
- DNR met last week in Wadena; shifting gears from lake protection to stream protection.

- We received 11 Shoreland Technician applications.
- Water Plan drafts and documents are coming along. Becker County will still write a plan even though we are in the pilot plan for the 1W1P.

### **Program Reports**

#### *Water Quality & AIS – Karl Koenig*

- Held a recent meeting regarding direction of the program for 2016. Townships have been contacted for their involvement along with representatives from Lake Associations and City Offices.
- Has been attending Water Specialty training through the University of Minnesota; learning policy and legalities as well as some water science background; this will help achieve our goal of having a.
- RMB Labs has been helpful in our efforts to rekindle county-wide surface water monitoring program. Discussion regarding grant assistance for digitizing and storing this data.
- Signage updates at all accesses where needed.
- Keeping in touch with cross-county affiliates.

#### *Shoreland & Ag Inspector – Marsha Watland*

##### Ag Inspector

- Annual Township Weed Inspector training will be held Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> in Callaway.
- Becker County CWMA partners wanted a flyer in the County tax mailing to inform public on noxious weed prevention. Marsha and Peter became members of Play-Clean-Go; information from this organization was used to make flyer. Marsha distributed examples of what Claire Olson designed to be used for tax flyer.
- Marsha reviewed the updated signage to be placed at all trails and will include a note about our partnerships and education; they will be posted at all off-road trails including boat accesses, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, etc.

##### Shoreland

- Shoreland designing and plant placements are underway; scheduling for these projects will begin soon.

#### *Wetlands, Trees & Natives – Ed Clem*

- WCA TEP – nothing new with the airport project.
- Upcoming WCA replacement plan to be held during next month's board meeting.
- A total of 4,100 trees have been sold thus far; last year's sales totaled 14,280 from preorders. We are down from past history but fairly close to last year's numbers at this time. This will be evaluated in the coming weeks as many nurseries have a cancellation deadline of February 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Red River Valley Conservation Service Area**

Letter to John Jaschke regarding reorganization of TSA; no changes were made but they are working to establish functionality of all TSAs. Doug Thomas feels that our recent Enhanced Shared Technical Services grant may be sustaining into the future.

TSA Restructuring – motion was made at the most recent TSA meeting to have discussions with District boards and vote for their most desired option. By direction of the motion we were to discuss 2B – 2 TSAs with managers appointed to the board; 2C – 2 TSAs with appointed board member or managers to the board or 3D – Restructure the existing JPB of supervisors or managers and appoint two committees of north and south under the same financial authority. It was noted that options 2B and 2C will need further activity to form two TSAs, at this point we are unsure of how funding will continue in that capacity. In comparison, 3D could be more easily transformed without additional restructuring.

Motion (Flottesch, Beck) to support option 3D – Restructure the existing JPB of supervisors or managers and appoint two committees of north and south under the same financial authority. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

### **Open Forum**

Funding Request – Ag-in-the-Classroom has approached our board for assistance with funding again this year. Last year our District donated \$150 for this program.

Motion (Schauer, Stenger) to donate \$150 to Ag-in-the-Classroom for 2016. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Discussion regarding recent changes to the Governors Buffer Law and requirements to exclude all private ditches.

### **Human Resources**

#### *Personnel Committee Appointments*

Travis Schauer and Tony Beck were appointed to Personnel Committee for 2016 by Chairman Pavelko.

Shoreland Technician Position: Interview panel comprised of Schauer, Beck, Peter Mead and Marsha Watland will conduct three interviews in the coming week.

#### *Seasonal Technicians & Internships*

We planned to have one seasonal technician this year, but with a growing summer workload, Peter suggested either adding an additional seasonal position or offering a seasonal internship that would provide a smaller wage but work with colleges and/or universities to offer college credit.

Motion (Flottemesch, Pavelko) to authorize the Administrator to look into a additional technician or seasonal internship and college credit program for our seasonal technician positions. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

### **Grants & Agreements**

#### *Straight River Groundwater Management Area Funding*

Met with Julie Kingsley, Don Buckhout, Chad Severts and Brett Arne to discuss best management practices in the Straight River Groundwater Management Area. A \$50,000 non-competitive grant is available jointly to Becker and Hubbard SWCD foster the adoption of identified practices including Irrigation Scheduling, remote automation, cover crops, low pressure/fertigation conversions. This is an ideal opportunity to partner and expand regional ground water management efforts. Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to approve moving forward with the Straight River Groundwater Management Area project.

#### *Federal Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Grant*

MPCA has opened the request period for the 319 Non-point Source Management Program. Buffalo-Red Watershed District, Clay SWCD and our District would like to make an application for the Buffalo-Red Lakes and Mainstem planning regions. This requires a 40% match; federal funds are not eligible but can be leveraged. State funds, such as Clean Water Legacy Grant funds can serve as a match in addition to BRRWD contributions. This grant closes at the beginning of March.

Motion (Flottemesch, Schauer) to approve partnerships with BRRWD and Clay County on the Federal Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management grant application and projects.

### **Adjourn**

Being no further business, meeting adjourned by Chairman Pavelko at 10:33 a.m.

**Approved: Kathy Stenger, Becker SWCD Secretary**

**Date: March 16, 2016**