



Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Wednesday, March 16, 2016

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, March 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, 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, Wetland Specialist Ed Clem and AIS/Water Quality Coordinator Karl Koenig.

Call to Order

President Pavelko called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Approval of February Meeting Minutes

No changes to report. Motion (Stenger, Beck) to approve February meeting minutes. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Financial Reports & Bills for Approval

Motion (Beck, Schauer) to approve the February Treasurer's Report. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Stenger) to approve the March list of bills. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

After various Chase credit card phishing scam emails, District admin would like to apply for a business credit card through Bremer Bank. The TSA currently uses this card and has not had an issue. In addition, Bremer Bank discovered that our signer page does not include Powers Granted for the three signers on our account.

Motion (Stenger, Flottesmesch) to approve that District administration apply for a new business credit card through Bremer Bank and for each District staff member. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Per Bremer Bank Business Signer Authorization, Powers Granted will be as follows:

- A,B assigned to Power 1 (all powers listed in 2-6)
- C assigned to Power 2
- C assigned to Power 3

Motion (Stenger, Schauer) to assign the above agents and powers granted. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Supervisor's Vouchers & Expenses

Special Meetings – 1st Quarter 2016

January 12th – Retreat & Annual Plan session, USFW Detroit Lakes

January 26th – RRVCSA TSA 1 meeting, Mahnomon Co Courthouse

February 9th – MASWCD Area 1 meeting, U of M Crookston

Feb 19th & 22nd – Personnel Committee interviews, USDA Detroit Lakes

March 23rd – CAI/Township Weed Inspector's meeting, Callaway Event Center

March 23rd – FDR Conference & Supervisor training, Moorhead

Motion (Flottesmesch, Schauer) to approve the special meetings noted above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

District Reports

District Conservationist - Ed Musielewicz

- 27 EQIP applications submitted to the area office with \$509,000 in funding. We've been given the okay to submit medium priority applications; no word on low priority. Area office has postponed the process for accuracy checks and confirmations. Obligations will be delayed until late April or early May. We have four tree planting applications that may suffer because of this.

- We are accepting CSP applications until March 31st. He has been meeting with non-funded applicants. There are 33 general sign-ups and 12 contract renewals expiring at the end of the year. This program provides stewardship for current practices and extra incentives for added practices specified by the program. This is a competitive process.
- We have 20 pending CRP continuous contracts on about 600 acres that should be finished by this spring. 12 general contracts that ended Feb 26th. Aaron has been screening these for continuous possibilities. New contracts written this summer will begin October 1st.
- Phil Doll is now with the DNR. His last day was March 4th. John Voz and other BWSR staff have been approached to approve replacement of Phil's position. The NRCS contract and MOU expires June 30th but we are unsure whether they will extend it. This area has the highest workload in the state for easements, seeding, contracts, billing, etc. Support is definitely needed.

District Administrator - Peter Mead

- We have a new Shoreland Technician; Gabe Dretsch joined our office March 8th and comes to us from East Otter Tail SWCD. He will be a great addition to our staff.
- Building improvements – Peter met with Chris Briggs who has been in touch with staff from St. Paul. We're still working through storage space concerns in the conference room. Pelican River Watershed District requires mitigation of the additional stormwater and roof attachments. Many of the extra requirements may be suitable for cost-share.
- Aaron has been working on irrigation scheduling with EOT SWCD. Luke Stuewe from MDA is able to assist with our additional equipment needs.
- Tillage Survey – BWSR Soil Scientist; soil tillage transect survey updates. Brandon Dahring helped with this last summer. Seven counties were chosen in the state and awarded \$5,000 in assistance to pull this data and process it for the survey. This will be calibrated on a yearly basis and offered as statewide data for a variety of purposes.
- BWSR Buffer Tracking Tool – Beta Testing; we were approached to be an additional pilot for this testing. Peter and Mary Steinlicht, GIS Specialist with RRVCSA TSA are working on this. This will provide desktop and mobile tools for field use.
- ZOAC – Natural Environment lake lot widths. A sub-committee has been formed to revisit the issue. We took state data on lot width and its effect on natural environment lakes and factored water quality and physical structure needs as compared to disturbances from agriculture and shoreline development. The data supports the idea of 10 docks per km; 16 docks per mile and equates to each lot being a minimum of 330 feet. There will be more to come.

Recess for Public Hearing

Wetland Replacement Plan – Application #16-1, Joel Hauder; dairy farmer in HOL Township. Not in attendance.

Ed Clem explained the details of the project to all board members. Applicant owns a 40 acre parcel east of their main farm. They would like to access 10 acres of pasture that is land-locked by wetland and neighboring parcels for grazing cattle. They propose to fill across a 40 ft wide channel that connects a Type 3 wetland to a larger public water basin. The original proposal was to cross the western piece of the current wetland, but the DNR public water basin would see a higher impact with this scenario.

Applicant proposes replacement and mitigation of 0.04 acres of Type 3 Wetland for access with road construction in Section 29 of S. Height of Land Township. 10 acres of pastureland will be accessed through this request. They would like to purchase credits from the state wetland banking program. A purchase within the same bank service area requires a 1:1 ratio for agricultural uses. TEP has met and established findings. Clem read those to the board.

- Project purpose and need is accurately described.
- Avoidance and minimization efforts are satisfactory.
- TEP recommends approval of the replacement plan, with the condition that a minimum 12" diameter culvert be placed in the fill and that fill side slopes be stabilized with erosion control BMPs to minimize sedimentation into the wetland.

President Pavelko asked for any additional comments in favor or against the request. None noted.

Meeting Reconvened

Motion (Stenger, Schauer) to approve Joel Hauder's wetland replacement plan #16-1 and concur with TEP findings noted above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

AIS Prevention – Karl Koenig

- He will hold a small display at the Home & Boat Show this weekend in Detroit Lakes.
- Attended a meeting for the top 10 AIS Aid recipients. 10 counties receive half of the aid based on lakes in their area. They suggested ideas for report preparation to the state legislature for deliverance in the fall and marketing our AIS message to the public. He hopes these meetings continue.
- Receiving numerous inquiries for summer staff assistance. We may not need to advertise. He has at least 30-40% staff returning from last year. New hires will start at \$13/hour and bump that to \$16.50/hour for re-hires depending on experience. He plans to hire 33 inspectors in Becker County with 3 of those working Mahnomon County lakes.
- Working with DNR for signage replacement and additional needs near accesses and in other high-traffic areas.
- Lake Service Provider Ordinance – sea legs will hamper this somewhat but state laws must still be followed. Our county may be involved in regulating this locally with consequences for violations. We will approach this with education and consistency between inspectors and game wardens.

Local Water Management

- Comment period has been extended for DNR, Watershed Districts, MPCA and BWSR. DNR and BWSR support lake protection and prioritization efforts.
- Public survey and press release for water plan process – please take the survey and encourage others as well. Meeting will be held April 12th from 1-3 p.m. at Becker County Courthouse Commissioners Room.

Wetland Conservation Act

- Clem presented a Wildlife Habitat exemption for Steve Malikowski to dig wildlife ponds in section 30 of Evergreen Township and a Deminimus Exemption for Kurt Luschen to fill up to 5,000 square feet of Type 7 wetland for driveway and parking area on the north side of Shell Lake. Staff made these decisions. Clem noted that Luschen proposed a much larger impact several years ago that was denied by this board. The current request has a much smaller impact and qualifies for the Deminimus Exemption.
- County is moving forward on the Co Rd 44 shoulder and sideslope maintenance project on the west side of Two Inlets. Approval from TEP for use of state road bank credits on this project.
- Held a brief airport discussion at the recent TEP meeting. The Airport Commission, City of DL, FAA, Army Corp of Engineers and others are working towards a resolution.
- Claire is up-to-date with WSCB designs for 2016. We should have 25-30 constructed this year. We have new Trimble VRS survey equipment which is a nice, upgraded version of what we were using. This will be money well spent for staff and projects into the future.

Trees & Native Plant Material

- Tree sales are ahead of last year at this time. Nice weather has help with this as well as Hodge Podge radio spots. He is hoping for 16,000 trees sold for this year. Our annual tree open house will be next week, March 29 and 30 from 8-4:30.

Ag Inspector & CWMA

- Seed inspections were completed last Friday and include wildflowers and native plantings. Businesses were directed to remove displays from areas that could affect germination. Menards, L&M and Becker Pet & Garden were among the locations tested.
- Elevator seed testing will be completed by Jeff Siira. We have already received results from MDA Lab, which included soybean and corn testing.
- She has been approached to become a partner for North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA). This organization is responsible for accountability in land management and noxious weed issues.
- She has applied for the Board of Director Position which includes a commitment of 3 years. Interviews for the position will be held in Salt Lake City, UT in September. This is beyond a typical County Ag Inspector position.
- Play, Clean and Go
- MACAI

- There will be a CWMA meeting in April. Tax insert fliers as well as restroom stall indoor advertising has been one accomplishment thus far for AIS and CWMA terrestrial weed education. The following area establishments will be promoting our indoor ads: Pit 611, Zorbaz, Holiday Inn and the Bridge.
- Annual Township Weed Inspector meeting is next week March 23rd in Callaway. She will hold a panel discussion and note the need for increased involvement from Becker County Natural Resources especially in regards to recreational trails.

Shoreland Program

- Gabe is working with our design software and has been reviewing the Briggs and Poling sites. Poling will be our largest project yet. We hope to have this property in our fall tour with Buffalo Red River Watershed District.
- Claire has done a great job with the Briggs project and has assisted with Gabe's training. We continue to work with contractors on design as well.
- Our Clean Water Legacy Lake Protection grant has been executed and the first 50% funding has been received.

Education & Outreach

- Our landowner meeting in Wolf Lake last month wasn't well attended; tomorrow we will hold our final meeting in Callaway.
- We participated in Ag in the Classroom yesterday at M State campus in Detroit Lakes by promoting agriculture to area 4th grade students. From dairy farmers to sheep ranchers and everything in between. Our office spoke of top soil importance and protecting our ground water supply.
- We've been approached to participate in the DLHS Job/Career Fair to be held on April 19th. We plan to showcase our office rain garden and AIS decontamination techniques.

Contracts for Approval

#CWL-12-BR, Bruce Nelson, Water and Sediment Control Basin; estimated total project costs are \$11,941 with 90% available cost-share of \$10,747. May qualify for EQIP funding which would reduce cost share.

Motion (Schauer, Beck) to approve the 2015 CWL contract #CWL-12-BR up to 90% or \$10,747. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Grants & Agreements

Straight River Groundwater Management Area MOU

- Working with Julie Kingsley to use Straight River funding from BWSR.
- Don Buckhout has approved the plan which will now move to BWSR Board action.

Motion (Beck, Stenger) to approve that administration enter into this agreement. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Township Nitrate-Nitrogen Sampling Program JPA Amendment

- Amendment to the original agreement to remove Pine Point and Osage Townships.
- Spoke with Luke Stuewe to add Carsonville Township with a no cost amendment.
- The updated list will be sent to RMB Labs.

President Pavelko adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Approved: Kathy Stenger, Becker SWCD Secretary

Date: April 20, 2016