



## May 17, 2016 Meeting Minutes

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

**Call to Order** – meeting called to order by Chairman Pavelko at 8:41 a.m.

### Approval of April Meeting Minutes

Motion (Schauer, Beck) to approve April meeting minutes as written. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

### Financial Reports

Treasurers Report

Bills for Approval

Motion (Stenger, Schauer) to approve April treasurer's report and May payables. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

### District Reports

*District Conservationist - Ed Musielewicz*

- EQIP obligations are complete with 39 contracts, 7,400 acres and \$938,000 in total funds to be distributed. All eligible applications were funded.
- We have 28 CSP applications completed for approximately \$495,000 in total funds.
- May 24<sup>th</sup> marks the 1,000<sup>th</sup> WRP easement signing celebration.
- Workgroup Meeting is set for Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the USDA conference room.
- Phil Doll left his position with Ducks Unlimited in early March; negotiations are underway to fill all open DU positions throughout the state. An RFP has been established. There is no confirmed deadline for hiring at this time.

*District Administrator - Peter Mead*

Local Water Management

- He has been working through the Priority Concerns Scoping document.

Wetland Conservation Act

- WCA calls are coming through on a daily basis with many involving ditch cleanout projects; one violation arose thus far

Trees & Native Plant Material

- Tree season is finally complete with 3 tree plantings and of that, one hand planting. Augers were purchased to assist in this process as well as for shoreland projects.

### Shoreland

- Additional shoreland equipment has been purchased to make coir log placement more efficient.
- A Polaris Ranger and other equipment were purchased for hydro seeding and hydro mulching on various shoreland projects.
- Employees have been potting trees and shrubs for upcoming large shoreland projects.
- Poling site on East LaBelle across from the access is underway; Danny Olson and his crew are completed with dirt work; staff and Conservation Corps will begin installation next week.
- 15 installations have been set for this year.
- Approximately 25 native plant kits have been sold with orders placed from the nurseries last week.

### Ag Inspector & CWMA

- Gravel pit inspections should be completed this week.
- Weeds are developing. Gabe has assisted nicely with shoreland projects in order for Marsha to set aside more of her time for weed issues this year.

### Program Reports

#### AIS Prevention

- 35 inspectors have been hired; fishing opener had inspectors located at 3 accesses on Big Detroit, Upper, Middle and Big Cormorant, Ida, Lake Sallie and Melissa, Height of land, Long, Bad medicine, Big and Little Floyd, Tullaby and Cotton Lake; traffic was light on Saturday and Sunday with the heaviest amount at Lake Sallie.
- He would like to have over 20,000 inspections this year. There were fewer than 19,000 last year.
- Decontamination units are filled with water and ready to assist; we have specific vehicles set aside for this but still may run short for various District projects.
- Julie Duvall was hired to assist with Karl's efforts and be more hands-on for all inspectors on duty. Availability of print materials and other educational materials has been a must for this crew.
- He received his first special request for decontamination yesterday.
- 150-200 decontaminations were completed last year; he is hoping for nearly 300 this year.
- Starry Stone Wort is the newest invasive species found in Lake Koronis.
- Our new AIS Clean Your Johnson campaign has taken off; we've been having great response with this catchy slogan. Other Districts may be interested in it as well. Facebook views have skyrocketed. Marketing efforts have been very successful.
- Karl is working with marinas such as J&K to identify boats that remain on the lake as opposed to seasonal traffic. These locations are very concerned with public awareness not only for AIS prevention efforts but also for the livelihood of their business.
- No additional Zebra Mussels infestations in Becker County; however, lakes in our area seem to have the perfect environment to continue this spread.

#### Open Forum

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Conservation Tour was held last week at Ike Fischer Farm near Frazee but only Thursday as our Wednesday was wet which canceled the event. Schools were short this year with Roosevelt/Middle Schoolers not able to attend due to a scheduling conflict. We made the most of Thursday and hosted a portion of Frazee students along with Holy Rosary and Lake Park/Audubon.

Senior Envirothon was held May 4<sup>th</sup> at Prairie Wetlands Learning Center near Fergus Falls. 18 teams competed throughout our 7 District area. Frazee took first place, Underwood was second and DGF finished in third. All three teams competed in the state event which was held Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at Lake Bronson State Park. During the state event, Frazee High School finished in second place just behind a team from St. John's Prep School. Unfortunately for St. John's, they are unable to attend the national event which allows Frazee to take their place. Five students from Frazee HS and their team leader Doug Schwarzrock will attend the national Envirothon at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada July 24-29.

Motion (Stenger, Beck) to pledge our support for Frazee High School to attend Envirothon Nationals in Canada. We will determine if and when a donation is needed to assist with their expenses during our June board meeting. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Mapping Solutions has contacted us regarding publication of a new 2017 Plat Book. They can accomplish this by September/October if we are interested. We will look into 2014 plat buy-back options before making a decision.

Supervisor apparel purchase requests should be submitted to Leticia before the end of this week.

Supervisor candidacy filings are now open through May 31<sup>st</sup>. Beck, Stenger and Schauer will need to file for election if interested in remaining on the SWCD Board.

AIS payroll currently handled through Becker County Human Resources and Payroll departments was discussed. Workload challenges limit us from completing this within the District; however, we don't want to burden our county partners with the task. More will be discussed at a later date.

The new Becker SWCD website is up and running. Migration from Becker County will continue. The site can be accessed at <http://beckerswcd.org/>.

Barry Nelson discussed county updates - NRM Supervisor is Dan McLaughlin; IT Supervisor is Stacie White; no updates regarding Planning & Zoning supervisor recruitment. Zoning setbacks are moving through the approval process.

Our building expansion and remodeling project is moving slowly with FSA state offices dragging their feet.

Straight River Management funds have been secured for a producer needing assistance with organic farming – cover cropping and pivots. There is no grant agreement in place but we don't want to miss our window of opportunity.

Motion (Stenger, Schauer) to approve the intent for application of Rod and Sharon Potts in Carsonville Twp. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

### **Grants & Agreements**

#### **Mahnomen County AIS Agreement for Services**

Aaron Neubert, Mahnomen SWCD has been encouraged to process a delegation agreement naming two of our inspectors along with their projected costs of \$20/hour to work Mahnomen County lakes. Many individuals were not interested in the longer drive to this area; however, Julie Duvall and Casey Thronson have accepted and will provide services to Mahnomen County. The agreement has been signed.

Motion (Stenger, Schauer) to approve that we enter into this AIS agreement with Mahnomen County. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

#### **Farm Bill Assistance Grant**

Applications are due this week; BWSR has increased the reimbursement amounts to pay up to \$65,000 base salary for one FTE Farm Bill Technician. With the grant, our District will need to cover approximately \$10,000 of the costs to continue to employ Aaron Salo.

Motion (Stenger, Beck) to approve the FY2017 FBA grant application process. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

### **Clean Water Legacy Contracts for Approval**

# CWL-16-BR, Mattson Brothers Inc, Water and Sediment Control Basins; estimated project costs \$49,401 with \$21,091 from EQIP and \$15,960 from grant funds.

# CWL-17-BR, Matthew Bjerke, Water and Sediment Control Basins; estimated project costs \$22,076 with \$8,315 from EQIP and \$8,242 from grant funds.

# CWL-18-BR, Kevin Lunde, Water and Sediment Control Basins; estimated project costs \$107,809 with \$16,171 from BRRWD, \$57,074 from EQIP and \$23,783 from grant funds.

# CWL-19-BR, Curt Nelson, Water and Sediment Control Basins; estimated project costs \$121,137 with \$55,783 from EQIP and \$35,070 from grant funds.

# CWL-20-BR, Mandy Erickson, Critical Area Planting; estimated project costs \$2,875 with \$2,588 from grant funds.

Motion (Beck, Schauer) to approve the 2015 Buffalo-Red Clean Water Legacy contracts and amounts noted above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**State Cost Share Contracts for Approval**

# CS-16-3, Kenneth Jirava, Water and Sediment Control Basins; estimated project costs \$66,837 with \$31,999 from EQIP, \$16,129 from BRRWD and \$2,000 from cost share funds.

# CS-16-4, Terry Kohler, Water and Sediment Control Basins; estimated project costs \$9,330 with \$7,170 from EQIP, \$1,227 from BRRWD and \$250 from cost share funds.

Motion (Schauer, Beck) to approve the 2016 State Cost Share contracts and amounts noted above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Adjourn**

Being no further business, Chairman Pavelko adjourned the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

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

**Date: June 15, 2016**