



## **June 15, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, June 15<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, Water Resource Tech Ed Clem, Engineering Tech Claire Olson and Conservation Corps Intern Mark Herbeck.

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Pavelko called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

### **Approval of May Meeting Minutes**

Motion (Beck, Stenger) to approve the May meeting minutes as written. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

### **Financial Reports**

May Treasurers Report and June bills were reviewed.

Motion (Schauer, Flottemesch) to approve May financials and June bills for payment. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

### **Approval of Special Meetings & Supervisor Vouchers**

Special meetings in Q2 are as follows:

- 4/5/16 RRVCSA TSA meeting, Mahnomon Co Courthouse
- 4/12/16 LWP Public meeting, Becker Co Courthouse
- 6/8/16 RRVCSA TSA meeting, Mahnomon Co Courthouse
- 6/16/16 Local Workgroup meeting, USDA Detroit Lakes
- 6/21/16 MASWCD Area 1 meeting, Holiday Inn Detroit Lakes

Motion (Flottemesch, Schauer) to approve the list of special meetings and expenses to be paid for Quarter 2 of 2016. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

### **District Reports**

District Conservationist - Ed Musielewicz

- CSP has funded 13 of the 28 applications for around 1 million dollars.
- Currently constructing Jirava; Donnelly piece with basins being constructed by Claire and Jeff. All tile has been set. Danny Steffl project is underway; staking completed in Callaway at Gene Kaiser's.
- Making seeding checks for pasture hayland plantings that were completed this spring. We have plots that were setup this spring to make weekly soil temperature checks and conduct infiltration tests as well. Compiling data for comparison purposes.

- Conducting cover crop strip trials at Bruce Nelson property. We will hold a field day after Labor Day to discuss the results.
- Local Workgroup meeting is tomorrow at 9:00 a.m.
- EQIP signup deadline is August 19<sup>th</sup>
- Grazing management on WRP easements –
  - Gandrud easement off Hwy 59 is in its 4<sup>th</sup> year and looking very nice; Jacobson is grazing mid-May through mid-August.
  - Nutrient cycle management is what we're working towards. Cover still remains for nesting but no comparisons have been completed thus far.
  - Hendrickson's WRP has been managed through burning and clipping. A comparison study between the easements would be interesting.
  - The Brink Lake easement is being grazed by New Life Farms and they're splitting the pastures into three separate sections.
  - If more projects such as these are started a compatible use agreement from St Paul can cause delays.
- Leticia Kiehl has resigned her position with our office and has taken the Ducks Unlimited spot that Phil Doll once held. Her last day with Ultima and the District is Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

District Administrator - Peter Mead

- We will dearly miss Leticia Kiehl. Her position has been 32 hours with Ultima and 8 hours with the District. We've tried to balance out her small hourly wage with Ultima by increasing her District wage quite considerably. Ultima's new contract is written for a 40-hour work week to assist NRCS. We would like to continue as we have in the past to keep the new hire in a front counter position in order to meet and greet customers, filter questions and assist with all office programs. Final decision on this will be forthcoming.
- The building expansion will be underway shortly; all permits have been signed and approved. Excavation and ground work will begin Monday the 20<sup>th</sup>. We will hold a small groundbreaking celebration to commemorate the occasion. The original estimated set aside amount was \$125,000. The final agreement with Briggs states that costs will be up to \$150,000 with \$50,000 due July 15<sup>th</sup>, an additional \$50,000 due August 15<sup>th</sup> and the remaining to be paid when the project is complete. The District will assume the additional monthly overhead costs of taxes, insurance, electric, and sewer/water. We will continue to lease our existing space and pay the added costs on a monthly basis and over a new five-year lease period.

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to approve the final written agreement with Curtis Briggs for the expansion of our building and office space. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

- It's been very busy for all staff since last month; there have been steady shoreline installs with Conservation Corps assistance for eight days thus far. Mark Herbeck has been assisting and Brandon Dahring as well. It's nice to have both of them this year.
- Attended a TSA meeting on Monday in Brainerd to discuss TSA 8 Shared Services and the possibility of Crow Wing SWCD taking over as fiscal agent. Agreement amendments will need to occur in order to make this happen.
- We received a nice thank you message from Mary Poling and Jill Fahrlander for their project on LaBelle Lake. They appreciated our professionalism and were completely impressed by the work we completed on their shoreline and adjacent land. We included Bruce Albright from Buffalo Red River Watershed District in this appreciation. With his agency assistance, this project would

have never been possible. The project came about through one of our targeted landowner meetings for the Buffalo Shallow Lakes Clean Water Legacy grant.

## **Program Reports**

### AIS Prevention

- Working with water quality concerns in the Pine Point, Osage and Carsonville Townships. RMB Lab test kits are being mailed to some townships not on the list. Becker SWCD will hold a water test option at the County Fair this year. Nitrates aren't the only concern with our area drinking water. Arsenic levels are evident as well, especially in the Cormorant Lakes area.
- Karl has been attending the Ottertail River Cohort meeting regarding WRAPS. He is there today and will be in Spicer tomorrow for additional work with this program.
- Data has been pulled from AIS inspector tablets; we've completed 4,800 inspections as of late last week. There were some Lake Melissa access concerns regarding a pontoon boat which housed live zebra mussels. Boaters and lakeshore property owners still remain confused and somewhat uneducated with the infested and non-infested lakes in our area. Various lake associations are interested in updating access signage. DNR leads this effort but has been slow to address it and make the changes needed.

### Construction, Trees and Various Projects

- 3 WSCBs for Jirava near completion; staked 6 or 7 WSCBs for Richard Steffl. Now waiting for the contractor to begin construction.
- Tree program was a tremendous success. The new storage unit houses all supplies and equipment necessary for this program and offers a better access point for customers. Most orders were picked up on sale day and the tree cooler was shut down within one week. We had 3 planting jobs this year because of recent cost share changes. All went well and included our very first hand planting. Four staff planted 400 trees with soil augers in about one hour's time.
- The new Dingo was used to heel-in many of our shoreline trees and the hydro seeder was used to keep them watered. It all worked great which eliminated the need to pot them, as we have in the past. We have a separate, snow fenced area on site to house native kits and plants for preorders and shoreline plantings.

### Wetland Conservation Act

- Completed two wetland delineations for the Highway Department.
- Met with Spring Creek Township supervisors regarding a steep bank and curved road that they would like to have straightened. The wetland delineation was given to Becker County Engineer Jim Olson.
- Responded to one violation near Island Lake on Co Hwy 37. We have worked with this contractor in the past and they're willing to fix the issue.
- Working with another violation south on Hwy 59 at McLaughlin Marine. This one involves WCA, DNR Public Waters, Becker County Zoning, Watershed District, Army Corps and the SWCD. Fill was placed in Public Waters and wetland, so there is overlapping jurisdiction with us and DNR. A combined restoration order will be issued.
- TEP met yesterday and mentioned the airport wetland permitting progress which remains in the ACOE concurrence point process. They are down 13 acres of wetland impact, but the permitting process remains in the same stage it was 6 months ago.

- Mailings have been sent to expiring CRP contracts; Mary from FSA assisted with mapping requirements on this. Approximately 10% of general CRP contracts were funded; the remaining non-funded contracts will be contacted.
- Working with Irrigation Scheduling as well as Straight River groundwater management programs. Conducting weekly moisture checks and tracking ET for crops while helping producers water accordingly. We have more funding from MDA and East Otter Tail.
- Soil health soil temps have been collected. Within one mile there has been a 17% change between temps, moisture levels, etc.

#### Shoreland

- Claire gave a summary of the 2016 shoreline accomplishments thus far.
  - Poling/Fahrlander on LaBelle Lake, 400 feet of shoreline and 3 acres of additional adjacent land. Hendrickson completed the burn on this project. Installed 30+ coir logs and over 1,000 forb plugs not to mention trees, shrubs and seeding.
  - Erickson on Canary Lake
  - Erickson and Wiebusch on Lake Maud
  - Bergquist on Lake Eunice
  - Hoehne on Strawberry Lake

#### Open Forum

MASWCD Area 1 Summer Meeting in Detroit Lakes - all five board members, Ed Musielewicz and Jen will be in attendance. Peter will be at leadership conference in St. Paul.

Lowell Deede joined our meeting and has shared a profile of the transparency reading samples at Buffalo River along Co Hwy 13 and Co Hwy 12 taken in early June. Ottertail River Watershed was taken near Toad, Ottertail, Pelican and Spring Creek. Mississippi drainage contained Haycreek, Straight River, Blueberry, Kettle, Shell and Redeye. South branch of the Wild Rice was taken at various locations. Lowell also discussed the effects of buffers along the river and the different banks and how they affect river clarity.

#### CY 2017 Preliminary Budget Discussion

A budget committee meeting consisting of board members Travis Schauer and Tony Beck has been set for Tuesday July 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-10:00 a.m. here at our office. Overall, We don't foresee any additional costs to the county in the upcoming year.

#### Grants & Agreements

WLI Rush Lake Grazing Project – we're including some additional interior fences in addition to the paddocks already in place. We will visit the site to make sure the fence is set to the plan.

Motion (Flottesch, Beck) to approve the WLI Rush Lake Grazing Project agreement. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

DNR Groundwater Monitoring – FY17 GW monitoring agreement is ready for execution. One site has been decommissioned and added two additional wells have been added.

Motion (Stenger, Schauer) to approve the DNR Groundwater Monitoring contract. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Clean Water Legacy Contracts for Approval**

# CWL-14-LP, Don Galitz, Critical Area Planting. Estimated project costs \$3,133 with \$2,350 from grant funds.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Pavelko) to approve the 2016 CWL Lake Protection contract and amounts noted above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**State Cost Share Amendments for Approval**

# CS-14-8, Tom & Carol Risdahl, Critical Area Planting. Contract expired 12/31/15 and has been extended to 12/31/16.

# CS-14-16, Tom & Sandy Christianson, Critical Area Planting. Contract expired 11/30/15 and has been extended to 12/31/16.

Motion (Stenger, Schauer) to approve the 2014 State Cost-Share amendments and extensions of time on both contracts noted above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Clean Water Legacy Vouchers for Approval**

# CWL-12-BR, Bruce Nelson, Water & Sediment Control Basin. Final project cost \$9,530.13 with payment of \$2,409 from CWL Buffalo Red funds.

Motion (Stenger, Schauer) to approve the payment of \$2,409 from Buffalo Red Shallow Lakes CWL funding. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**National Envirothon**

Frazee High School will be attending this year and their travel costs for the event will be covered entirely through MACDE funding as well as assistance from Area 1 and Area 2 Envirothon committees. Our District will not need to provide any additional funding for the event.

**MASWCD Area 1 Resolutions**

Reviewed six resolutions thus far from Pennington, Clay and Mahnommen SWCDs. Board members discussed all but there are no plans to add resolutions from Becker SWCD.

**Adjourn**

Being no further business, Chairman Pavelko adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.