



Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Wednesday, August 17, 2016

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, August 17th 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 Flottemesch, 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 Coordinator Karl Koenig. Special guest, Lowell Deede joined the meeting also.

Call to Order

Chairman Pavelko called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Approval of July Meeting Minutes

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

Financial Reports

July Treasurer's Report and August Bills for Approval were reviewed.

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to approve July's Treasurer's Report and August Bills. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

District Reports

District Conservationist - Ed Musielewicz

- EQIP sign up ends Friday. 35 applications this year; 38 applications were funded last year. November is deadline for eligibility.
- CSP re-enrolls with Ray. He has been contacting landowners and starting the process. Application packets & plans must be completed by September 16th.
- Engineering projects has been busy. Norby is staking Lake Park area projects. Ed Clem is working on installing tile basins. Claire Olson is working east of Cenex in Lake Park with waterways.
- Leticia Kiehl is working with BWSR on wetland restoration projects.
- Rain has delayed projects somewhat.
- Large project coming with Kevin Lunde. It is staked; waiting for Olson's to begin constructing.
- Waiting for some projects to begin with land in corn or soybeans.
- Plot installed in Bruce Nelson's wheat field. 8 separate plots with cover crops. Ray and Aaron confirmed installation. New Resource Soil Scientist Brandon Defoe will assist with this project. This will be signed and a field day will be held September 20th to inform the public. We used a variety of mixes - turnips, radish, winter rye, mustard and peas. Nelson is planting a radish and oats cover crop on the remaining field. Alisa, Peter & Claire are working on an announcement.

District Administrator - Peter Mead

- Cover Crop demo day will showcase a variety of experiments – some of a questionable nature – to measure microbial activity in various soil types.
- Leadership training held beginning of August in Alexandria. Progress towards solving real technology problems for District across the state. Establishing networks and IT support for those counties that don't have another option has been the main topic.

- Ultima contract has changed again. Alisa started at 40 hours per week. There has now been a notice of layoff. Ultima has pulled from the contract proposal and they are unsure of who will pick it up. Contracted staff will now work at 32 hours per week and the District will pick up the remaining 8 hours as we did for Leticia Kiehl. The new contract will begin October 1st.
- We filled the District Engineer position. Wes Drake will start September 6th.
- Grant applications have been submitted. One in particular is for the Upper Buffalo River near Callaway. Various projects are already in discussions. We will exceed the TMDL goals for this sub-basin.
- East Otter Tail submitted AIG application for PTM app development for all or portions of the Crow, Wild Rice, Red-Eye, Ottortail and Buffalo river watersheds in Otter Tail and Becker County. If funder, work will be conducted by the International Waters Inst and utilize Houston Engineering for quality control.
- West Otter Tail Submitted AIG application to obtain additional field equipment for Becker / EOT/ WOT shared engineer
- Building expansion is progressing nicely. Electrical and HVAC is roughed-in. Brick installation should be started by the end of the week. Opening the space from our office to the expansion will come shortly afterward.
- Deb Moltzan and Joyce Holm are leaving Planning & Zoning. New supervisor was announced, Dylan Ramstad-Skoyles. Becker County is moving forward to fill the recently emptied positions.
- Becker County Fair booth was a success. Karl did an excellent job working with the public in the DNR building. He would like to incorporate a children's scavenger hunt for our programs and practices, and invest more in professional display materials for this and other public events.

Program Reports

AIS Prevention

- Inspection staff are still busy with many now leaving for college and such.
- He is at 70% of budget with inspector salaries.
- Sallie and Melissa Lakes will be inspected through October.
- Zebra Mussels found about a mile apart in Big Detroit Lake. There is probably no chance for treatment on this. 3-4 year old specimens are being found. It seems that low density lakes can harbor mussels for years before they're discovered.
- Recent announcements of five lakes in Otter Tail County.
- Beltrami County's Turtle Lake has Starry Stone Wort – invasive algae that grows to the surface and blocks boat traffic and other lake activities. Movement on this is not understood. Costs to treat is extremely expensive. Dredging, herbicides and re-seeding have been their initial plan of attack.

Wetland Conservation Act

Peter and Ed Clem will visit more sites on Thursday. Many landowners are installing roads and such with wetland impact.

Rice Lake project was discussed at the recent TEP meeting. Discussed prior draft applications and confirmed need for three separate WCA applications – one by Becker County, one by PRWD and one by Detroit Township. Self-mitigation viability on primary structure & access was discussed with Steve Hofstad, BWSR Wetland Specialist.

Farm Bill Assistance and Buffer Initiative

Buffer letter was mailed after July's board meeting. Aaron and Peter have been fielding many calls and office visits. Aaron and Andrea have been working together nicely on developing new contracts.

He and Aaron developed a spreadsheet for better tracking of contacts. BWSR has developed a Buffer Tracking Tool. Peter and Mary Steinlicht have developed another approach to this tracking tool to assist districts with reporting requirements.

Ag Inspector & CWMA

Peter shared Marsha's interactive weed inventory that has been documented this year with the help of our summer interns Brandon and Ben and Conservation Corps member Mark Herbeck.

Shoreland

Installs with Conservation Corps are in progress again this week. Ben Tjepkes and Mark Herbeck left our office for the summer last Friday. They both had wonderful exit interviews with Marsha. Brandon Dahrings last day is today. He has already expressed interest in returning next year.

Open Forum

DNR Commissioner Landwehr will be in Becker County August 31st. He will discuss septic installations and the increasing failure readings that have been noted. Legislation discussions will persist.

Governor Dayton will be in Detroit Lakes tomorrow. Roger Hemphill contacted Peter last Friday regarding some main discussion points. Discussion is expected to be centered on bonding the City of Detroit Lakes Wastewater treatment facility improvements.

2016 Outstanding Conservationist Nomination

Two producers were suggested as nominees for 2016's Outstanding Conservationist Award.

Motion (Flottesch, Stenger) to approve whichever party accepts the nomination based on the boards suggested order. Affirmative. Unanimous. Carried.

Grants & Agreements

FY 2017 Clean Water Fund Applications - Mead submitted the Upper Buffalo Sediment Reduction project.

Motion (Stenger, Flottesch) to approve the submission of Upper Buffalo Sediment Reduction project. Affirmative. Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Legacy Contracts for Approval

CWL-17-LP, Anne Buelow, Shoreland Stabilization. Estimated project costs \$4,025; eligible cost share \$2,012.

CWL-18-LP, Darin Halvorson, Critical Area Planting. Estimated project costs \$6,760; eligible cost share \$5,070.

Motion (Stenger, Beck) to approve the Clean Water Legacy Contracts for Lake Protection projects. Affirmative. Unanimous. Carried.

State Cost Share Contracts for Approval

CS-16-3, Michael & Nancy Richards, Critical Area Planting, Raingarden. Estimated project costs \$10,214; eligible cost share \$5,107.

Motion (Flottesch, Stenger) to approve 2016 Cost Share contract. Affirmative. Unanimous. Carried.

State Cost Share Vouchers for Approval

CS-16-1, Don & Joan Pake, Critical Area Planting. Total project cost \$5,330; eligible cost share payment \$2,665.

CS-14-5, Arlene Hedlund, Well Sealing. Total project cost \$285.00; eligible cost share payment \$143.

CS-14-16, Sandy & Tom Christianson, Critical Area Planting. Total project cost \$286.00; eligible cost share payment \$215.00

Motion (Beck, Flottesch) to approve for payment 2015-2016 State Cost Share Vouchers. Affirmative Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Legacy Amended Vouchers for Approval

CWL-01-LP, Bill and Jeanne Kauffmann, Critical Area Planting. Total project costs \$5,526.76; eligible cost share payment \$2,763.00

CWL-09-LP, Patricia Young, Critical Area Planting. Total project costs \$1,612.14; eligible cost share payment \$806.00

Motion (Flottesch, Stenger) to approve payment of the amended Clean Water Legacy Vouchers. Affirmative. Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Legacy Vouchers for Approval

CWL-05-LP, Stacy Jacobs, Critical Area Planting. Total project costs \$3,129; eligible cost share payment \$1,564.

CWL-06-LP, Larry Wiebusch, Critical Area Planting. Total project costs \$3,835; eligible cost share payment \$1,917.

CWL-07-LP, Jean Kampmeyer, Critical Area Planting. Total project costs \$2,436; eligible cost share payment \$1,827.

CWL-08-LP, Ron & Gwen Mueller, Critical Area Planting. Total project costs \$5,563; eligible cost share payment \$2,782.

Motion (Stenger, Flottesmesch) to approve payment of the 2015-2016 Clean Water Legacy Vouchers. Affirmative. Unanimous. Carried.

Adjourn

Being no further business, Chairman Pavelko adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

Approved: Kathy Stenger, Becker SWCD Secretary

Date September 21, 2016