



Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Wednesday, September 21, 2016

### **Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</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, Kathy Stenger and Chairperson Eugene Pavelko. Others present include Becker SWCD staff Peter Mead, Jen Wentz, Karl Koenig, Ed Clem, Marsha Watland NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz. BSWR Board Conservationist Brett Arne and Tri-County Engineer Wes Drake.

#### **Call to Order**

Called to order at 8:38 a.m. by Chairman Pavelko.

#### **Approval of August Meeting Minutes**

Note appointment and acceptance by Allen Bergquist for Conservationist of the Year.

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to approve August meeting minutes as corrected above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

#### **Financial Reports**

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

Motion (Schauer, Beck) to approve August Treasurer's Reports and September Bills. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

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

Corrected per notes. Special meetings noted in the minutes.

Motion (Beck, Stenger) to approve as corrected. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

#### **District Reports**

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

- Cover Crop Field Day yesterday went well with 20-25 SWCD/NRCS employees and area farmers. Brandon Defoe, Area Soil Specialist spoke healthy soil structures. NRCS and SWCD staff review cover crop information. Signs will be up until November 1<sup>st</sup>. Guided tours are still available by appointment.
- CRP report from Aaron. FSA late August no new applications after the 31<sup>st</sup>. National cap was near its limit. FSA and Aaron have been scrambling to get landowners in the door and applications signed. He completed 67 contracts the last two weeks. Total 100 CRP contracts with over 2,100 acres. Only three general contracts accepted. Contracts could still be reduced. Appendix has been revised.
- CSP with 10 renewals and 3 cancellations. Ray Hummel is working on this. All information into system regarding eligibility by the end of November. EQIP will come next.

- New area accounting technician for Area 1 and Area 2, Jenny Tischner. In FY16 Detroit Lakes completed 1.48 million of payments; almost \$520,000 in EQIP and \$930,000 in CSP.

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

- Buffers
- Cover Crop
- Soil Health challenge using men's white cotton underwear. Expectations were lack luster. Inconclusive at best but we'll try this again in the spring.
- Large kudos to Aaron Salo and Ed Musielewicz.
- Wes Drake has started as new District Engineer between Backer, West Otter Tail and East Otter Tail. He's started many projects and has a long list of others.
- Building addition – coming along but slowly at times. Many contractors are using their time elsewhere too. Trim work has been placed, ceiling tiles will be soon and then carpet laying and finishing work.
- Leadership training and TSA technology issues has been time consuming. They've been working on an alternative to the TSA computer environment and training options. Costs have been secured. 110,000 savings can potentially be achieved through non-profit use with MASWCD. They've been receptive and have appointed a committee to explore this.
- Bruce Albright and the BRRWD Tour locations have been finally confirmed this week even though we received our invitation a couple weeks ago. Buffalo Red restoration near Hawley; Hwy 10 visit of Barry Nelson's buffers; Cover Crop trial plots; alfalfa 50' buffers and grassed waterway; Boyer Lake no till practices; Cam Ullrich's CRP, WASBs with Bruce Nelson, Curt Nelson grade stabilization; Canary Lake from Ag to CRP and wetland restorations; Loren Jetvig's Little Boyer land sale; LaBelle access and AIS program discussion as well as Poling-Fahrlander shoreland stabilization; Anderson's RIM-WRP; CRP buffers along Haycreek and sediment basins; Bergrens' basins and Erickson's buffers and Justin Carlson's RIM-WRP.

### **Board Conservationist – Brett Arne**

- Buffer updates – posted seven different policy docs to BWSR website. Another six have yet to be reviewed by the board. Guidance docs are available as well. Specific to site visits. Tom Giles Buffer and Soil Loss Coordinator has been working diligently to construct these policies. BWSR is looking for baseline information to be entered into their online buffer tracking tool. Districts should be able to access this which includes parcel data and compliance identifications. They need an initial inventory by January 1<sup>st</sup>. Districts will enter prior knowledge and this information will be brought to the legislature in the spring. November 1, 2017 mandated buffer requirement.
  - Alternative practice guidelines
  - Administrative Penalty order policies must be identified by BWSR but nothing has been confirmed on this yet. Look for more on this by March of next year.
- Clean Water Fund application phase has closed mid-August. 96 apps for just over 30 million. 11 million total to fund. Ranking will happen in October. Awards will be placed by mid-December. Another good request for funds.
- New State Cost-Share policy. BWSR has expanded this policy to include non-structural land management practices. Residue mgmt. and different tillage types. Policy mandated 10 year practice life capacity. Plan identifies priorities and BWSR has ability to approve plan, make incentive payments and instead of percentages, use flat rate payments.

## **Program Reports**

### **AIS Prevention – Karl Koenig**

- Inspecting at accesses with Cormorant, Big Detroit and Melissa still up and running. Monitoring and looking for new infestations.
- Working with resorts and a new identification booklet to make these landowners aware of prevention and our AIS efforts.
- Inspections are up from last year. 20,187 thus far. His goal for the year was 20,000 with less billed hours than last year. Hitting busier days and lakes.
- Melissa until 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October with funds from Lake View Township
- Detroit will wrap up during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week. Busy Muskie fishing or nice weather may keep us there longer.
- Red Swamp Crayfish found at Tillde Lake and occurring in central and northern counties. Most of lake is not in Becker County but the access is.
- He reviewed Starry Stonewort (a macro-algae) in Lake Koronis near Paynesville in Stearns County. You can't drive a lake through this stuff. Boat lifts and other equipment is carpeted with it. This is being found at lake and boat accesses. Not likely that this is being transferred through wildlife migration. Reproducing by cloning or through bulbils. No known herbicide at this point. Harvesting will cause spread. Now found in north-central lakes in Beltrami, Itasca and Cass counties.
- Received a letter from COLA, Lake Detroiters and the city of Detroit Lakes. Zebra Mussels are now confirmed on Detroit and Sallie Lakes. These agencies would like to discuss concerns with these notices and how this will affect their lakes. They are interested in holding a public meeting to best position themselves to fight this and prevent and educate against Starry Stonewort. He hopes to have Moriya Rufer and Nicole Kovar to present at this conference.
- AIS aid funding is based on number of public accesses within counties. GIS editing application has been updated by Karl that were missed by the DNR themselves. We should have more funds to work with monitoring and treatment methods.

### **Wetland Conservation Act – Ed Clem**

- Minor wetland issues almost daily. I've been able to direct landowners to avoid impacts or minimize impacts so that they're eligible for an exemption.
- Violation with McLaughlin Marine has been restored. All fill has been taken out of the lake and wetland. Stabilization efforts will be underway soon.
- Long Lake property owner making beach sand blanket with gravel and dirty sand which has been pushed out into the lake. Found OHW and set flags. Landowner is working on removing fill and over the winter Gabe will work on the shoreland restoration plan.
- We've been pulled into more of these issues as Planning & Zoning have been short staffed.
- Will be completing wetland delineations for the following local road projects: County Highway department will resurface a 4-mile stretch of Co Hwy 25 from Hwy 34 to Pickerel Lake and another on Co Rd 138 between Maud and Cormorant Lakes covering a 2 mile stretch of road.

### **Shoreland Projects- Marsha Watland**

- Finishing up sites on Juggler and St. Claire as well as the Briggs site.
- Site evaluations on Twin Lake, Ice Cracking, Ida, Elbow, Big Toad, Big Cormorant, White Earth and Long Lake.

- Mitigations with Ed Clem and Rodger Hemphill have been helpful.
- Zoning is short staffed with one person dealing with permits and we have been called to help with site evaluations. Julene is the only person left in that office with permanency.
- Golden Bay Shores recommended by PRWD to develop a storm water planting. The site is located on both Curfman and Glawe Lake. Marshal will work with Tera Guetter on cost-share availability. This site evaluation will involve the housing development residents.
- Conservation Corps had 20 days of installation this year. This afternoon will mark the completion of their projects with our new High School Intern.
- Our new high school intern Jonas has started and is doing a great job.
- Ottetail River visit with landowner stopped the dumping of washed sand along rive and prevented a mitigation issue.

### **Construction Projects – Ed Clem**

- ¾ done with WASCBS
- Grade stabilization project for Bergren will finish this week.
- Construction should be done before freeze up.
- Claire will coordinate with the construction crew for our building addition and a rain garden will be placed to grade. Plants should be installed this fall.

### **Engineering – Wes Drake, new engineer for Becker, West Otter Tail and East Otter Tail was introduced**

- List of project for each county, prioritize and keep a system in place for request submittal and rankings
- He is overseen by Peter Mead and the Becker SWCD

### **Ag Inspector & CWMA- Marsha Watland**

- Brandy Lakes has a commons area issue. This ended in the Auditor-Treasurer's office.
  - The following gravel pits are part of a certified gravel pit program; Ernie Anderson, Strata and Hough and City of Detroit Lakes which have done an excellent job treating noxious weeds. Enforcement will be tough in future with land management issues. She has discussed this with MACAI representatives.
  - Marsha has sent out 31 notices with Alisa's help. Many have called regarding their notice.
- Met with Dan McLaughlin, Natural Resources for Becker County. They discussed recreation trails and visited regarding management treatment in the Round Lake area. She has been working on this since 2011. He shared concerns with the timber industry and reducing noxious weeds. She hopes to establish a management plan for several areas to assist with this.
- In CRP practices FSA have approved management practices that are not following correct herbicide for weed control. She has worked with Aaron Salo with this management issue.
- Herbicide issues – Escort and other products are hard to find. Treatment notices are still coming though. She has been in touch with area elevators.
- Gravel Pit – Two Inlets visited today. She had to close 2 gravel pits in the last week. She has 45 certified gravel pits. Spotted Knapweed was found but is minimal. Landowners should receive a signed, certified notice from their contractor.
- Shortage of native seeds for use in buffers. Amount of native seed that will be sold because of the buffer program will run short with a concern of unapproved substitutions.

**Open Forum**

High School intern Jonas Mickelson has joined our office during the afternoon. He is eager and will to work and is able to assist Monday through Friday and often later than normal school hours.

**2016 Aquatic Invasive Species Forum**

Partners, Agenda and Discussion Items

Karl has been working on location and reservation needs for this event. There is no confirmed date yet. Kathy Stenger has offered to assist with planning and organization. He hopes to hear back from DNR staff yet this week. More information to come.

New infestations will be the focus, inspection coverage regarding staffing, hours and billed time towards the state aid funding will be addressed. Karl is hoping to have this discussion and engagement with the community on an annual basis.

Aaron, Wes and Peter visited with the Governor briefly during one of his many visits throughout the state. They pitched AIS funding and support efforts.

**Local Ordinance & PW Violations / Mitigation**

Technical Assistance Policy and Fee Schedule

Workload has increased, many in regards to Planning & Zoning staff changes, and our office seems to be handling the brunt of these issues. Nominal fees charges by our office such as site visits and shoreland plans should not be a substitute to many of these issues. Our work has been mostly servicers and not regulatory violations. Our county does not place penalties on these situations and often times the issue is between Zoning, DNR and the Pelican River Watershed. Stormwater and water quality management issues – yes. Violations and mitigation issues – no.

Suggest to refer staff to research other county policies regarding these issues. Traditionally, our office has provided a service to solve conservation problems. These have been handled legally with Zoning Administrator and PRWD leads. Can one be treated different than the other and how is this done with tact and legality?

**Grants and Agreements**

East & West Otter Tail SWCD Agreement for Services

Tabled until next month.

**State Cost Share Amendments for Approval**

# CS-14-8, Tom & Carol Risdahl, Increased project costs by \$129.33. Additional \$97 will be provided from FY 14 Cost Share Funds.

Motion (Stenger, Beck) to approve amendment and cost adjustments of the State Cost Share Amendments. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**State Cost Share Contracts for Approval**

# CS-16-5, Adam Teiken, Field Windbreak. Total project cost \$1,203.75; eligible cost share payment \$900.

Motion (Flottemesch, Schauer) to approve 2016 Cost Share contract. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**State Cost Share Vouchers for Approval**

# CS-14-8, Tom & Carol Risdahl, Shoreland Protection. Total project costs \$3,542.00; eligible cost share payment \$2,656.67

# CS-15-7, Bill Henke, Critical Area Planting

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

**Clean Water Legacy Vouchers for Approval**

# CWL-13-LP, Eric & Lori Daeber, Critical Area Planting. Total project cost \$7,246; eligible cost share payment \$3,623.

# CWL-14-LP, Don Galitz, Critical Area Planting. Total project cost \$2,800; eligible cost share payment \$2,100.

# CWL-15-LP, Jim & Michelle Snyder, Critical Area Planting. Total project cost \$3,010; eligible cost share payment \$2,258.

# CWL-17-LP, Anne Buelow, Shoreland Protection. Total project cost \$4,018; eligible cost share payment \$2,009

Motion (Beck, Flottemesch) to approve for payment the 2015-2016 Clean Water Legacy Vouchers. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Adjourn**

Nothing further, motion to adjourn given by Chairman Pavelko at 11:11 a.m. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

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

**Date: October 19, 2016**