



Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Wednesday, October 19, 2016

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, October 19th 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 SWCD staff Peter Mead, Jen Wentz, Karl Koenig, Ed Clem, Marsha Watland NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, and County Commissioner Barry Nelson.

Call to Order

Chairman Pavelko called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Approval of September Meeting Minutes

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

Financial Reports

Motion (Flottemesch, Schauer) to approve September Treasurer's Report and October Bills for Approval. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

District Reports

District Conservationist - Ed Musielewicz

- End of November is eligibility deadline for EQIP. No payment schedule received yet.
- CSP re-enrollments completed in September. 43 contracts. Webinar attended Monday and Tuesday for the new CSP roll-out. Easier for producers to understand scoring and payments. Ultimately the same eligibility and enhancement requirements. Other land requirements that must be met for erosion control and water quality.
- St Paul received funds to provide additional work on soil health testing at our trial plots on Bruce Nelson's property.
- Ultima lost their contract on October 3rd. A new company took over for our contracted staff, Alisa Bentley. October 4th they were given a cease and desist order for a complaint of the contract terms. Piper McLaughlin contract is currently unconfirmed. Earth Team volunteer was offered as an option which would delay much of the work she currently has for NRCS. District has stepped up and hired her for a total of 32 hours per week until contract terms are settled. The settlement could take up to 20 weeks.

District Administrator - Peter Mead

- We're nearing the homestretch for our building addition. We now, per USDAs terms, have a separate and distinct door to separate the two entities.
- RRVCSA Manager's meeting at the office to discuss the resolution to amend the JPB and the greater issue of technology with an estimate from Lakes Country Coop.
- Ultima contract was addressed as well.

- BWSR Academy teaching on Monday and attending Tuesday as well. Many staff will not attend or will be attending just a couple days of this year's training.
- AIS Conference
- Mapping and GIS analysis with Claire for Drainage Ditch Inventory grant which closes December 31, 2016.
- We have been approached by USFWS at Tamarac Refuge for a donation or permanent loan of their relatively new no-till drills. These could be used for inter-seed cover crop projects and/or inter-seeding berms and buffers.

Program Reports

AIS Prevention-Karl Koenig

- He attended the training and conference in St. Cloud with an audience of 350. Sessions talked about treatments and cooperatives to pool resources. US Geological survey is researching Zebra Mussel treatments. Genetic treatment is currently being discussed but needs to be approved through many regulatory agencies.
- Inspections continue at Detroit, Melissa, Sallie and Cormorant Lakes. Next weekend we will wrap this up. Data will be evaluated. We're looking for progress and violations along with traffic details. We hope to allocate funds for next year using this information
- DNR Senior Specialist Nicole Kovar for NW Region 1 will present at the open forum. Moriya Rufer from RMB Labs will speak as well regarding data collected thus far. Karl will speak about what we've done so far with the program and what needs we have for the future. He will look at other treatment options for Starry Stonewort and Curly Leaf. Many of these treatments have not been cost effective. He hopes to find other possibilities that will make our AIS state aid go farther. He will also look at more staff to work with him and for the cause. He's looking for the best strategy possible with a small group of people to provide guidance.
- We are seeing fewer transports of weeds from lake-to-lake. Outreach efforts have been a great awareness tool and received well by the public.

Buffer Initiative – CRP-Peter Mead

- Aaron is processing renewals and new contracts while working diligently to stay within cap guidelines from Congress.
- Districts are required by end of December to note compliance or non-compliance on agricultural parcels. After being contacted by Tom Gile at BWSR, Peter made his buffer compliance screening tool for ArcGIS available to BWSR, the TSA and other districts. Mary Steinlicht has been screening all available parcel data in TSA 1 and making the data available / editable for each district to assist them with fulfilling their buffer reporting requirements for 2016.

Wetland Conservation Act-Ed Clem

- DL Towing is moving their business east of town on Hwy 10. He worked with them on deminimus exemption of 5000 square feet of wetland impact for their new impound lot.
- He and Claire have completed Co Hwy 25 field and ditch work. They delineated wetlands on the stretch of 4 miles from Hwy 34 to Pickerel Lake Rd access.
- Two WASCBS to install yet this year out of almost 60 installed total. 2 Grassed waterways and 7 wetland restorations. 1 Grade stabilizations.
- McLaughlin's and Long Lake WCA violation cases have been corrected with our office.

Soil Health Initiative-Peter Mead

- Our high school intern Jonas Mickelson has been helping a lot with plot work and clippings for bio-mass analysis and Nitrogen testing.

Shoreland Projects-Marsha Watland

- 26 installs in 2016. Mitigation: 2
- Shop organization: Product Inventory Completed.
- BRRWD District Tour September 26: Poling site-5 acres

Ag Inspector & CWMA-Marsha Watland

- Dan McLaughlin: September 23, Toured Round Lake Recreation Trail for treatment this fall.
- NAISMA Conference: Sept 25-29 Salt Lake City, elected to Board of Directors and WFF-Gravel Committee Coordinator. Excellent conference the tour identified teasel, project with leafy spurge and the different types of evaluation and the final location Utah Lake on how they dealt with Invasive Phragmites with 300' surrounding lake. We have 2 locations on Hwy 10 that are in the third year of treatment.
 - Visited with Terri Hogan-Nat'l Park Service, Invasive Plant Management
 - Bureau of Land Management-Gina Ramos
 - Fish and Wildlife Service-Cindy Hall
 - New source for Spotted Knapweed Weevils-Montana-Missoula
- Phone interview: Pit & Quarry Magazine by Loretta Sorenson
- Gravel Pits: September 21 met with Dan from WDS in Two Inlets to certify pit before working on Hwy 44, started moving gravel September 26.
- October 13th met with Brian McDonald, Becker County Attorney to go over 2 sites that failed to treat noxious weed site. L & M Road Services are hired to treat area.
- Oct. 14 Hwy 37 Treatment

Engineering-Peter Mead

- Drake has been surveying sites in each of the three district areas of Becker, West and East Otter Tail. He and Ed M. reviewed a site near the RTC and White Earth lagoons. Survey and preliminary designs for Grade stabs and WSCBs on the Zurn and Okeson properties. His request sheet is filling up fast.

Open Forum

- Conservation Corps assistance grants were open yesterday. Peter will apply for Conservation Corp assistance on shoreland installations again in 2017.
- Sewer inspections have taken another route through the Planning & Zoning office. District has noticed workload increases due to staff turnover in the Planning & Zoning department.

2016 MASWCD Board Resolutions

- Resolutions Packet given to all board members; Ballot Submission to MASWCD office by November 1st. Supervisors will review and complete before they leave today.

TSA 1 Reorganization

- Resolution to Amend JPA Establishing the Red River Valley Conservation Service Area
- Summary of the main points and changes:

- Delegated either a board member or staff manager to be a member of the board
- 16 Districts that govern the board by removing reference to the former Marshall-Beltrami SWCD
- Executive committees established for equal representation by delegated members from North and South regions.

Motion (Stenger, Beck) to approve the amendment to the JPA for RRVCSA. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2017 Tree Program

- Species Selection, Pricing & Planting Rates
- We removed a few varieties; raised bare root prices by \$0.05 and increased apple trees by \$2.00 based on increased nursery costs. Hand planting minimum charge \$200. Bare roots \$1 and potted \$2.50. Machine planting rates and setup charge to remain unchanged for 2017.

Motion (Beck, Schauer) to approve the 2017 tree order form and planting rates as written and discussed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Grants and Agreements

- East & West Otter Tail SWCD Agreement for Services
- Outlines the engineering services that we're sharing and the services that Becker SWCD is providing to the employed individual. Includes benefits and vehicle costs to be readdressed annually after 2017. One board member and manager from each District to review progress and agreement annually.

Motion (Schauer, Flottesmesch) to approve agreement. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

BWSR/MASWCD/NRCS Technology Survey

- Recent technology issues have been addressed through TSA and Districts. We have identified the need for a statewide survey for tech essentials across the state. LeAnn Buck and Doug Thomas have discussed similarly. Thomas found approximately \$18,000 to be used for development, administration and analysis of the results for such requirements. We have been asked to act as fiscal agent for the grant. Proposal calls for just under \$16,000 to develop survey, administer to staff and work with group of Mead, Newville, Buck, Loffler, and Malone. We will be reimbursed for our time on the project. BWSR board approved the funds by resolution, work plan is complete. We will contract with Minnesota Management & Budget.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Stenger) to authorize administration to involve Becker SWCD in this agreement and contract with MMB for the services. Becker SWCD will act as fiscal agent and coordinator. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Legacy Amendments for Approval

CWL-03-LP, Del Bergseth, Increased project costs. Site conditions increased by \$1,319 which pulls more funding from Lake Protection grant and the need for funds from 2015 State Cost-Share.

Motion (Beck, Schauer) to approve the amendment of the Clean Water Legacy Amendments. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

State Cost Share Contracts for Approval

CS-15-9, Del Bergseth, Critical Area Planting. Total project cost \$10,173; eligible cost share payment \$7,630.

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

Clean Water Legacy Vouchers for Approval

CWL-14-BR, Curt Ullrich, Grassed Waterway. Total project costs \$13,775. 90% cost share payment allowed. EQIP payment of \$3,566. Eligible cost share payment \$8,832.

Motion (Schauer, 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 10:15 a.m. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Approved: Kathy Stenger, Becker SWCD Secretary

Date: November 21, 2016