



**Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 15, 2017**

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 in the Conference Room of the USDA Ag Center Building located at 809 8th Street SE, Detroit Lakes, MN.

Those present were Supervisors Jerome Flottesmesch, Travis Schauer, Chairman Eugene Pavelko and Kathy Stenger. Others present include District Administrator Peter Mead, Office Manager Jen Wentz, NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, Ag Inspector/Shoreland Coordinator Marsha Watland, Program Technician Aaron Salo and AIS Coordinator Karl Koenig. Others in attendance: Lowell Deede.

Call to Order: Chairman Pavelko called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

Approval of January Meeting Minutes: No changes to report.

Motion (Stenger, Schauer) to approve the January meeting minutes. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Supervisor's Special Meetings:

- 2/13/2017 Special Meeting Local Water Management Plan
- 2/21/2017 MASWCD Area 1 Meeting
- 2/22/2017 Lakes Area Regulations and Best Practices
- 3/20 & 3/21/2017 MASWCD Legislative Briefing & Day at the Capitol

Approval of 2/13/2017 Special Meeting Minutes:

Summary of Findings were reviewed and are as follows: *The Board finds that sufficient opportunities have been provided for public and agency input, each component, goal and suggested action towards the priority concerns are addressed within the Becker County Local Water Management Plan as presented, and that with the acknowledgement, incorporation or reference to the comments received today the document fulfills the needs and requirements of a local water management plan.*

Motion (Flottesmesch, Stenger) to approve the February 13th Special Meeting Minutes. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Financial Reports: January financials and February bills were reviewed.

Motion (Schauer, Stenger) to approve the January Treasurer's Report and the February bills for payment. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

District Reports:

District Conservationist - Ed Musielewicz

- EQIP ranking period has ended with 32 applications for \$1.3 million.
- Deadline for scoring is next Friday.
- Red River Valley Basin funding is over loaded. \$507 million on the books thus far with another 100 applications to upload.
- CSP application eligibility deadline is March 10th. The ranking and scoring deadline is June 9th.
- The following meetings have been organized:
 - Soil Health Round Table is scheduled for March 22nd at USDA Conference Room.
 - Mahnomen and Clay counties will bring a producer.
 - Becker has invited 3 producers.
 - Mike Faight, farmer from Casselton, ND; Kevin Dreyer, farmer from New York Mills, MN; Michael Steeke, farmer and consultant from Perham.

- Straight River Groundwater Management is scheduled for March 16th at Osage Town Hall.
 - Luke Stuewe, MDA will present.
 - Michael Steeke will speak about variable rate fertilizers and operations.

District Administrator - Peter Mead

- Other than scanning of various comments and documents regarding Local Water Management 2017-2027, the plan is complete.
 - Resource & Risk Assessment section has been added.
 - The plan now moves to BWSR Board for agency review.
 - Keith Mernitz, Trout Unlimited charter member shared his data and notes with Peter and they were reviewed today.

Program Reports:

Program Technician - Aaron Salo

- CREP webinar and agreement has been signed.
- Start date for kick-off is mid-April.
- Adjusted initial allocation has been reduced to 60,000 acres. This will be filter strips mostly with the remaining divided between wetland restoration projects.
- Update RIM rates for 2017. CREP = CRP merging with the RIM program.
 - Base CRP rate and incentives subtracted from RIM rate to determine CREP payment.
 - Considered a permanent CRP program.
 - 15 years' worth of CRP payments at an accelerated rate and RIM payment upfront.
- Filter Strips will be priority in the next few months. Applications will be taken in batches each month.
- 4,000 easements over the next five years.
- Another 20-25 easement staff has been added to make this happen.
- CREP agreement is a 10 year agreement but additional acreage can be added during that time.
- Updating township values. Rates are not out yet and haven't been updated since 2015.
- Anything that *does not* have crop history *is not* eligible for CREP.

County Ag Inspector & Shoreland Coordinator, Marsha Watland

- Reviewed Gravel Pit certification and inspection guidelines.
 - Has been updating this with Becker County attorneys, MDA State Weed Official Tony Cortilet and others.
 - Enforcement comes back to our County Commissioners.
 - If there is an issue with noxious weed infested gravel crossing county lines, Marsha will work with the CAI.
 - All paperwork comes through Marsha as the County Ag Inspector.
 - Township weed inspectors are allowed on private property as long as they've attended the proper training sessions.
- Reviewed MN Noxious Weed Law.
 - The list of restricted weeds has tripled.
 - Palmer Amaranth continues to pose a major problem.

AIS & Water Quality Coordinator, Karl Koenig

- MPCA has developed a data set and mapping collection, *Citizen Lake and Stream Monitoring Programs*, to better analyze surface water monitoring and identify priority volunteer monitoring locations.
- Coordination with the Buffalo River Watershed District will allow monitoring of impaired waters annually. Lakes holding a public access are a priority, yet many lakes with accesses do not have any data, or even a monitoring site. Most of the lakes in Becker County don't have enough secchi data for trend analysis.
- Determining water quality standards are met by taking 4 monthly total Phosphorus and Chlorophyll A samples paired with secchi readings for two years is acceptable but is only completed every 10 years through the WRAPS cycle on some waters. There may be a need to collect these samples periodically to ensure standards are met.
- Staff gauges installed at priority stream crossings will be a valuable tool provided by MPCA.
- Effectiveness monitoring through MPCA is another option for long-term improvement.

Citizen Stream Monitoring Program volunteer with MPCA, Lowell Deede

- Shared his data and findings from the *2016 Becker County River Transparency Report*.
- Profile samplings of various streams can lead to substantial discoveries.
- MPCA requires 20 samples per site per year. He has recovered at least that or more.

2017 Fees for Service: Review and approve the following program fee schedules.

Shoreland

- \$50 per hour for technical assistance.
- Site assessment or site visit \$60 each.
- Mitigation plan starts at \$250.
- Commercial plan for developers or commercial property owners will start at \$500.

Tree Planting

- Machine planting base fee will be \$150 plus a rate of \$0.25 per tree.
- Hand planting fees will be \$1.00 for bare root and \$2.50 for potted trees, with a minimum charge of \$200.

Irrigation Scheduler

- \$200 per field which equals one crop under one pivot.
\$175 per field if two or more fields are enrolled.
- This is the same as the counties of Hubbard, Otter Tail, Wadena and Todd.

WCA

- No changes to the current fee schedule.

Motion (Schauer, Flottemesch) to approve the administrations recommended fee schedule for the above programs.

2017 State Cost Share Allocations

- \$7,000 for Ag Waste Systems.
- \$10,000 for Shoreland Protection.
- \$3,836 for general structural or vegetative nutrient and sediment reduction projects.

Motion (Flottemesch, Schauer) to approve the above set asides for 2017 State Cost-Share funds. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Adjourn: Chairman Pavelko adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

Approved: Kathy Stenger, Becker SWCD Secretary

Date: March 15, 2017