



Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Wednesday, June 21, 2017

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, June 21, 2017 in the Conference Room of the USDA Ag Center Building located at 809 8th Street SE, Detroit Lakes, MN.

Those present: Supervisors Tony Beck, Jerome Flottemesch, Chairman Eugene Pavelko and Kathy Stenger. District Administrator Peter Mead, Office Manager Jen Wentz and Water Resource Tech Ed Clem. Others present include Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson and Lowell Deede.

Call to Order

Chairman Pavelko called the meeting to order at 8:39 a.m.

Approval of May Meeting Minutes

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

Financial Reports

Motion (Stenger, Flottemesch) to approve May treasurer's report as presented and pay the list of bills for June. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Approval of Special Meetings & Supervisor Vouchers

- May 10 and 11, Fischer Farm – 5th Grade Tour – Frazee
- June 20, MASWCD Area 1 Meeting – Crookston
- June 27, TSA Work Group

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to approve Supervisor vouchers and special meetings for quarter 2. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Committee Appointments

Travis Schauer will be deployed overseas and absent from board meetings for the next 6 months. He currently holds committee positions in Budget and Personnel. We will appoint a board member to take his position on the committees.

- Budget Committee: Kathy Stenger will assist Tony Beck with the budget committee.
- Personnel Committee: Kathy Stenger will assist Eugene Pavelko with the personnel committee.

District Reports

Peter Mead reported on behalf of District Conservationist - Ed Musielewicz

- Final EQIP 2017 data: 28 contracts for \$1.18 million.
- Application deadline for 2018 EQIP funding consideration is August 18.
- RCCP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program) for Ag Certainty. One contract pre-approved for \$54K (cover crop, irrigation water management & forage planting). Two 2018 applications for \$109K. Application for 2018 funding consideration is March 2, 2018. This is a good opportunity for people to use EQIP funds if they need help becoming certified. We certainly have a lot of opportunity in Becker County for people to become certified.

- CSP: Ranking deadline is June 30. Preapprovals by July 3.
- Cooperative Working Agreement: The SWCD Board should consider completing an agreement. Peter & Ed can bring something to the board in July for consideration.
- Nominees for 2017 outstanding conservation cooperator.
- Construction has started - Norby, Olson & Clem. Crabtree 638 (done), Bergren 638 (started), Foltz 410's (started), Marjamaa Ag waste closure (started).
- Justin Morris, Northeast Region Soil Health Specialist, toured areas 1 and 2 and stopped by Bruce Nelson's on May 19. He dug a few holes at Bruce's 2016 cover crop demo. The picture presented to the board shows good cover crop root structure. Soil aggregates are clinging to the roots from exuded sugars and will feed microbes to convert carbon to organic matter and organic matter to usable nutrients for plants.
- Ed is the acting Area Resource Conservationist until August 31.

District Administrator - Peter Mead

- Approved Farm Bill Assistance application. Existing FBA position was approved for continued funding in Becker County. Additional position was not denied but BWSR has encouraged DNR to bring more funding towards the position. There are additional opportunities for funding on the horizon via CREP and other avenues.
- Attended Brett Arne's manager meeting. Tom Gile spoke of Buffer Law including county and watershed districts affirmation of jurisdiction on public waters and public ditch systems. Wild Rice did not affirm. Pelican River did affirm. Buffalo Red did affirm. There are no public ditches in Cormorant. Becker County's jurisdiction will extend to all affected public watercourses, public water basins and public ditches that lie outside of organized watershed districts, as well as 0.93 miles of public ditch within the south branch of the wild rice watershed.
- Buffer compliance funding: \$5 million continues to be appropriated from Clean Water Legacy funds for buffer implementation assistance, with an additional \$5 million appropriation to counties this year to assist landowners with implementation costs. These funds will be divided 50/50 between CREP and Non-CREP counties in the state, then distributed according to total agricultural acres by county.

Program Reports

AIS Prevention, presented by Peter Mead on behalf of Karl Koenig

- 33 watercraft inspectors have completed approximately 7,000 inspections at 27 lakes since fishing opener.
- 2 zebra mussel violations were reported to DNR enforcement. With 20 returning inspectors, we have an experienced team who has been doing a good job identifying violations and helping boaters to understand the policies associated with transporting boats.
- The decontamination units have been well-used at the Detroit and Melissa locations, but not as much at Height of Land. He is scheduling Friday shifts out at Big Cormorant based on their interest and the increasing zebra mussel population at that lake.
- We have obtained a quote from RMB Labs to conduct invasive plant monitoring at 15 public accesses. These were selected based on the amount of boat traffic at each location over the past 2 seasons. RMB's quote of \$1,900 is quite a bit more reasonable than others. This will be completed in mid to late July to best observe Starry Stonewort and other invasive plants.
- In addition to print and radio outreach, we have delivered AIS prevention coasters to 14 bars, focusing on the more lake-oriented establishments. They have been very well-received, with more than 5,000 distributed. We also have a [commercial on TV3](#), which runs daily and can be seen by over 18,000 households.
- Karl has attended 8 lake association meetings this month.

Wetland Conservation Act presented by Ed Clem

- Details of the complex airport project were emailed to board members for review. This covers 14 acres of impact with the majority involving not so much the runway but the back slope. It extends into a wetland off Hwy 59 and behind L&M Fleet with an access road that must cross the wetland. Purchase agreements are in place for wetland

credits primarily from Becker County with some from a wetland bank in Roseau County. This project amounts to \$750K in mitigation costs. We will hold a public hearing next month. Officials from FAA, Mead & Hunt, USCOE, City of Detroit Lakes and Pelican River Watershed District are expected to be in attendance. They would like to start the project this fall and will be completed in four phases. They will begin by building a parallel taxiway running the entire length of the runway to the northeast. Airport road will be closed. Steel Wood and Foltz Buildings Inc. will need to be cleared out of the existing space. The parallel taxiway will be able to keep airport traffic running while the project is underway. A complete project summary will be presented next month. Interested agencies and the public will be able to comment at the hearing: TEP will present findings and recommendations.

- Second Public Hearing: City of Detroit Lakes adding sanitary water and sewer on Hwy 59 past Willow Springs where the new jail will be constructed. Officials hope to install a multi-use trail in conjunction with the utility work between Willow Springs and TH 59.

Engineering Practices, presented by Peter Mead on behalf of Wes Drake

- EOT projects that they hope to be constructing this summer/fall are taking his priority.
- Muston – Drainage/water quality project that involves 10 lake property owners and the township road. He'll have final plans for the July Township meeting to approve.
- Prenke – Sediment basin involving 2 lake property owners. They want it staked before July 4th so they can decide if it will work for them.
- Knapp – Assist EOT technical staff with diversion on lake property and constructing a rain garden next month.
- Okeson/Rousu – Finish preliminary estimate using Option 1 by June 30th.
- Schouviller – Complete final design when County Hwy Dept. approves preliminary.
- Last Monday he setup the new GPS for EOT and gave a hands-on training with the staff. He will provide additional training and procedure sheets in the future.
- He's headed to 4 sites in WOT today.

Ag Inspector & CWMA, presented by Peter Mead on behalf of Marsha Watland

- Gravel pit inspections are still underway. Detroit Mountain is currently being treated. Weed notices and identification measures are taking place.
- Attended the RAC (Recreation Advisory Committee) with Dan McLaughlin on May 30. They heard from LAMBAT Organization regarding the Mountain View Recreation Area 2017 Proposal for installing a multi-purpose trail located at Mt. View. The Bicycle Club will volunteer their time for trail cleanup.
 - She feels the RAC is not well organized, there seems to be no understanding of rules, ordinances or laws for recreation use in Becker County. Decisions could not be made on a proposal that was submitted last fall. With lack of information, legal ordinances and rules, nothing could be submitted to Becker County Commissioners for approval or denial. RAC is an important committee with room to grow and become more efficient.

Shoreland, presented by Peter Mead on behalf of Marsha Watland

- Busy with shoreland site evaluations and design
- Visited sites from 2016 project installs for Daeuber, Gerasch and Benedict
- Visited sites from 2015 project installs for Hanson, Fogelson and Garrett
- Assisted with shoreland stabilization installs at Scallon, Wilson, Herman (2), Halvorson, Fredrickson, Richards, Ruel, Moyer and Thorson
- Benedict's project is completed and ready to pay cost-share.

Open Forum

Barry Nelson noted that an additional parcel adjacent to Middle Cormorant public access has been purchased by the county. They are working with highway department to make improvements and retain shoreland along the access, and seeking planning assistance from the district to control runoff and erosion. RAC will also need to be involved.

Lowell Deede presented a map of photos taken during February 2017 showing a wide range of flood conditions throughout our Counties rivers and streams.

He constructed a watershed puzzle for Becker County. He hopes to use this for educational purposes with school groups and citizens alike. He found various named rivers that he wasn't aware of and thought that developing this would be a great informative tool for the public.

He recently took appointment as board member of the Pelican River Watershed District. He fills the empty seat of David Brainard.

Local Water Management

Adoption of 2017-2027 Becker County Local Water Management Plan. This was approved in April by BWSR, and adopted by Becker County Commissioners on 6/20/17. As the content, goals and action items the County Plan identify the areas within the district where erosion, sedimentation, and related water quality problems are the most severe, and identify high priority erosion, sedimentation, and water quality problems in accordance with BWSR rules and guidelines, the district may adopt the LWP as its comprehensive plan.

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) resolving to adopt the 2017-2027 Becker County Local Water Management Plan as the SWCD's comprehensive plan. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Buffer Implementation

MN Statute §103F.48, Subd. 4. Requires SWCDs in Minnesota to develop rationale & criteria and provide a "summary of watercourses" identifying "other waters" for voluntary protective measures, which must be adopted locally and provided to all local water management authorities.

Maps of the county were developed and distributed to the County, Buffalo Red, Wild Rice, Cormorant and Pelican River Watershed Districts, using the criteria matching the legal definitions of public waters. The key point is that these summaries of watercourses are in no way subject to any State or local authority, including but not limited to Minnesota Statute §103F.48, or further regulation and have been generated solely for potential future voluntary conservation efforts. The summary of watercourses will also be included in the local water plan as an amendment in 2018.

Motion (Stenger, Beck) to approve the resolution for the implementation of "Other Waters" as detailed on the map presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Grants & Agreements

2018 MN DNR Observation Well Monitoring Agreement. This will be submitted to DNR this coming year for observation well monitoring. We are reimbursed \$35 for each successful online submittal and \$720 for any additional wells.

Motion (Beck, Stenger) to approve the 2018 MN DNR Observation Well Monitoring Agreement. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

State Cost Share Vouchers for Payment

#CS-16-2, Jim & Pam Benedict, Raingarden & Critical Area Planting. Total project costs \$6,564; eligible cost-share payment \$3,282.

Motion (Stenger, Flottemesch) to approve payment of the above listed 2016 State Cost-Share project. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Legacy Contracts for Approval

#CWL-26-BR, Mary Poling, Critical Area Planting and Herbicide Treatment. Estimated project costs \$1,711; eligible for 50% cost share of \$855.

#CWL-26-LP, Kevin & Brenda Wolf, Shoreline Stabilization on Buffalo Lake. Estimated project costs \$4,747; eligible for 75% cost share of \$3,560.

#CWL-27-LP, Bryan & Lisa Olschlager, Critical Area Planting. Estimated project costs \$6,354; eligible for 75% cost share of \$4,765.

#CWL-28-LP, Richard Taylor, Shoreline Stabilization. Estimated project costs \$12,568; eligible for 50% cost share of \$6,284.

#CWL-29-LP, Justin Scallon, Shoreline Stabilization. Estimated project costs \$8,822; eligible for 75% cost share of \$6,617.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to approve the above listed Clean Water Legacy contracts. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

State Cost Share Contracts for Approval

#CS-17-5, Randi Schaeffer, Shoreline Stabilization on Leaf Lake. Estimated project costs \$5,261; eligible for 50% cost share of \$2,630.

#CS-17-6, Kathy Buchholz with Nodaway Condos. Estimated project costs \$5,940; eligible for 50% cost share of \$2,970.

Motion (Beck, Flottemesch) to approve the above listed 2017 State Cost-Share contracts. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Pavelko at 10:26 a.m.

Approved: Kathy Stenger, Becker SWCD Secretary

Date: July 19, 2017