



Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Wednesday, August 16, 2017

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, August 16, 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 Ag Inspector Marsha Watland. Others present include Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson.

Call to Order

Chairman Pavelko called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Approval of July Meeting Minutes

Updates were made earlier and were emailed and copied for all board members to review. No additional changes to report. Motion (Beck, Stenger) to approve the July meeting minutes. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Financial Reports

July Treasurer's Report was reviewed.

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to approve the July Treasurers Report and the August Bills for Approval. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

District Reports

District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, as reported by Peter Mead

- CSP – 12 applications approved, 5896 ac, \$305,175. Ray & Alisa are working on the final touches to get producers in to sign contracts, including Specs for all possible practices for each application.
- EQIP – Application deadline to be considered for 2018 funds is August 18. 34 have applied to date.
- Ray Hummel accepted the DC position in St. James, Watonwan Co, effective 18-September. At this point we do not know if all his travel will be ready by that date. He may work out of DL for a time until that gets squared away.

District Administrator - Peter Mead

- Fair portion of time in recent weeks was spent on CWL grant applications.
- Prairie Restoration Inc. has been contracted to address issues at Dawn Morgan site on Turtle Lake. Details were forwarded to supervisors' earlier last month.
- County SSMAF Project – 2 vendor demos and hope to choose a Vendor by months end.
- RAC meeting attended regarding the swimming beach restoration project on Middle Cormorant Lake.
 - Nelson noted the 50 foot lot to the south which was purchased by the county. Becker County is hoping to make a more pleasant location for the public's use.
- Conducted water testing at the Becker County fair last month.
- Otter Tail Watershed Water Course WRAPS- related meeting that reviewed DNR Stream Stability study, culvert inventory and discussed monitoring priorities within each sub-watershed.
- Traveled to Park Rapids for the Crow Wing Healthy Watersheds meeting. There will potentially be additional RIM funding targeted towards the Upper Crow Wing Watershed and Pine river watershed upstream and downstream of the Whitefish chain of lakes. As with other "RIM in the Trees" programs, would potentially pay a straight 60 percent of assessed value for perpetual easements focused on source water protection. Also discovered TNC interest to market and initiate these projects, and fund outreach/ coordination efforts.
- Fish Fry held last Tuesday for the entire USDA office.
- FAC meeting held that morning. Federal partners are in the process of renewing/renegotiating their lease.
- TEP meeting held that week as well regarding the pending replacement plan applications.
- Will be attending BWSR North Region staff meeting in Two Harbors to discuss TSA organizations.

- Audit of SWCD and TSA on August 29th and 30th as well as a grant reconciliation on September 1st with BWSR staff.

Program Reports

AIS Prevention

- Watercraft inspections are beginning to taper off for the season, with 6 inspectors finishing up for the season on 8/13.
- The final weeks of the inspection season will focus on the busiest lakes and the lakes who have contributed funds for additional inspection hours. Inspections will run through October, weather permitting.
- Inspections completed: 18,695
- 4 Zebra Mussel violations have been referred to DNR Enforcement, 2 incidents involved boats attempting to enter Detroit Lake and 2 occurred at Upper Cormorant Lake.
- About 250 Decontaminations have been completed, mostly at Detroit
- Inspectors have worked several angling tournaments. Some groups are very good about AIS prevention and others are not.
- Karl will be working at the "EDAK" bass tournament at Upper Cormorant on 8/26 to work on improving compliance with these groups. Attending Cormorant Days on Saturday, August 19 with an AIS informational booth.
- The AIS Sign Inventory is almost complete, with several state, tribal, and county accesses found to have dated or non-existent AIS prevention signs. With permission from access administrators, these will be updated with DNR AIS prevention signs. Signs will also be installed at several resorts.

Wetland Conservation Act

- Clem has received a few questions for driveway approaches, setbacks.
- Not many new violations to report.
- Some investigations have been delayed due to a non-responsive game warden.

Ag Inspector & CWMA

- Meadow Knapweed
 - Discovered during gravel pit inspections August 11th.
 - MDA is in the process of testing the leaf material. She's been in contact with several individuals and agencies.
 - Listed on the eradicate list.
 - At this point, cost share is not available but funds will be available from October through next fall through the Minnesota Noxious Weed Law Fund. Will apply for funds to treat area for next year.
- MACAI
 - She has been working with the New Seed and Biotech Unit Supervisor, Denise Thiede as well as Jeff Siira.
 - All seed testing has showed zero Palmer Amaranth thus far.
- Pesticide Applicator Testing
 - Mike Fick with MDA has assisted with many exams in Becker County.
 - Electronic exams test site was Stearns County and will soon be available for additional counties. Becker County has put in a request for electronic exams.
 - More changes to come.
- Weed Notices
 - Notice 2's have been treated so far.
- Biological Control
 - Presented a sample map of bio control held on the Seaberg property and Detroit Township.
 - Most control efforts have been placed in northeastern Becker County. Collection of spotted knapweed seed and root weevils are located at the Detroit Lakes Airport; Leafy Spurge flea beetles are in Lake View Township.
 - Weevils will be deposited today near recreational trails in Round Lake Township.
- Highway Treatment
 - Perspective is no longer available.
 - Treatment designated for late May and June did not start until July 14.
- Gravel Pit Inspections
 - A good portion of Becker County has been completed.

- Inventory is set and we know where treatment is needed.
- Canada Thistle and Plumless Thistle have been discovered but is being treated.
- Common Tansy
 - White Earth Natural Resources reached out to her regarding treatment needs.
- Recreational Trails
 - SWCD office interns and seasonal staff have been doing a wonderful job of inventory.
 - Treatment options and timelines are underway.
 - Nelson noted that Becker County is developing a new ditch mowing schedule to control weeds better.

Farm Bill Assistance

- Updating CREP applications.
- Irrigation routes have been busy.

Engineering

- EOT construction projects.
- Abatement projects in WOT.

Shoreland

- Working on site evaluations, design and inspection of past projects.
- Gabe Dretsch attended and gave a presentation at the COLA meeting.

Regular monthly board meeting was called to recess at 9:33 a.m.

9:33 – Public Hearing – Wetland Conservation Act

No additional parties were present for the hearing.

1. Scott Bristlin Wetland Replacement Plan

Applicant proposes to construct driveway to access building site on parcel of land. The driveway will cross 160 feet of wetland to access an island that the applicant wishes to build a home on. Applicant proposes to purchase wetland credits at 2: 1 ratio to replace wetland impacts. Total Impact Size is 3,840 sq feet.

TEP Findings and Recommendations were reviewed by Peter Mead.

The TEP finds that the project purpose and need were identified in the application and reasonable. The TEP finds that this project should not have a significant adverse effect on Special Considerations including threatened and endangered species and rare natural communities. The TEP finds that while the impacted wetland is riparian to a DNR public stream designated as a trout stream, this project should not have a significant adverse impact on this special fish and wildlife resource. The TEP noted the applicant's proposed culvert placements in this driveway to minimize the impact to surface water flow in the wetland. The TEP finds that WCA sequencing requirements of wetland impact avoidance and minimization were addressed in the application. The TEP discussed with the applicant the importance of maintaining an undisturbed vegetated buffer around the perimeter of the island during and after home construction and utilizing erosion control bmps during driveway construction to protect the adjacent wetland. The TEP finds that the proposed purchase of .04 acres of wetland credits through the MN Wetland Banking system will replace the public value of wetland loss due to this project. The TEP recommends approval of this wetland replacement plan.

Comment, Jerome Flottesmesch: He is concerned with possible future annexing of the property and additional impacts to wetlands if or when sewer / water is extended to property.

There were no further comments in support of or against this wetland replacement plan.

2. Tom Fish Wetland Replacement Plan

Applicant proposes to construct a driveway to access a lake lot on Fish Lake. The driveway will cross 43.5 feet of Type 7 forested wetland to reach a building site for a cabin. Applicant proposes to purchase credits at 2: 1 ratio to replace wetland impacts. Total Impact size is 870 sq feet.

TEP Findings and Recommendations were reviewed by Peter Mead.

The TEP finds that the project purpose and need were identified in the application and reasonable. The TEP finds that this project will not have a significant adverse effect on Special Considerations including threatened and endangered species, rare natural communities, and special fish and wildlife resources. The TEP finds that WCA sequencing requirements of wetland impact avoidance and minimization were addressed in the application. The TEP finds that the proposed purchase of .04 acres of wetland credits through the MN Wetland Banking system will replace the public value of wetland loss due to this project. The TEP recommends approval of this wetland replacement plan.

There were no comments in support of or against this wetland replacement plan.

Public Hearing closed at 9:50 a.m. Chairman Pavelko reconvened the regular monthly meeting.

Scott Bristlin Wetland Replacement Plan

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to accept the TEP panel findings with the concern noted and recorded and approve the wetland replacement plan. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Tom Fish Wetland Replacement Plan

Motion (Stenger, Beck) to accept the TEP panel findings noting there were no further positive or negative comments made, and approve the wetland replacement plan. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Open Forum

BWSR Listening Session to be held on September 6th from 9 a.m. – noon at M State in Detroit Lakes. Potential visit at the SWCD office with DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr that afternoon.

Board members discussed operations of the District and steps to be taken moving forward.

MASWCD Awards

Nomination / Selection of 2018 Outstanding Conservationist.

Three possible suggestions were discussed with the following conservation practices: sediment basins, grazing management, cover crops, no-till farming, wetland restorations, and wildlife habitat enhancement.

Two options were chosen during the meeting. The first individual will be contacted with the second choice available if needed.

Motion (Stenger, Flottemesch) to appoint the 2018 Outstanding Conservationist as noted. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Grants & Agreements

Approval of FY18 Buffalo Red Shallow Lakes & Mainstem Improvement Strategy CWF Submittal. Phase II grant for another \$398,000 to continue the highly successful work of the 2015 and 2013 grants with the same goals and project objectives.

Approval of FY18 Targeted Phosphorus Reduction & Lake Protection Project CWF Submittal. Phase II proposal for \$376,250 to fund the momentum an interest generated under phase I.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to approve the above grant agreement submittals. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Warehouse Lease Renewal. New lease agreement for the storage facility on Mallard St. Rate increase to \$1,150 per month due to rising taxes. New lease reflects a \$50 increase monthly.

Motion (Stenger, Beck) to approve the updated lease agreement and increase of \$50 per month to the storage building rental agreement. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Legacy Amendments for Approval

CWL-18-LP, Darin Halvorson, increased project costs. Requires an additional \$318 in cost share dollars to provide 75% assistance.

CWL-28-LP, Richard Taylor, additional footage. Requires an additional \$2,429 in cost share dollars to provide 50% assistance.

Motion (Beck, Flottemesch) to approve the CWL amendments as noted above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

State Cost Share Amendments for Approval

CS-16-6, Denise Fredrickson, increased project costs. Requires an additional \$284 in cost share dollars to provide 50% assistance.

Motion (Stenger, Beck) to approve the State Cost Share amendment above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Legacy Contracts for Approval

CWL-30-LP, Mike & Rhonda Montgomery, Shoreland/Streambank Stabilization. Estimated project costs \$8,393; eligible cost share \$4,196 to provide 50% assistance.

CWL-31-LP, Barbara Jacobs, Shoreland/Streambank Stabilization, Raingarden. Estimated project costs \$6,405; eligible cost share \$3,202 to provide 50% assistance.

CWL-32-LP, Tyler Derouin, Shoreland/Streambank Stabilization, Raingarden. Estimated project costs \$5,775; eligible cost share \$2,887 to provide 50% assistance.

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to approve the above Clean Water Legacy Lake Protection grant contracts. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Legacy Vouchers for Payment

CWL-02-LP, Gerald & Beverly Moyer, Critical Area Planting. Total project costs \$2,331; total cost share payment \$1,165.

CWL-18-LP, Darin Halvorson, Shoreland/Streambank Stabilization. Total project costs \$7,183; total cost share payment \$5,388.

CWL-21-LP, Michael and Brenda Ruehl, Shoreland/Streambank Stabilization. Total project costs \$3,628; total cost share payment \$1,814.

CWL-28-LP, Richard Taylor, Shoreland/Streambank Stabilization. Total project costs \$17,425; total cost share payment \$8,713.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to approve payment on the above listed CWL Lake Protection completed projects. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

State Cost Share Vouchers for Payment

CS-16-6, Denise Fredrickson, Critical Area Planting. Total project costs \$4,326; total cost share payment \$2,163.

CS-17-4, Steve & Sheila Anderson, Critical Area Planting. Total project costs \$4,790; total cost share payment \$2,395.

CS-17-5, Randi Schaeffer, Shoreland/Streambank Stabilization, Raingarden. Total project costs \$4,629; total cost share payment \$2,315.

Motion (Beck, Stenger) to approve payment of the above listed State Cost Share completed projects. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Adjourn

With no further business to report, Chairman Pavelko adjourned the meeting at 11:33 a.m. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Approved: Kathy Stenger, Becker SWCD Secretary

Date: September 20, 2017