



Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, July 18, 2018 in the Conference Room of the USDA Ag Center Building located at 809 8th Street SE, Detroit Lakes, MN.

Those present were Chairman Tony Beck, Eugene Pavelko, Jerome Flottesmesch, Travis Schauer and Kathy Stenger. Staff members include Program Technician Aaron Salo (filling-in for Peter Mead), Office Manager Jen Wentz and NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz. Making their debut were Miles Ritch, NRCS Pathways trainee and Dylan Kruzel, Conservation Apprentice. Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson was also in attendance.

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 8:32 a.m. by Chairman Beck.

Approval of Minutes, Agenda and Consent Agenda Items

(June 20, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes; Employee Program Reports)

Motion (Pavelko, Flottesmesch) to approve the June minutes as well as the agenda and consent agenda. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Financials

Treasurers Report and Bills for Approval. Wentz reviewed the June reports and list of bills to pay for July.

Motion (Schauer, Pavelko) to approve June Treasurers Report and pay the list of bills. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

District Reports

Program Technician's Report, presented by Aaron Salo

- CRP has re-opened sign-up in June but took away some core practices for landowners. With a lack of those, reenrollment of expiring CRP contracts will be less than anticipated. CRP offers must be signed by August 17th.
- Completed 350 acre wetland restoration site in Becker County.
- Salo and Doll attended a CREP update webinar. The state realizes they need to boost payment incentives in order to develop the program. Existing CRP and a larger percentage of non-cropland acres will be eligible.
- CREP closing for Rorah is slated for the near future.
- Various RIM sites underway will close in the next month or two.
- Irrigation Scheduling program. Salo gave an overview of the data that is collected and how it is used. RESPEC (EOT Irrigation Management Assistant) has built an online platform for calculations. Weather data is automatically collected and uploaded.

Shoreland Program Report, presented by Dylan Kruzel, Conservation Apprentice

- Dylan reviewed 2018 shoreland projects and highlighted the following lakes: Detroit, Bad Medicine, Little Cormorant and Long Lake.
- Projects included: several raingardens, hydro-mulching and various shoreline restorations.
- Mollberg, Detroit Lake, native buffer.
- Middle Cormorant Beach, joined with Conservation Corps volunteers to place 21 coir logs, 3 buffers, 3 beaches, 2 raingardens and various trees.
- Fireside, Detroit Lake, raingardens.
- Scallon, Detroit Lake, raingardens at various locations.

CY 2019 Budget

Review Draft and Committee Recommendations. Wentz reviewed the details of the draft budget for 2019. This was submitted during the department head budget meeting last week. Various questions arose regarding AIS funding and expenses and the reduction in our anticipated AIS costs which could negate the increase request to the county.

Nelson made note that the AIS program should be separate from the District budget or at least include details to ensure that AIS state aid is being spent towards AIS employees, projects and supplies.

He also noted that a 3% salary increase is extensive. The county has chosen 2.5% over time.

Current healthcare options for county employees increased from previous years calculations; they've chosen a different provider that allows their costs to remain unchanged.

Motion (Stenger, Schauer) to approve the 2019 operational budget based on making the following updates: separate AIS expenses and revenues from the District's budget to show an accurate account of the required county allotment funds while providing a detailed account of AIS activity. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Open Forum

Miles Ritch was introduced to the board. He was accepted into the NRCS Pathways Programs as a Student Trainee (Soil Conservationist) and is from California.

Dylan Kruzel was introduced to the board. He is a summer intern through the Conservation Apprentice Academy and is from Vergas, MN.

County Ag Inspector additions by Marsha Watland were reviewed by Kathy Stenger. Kathy read a letter from Marsha regarding the issue at hand with Wild Parsnip—its fast growth from rosette leaves to seed leaf stage and the need for vigilance with herbicide treatments.

Millborn Seeds approached Aaron Salo to see if the District would be a wholesale distributor of seeds. He will forward a retail price sheet and wholesale price sheet for review. This venture would be approached similar to our seed packets offered through MN Native Landscapes.

2018 Soil Health Field Day

"Dirt Rich: Building Soil Health Experts" Program. We have partnered with the Sustainable Farming Association to provide this event. Travis Schauer will showcase and discuss grazing with cover crops on Wednesday, August 29th.

Event sponsors include: Cenex, Crystal Sugar, Agassiz Seed & Supply, Buffalo Red River Watershed District, West Polk SWCD, Red Lake County SWCD, Rivard's Turf & Forage, Pennington SWCD, Northern Motors Inc and Northwestern Stockmen's Association.

After paying the expense to partner with SFA, there remains an excess from sponsorship funding and vendor participation fees that we would like to use for scholarships. We can offer a total of 12 scholarships to attendees of the event.

Motion (Pavelko, Stenger) to provide 12 scholarships for local livestock producers to attend the Soil Health Field Day with the remaining funds of \$250. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2018 Outstanding Conservationist

Review Recommendations & Make Selection

Staff and board members discussed two individuals who have shown outstanding accomplishments with improving Minnesota's natural resources by implementing conservation efforts in grazing management, WSCBs and rotational grazing projects.

Motion (Schauer, Flottesmesch) to proceed with the selection process in the order discussed and for Mead and/or Musielewicz to contact those individuals for acceptance and confirm in August. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2019 MASWCD Leadership Training

Program Overview: Wentz gave a brief overview of the program details and mission as well as dates and locations of the seminars and Salo spoke highly of the wonderful learning experience and his attendance in 2014 and 2015.

Motion (Stenger, Flottesch) to approve Wentz' attendance to the MASWCD Leadership Institute for 2018-2019.

Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Legacy Vouchers for Approval

#CWL-35-LP, Darren & Jane Leno, Shoreline/Streambank Stabilization. Total project costs \$10,164 with 50% approved funding and cost share payment of \$5,082.

#CWL-37-LP, B&W Properties of DL, Shoreline/Streambank Stabilization. Total project costs \$5,589 with 75% approved funding and cost share payment of \$4,192.

#CWL-38-LP, Anne & Jeff Anderson/Johnson, Shoreline/Streambank Stabilization. Total project costs \$2,537 with 50% approved funding and cost share payment of \$1,269.

#CWL-43-LP, Howie & Linda Anderson, Shoreline/Streambank Stabilization. Total project costs \$3,508 with 75% approved funding and cost share payment of \$2,631.

#CWL-44-LP, Justin Scallon, Shoreline/Streambank Stabilization. Total project costs \$2,924 with 75% approved funding and cost share payment of \$2,193.

#CWL-5-UB, Chad & Joel Okeson, WASCObS & Grade Stabilization, Phase 1. Total project costs for this portion of the project \$69,600 with EQIP funding of \$8221 and 90% approved funding from the grant and cost share payment of \$54,419.

Motion (Schauer, Pavelko) to approve the above noted Clean Water Legacy grant payments. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Upcoming Events:

Becker County Fair, July 25-28th

SWCD & TSA Audits, Aug 28th

"Dirt Rich" Soil Health Day, Aug 29th

Burleigh County, Bismarck, ND bus tour and road trip, Sept 10-12th

Adjourn

Chairman Beck adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Approved: Eugene Pavelko, Becker SWCD Secretary

Date: August 15, 2018