



## Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Thursday, March 21, 2019

### Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, March 21, 2019 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, Jerome Flottemesch, Gene Pavelko and Travis Schauer. Staff members include District Administrator Peter Mead, Office Manager Jen Wentz, Resource Technician Logan Riedel and NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz. County Commissioner Barry Nelson was also in attendance.

**Call to Order** Chairman Beck called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

#### **Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda Items**

(February 20, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes; Employee Program Reports)

Motion (Pavelko, Flottemesch) to approve the March Agenda, February Meeting Minutes and Employee Reports. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Financial Reports** Treasurers Report and Bills for Approval were reviewed by Wentz.

Motion (Schauer, Pavelko) to approve the February Treasurer's Report and list of bills to pay for March.

Motion (Flottemesch, Pavelko) to authorize Vice Chairman Schauer to sign the review of the credit card statement in Treasurer Stenger's absence.

#### Supervisor's Quarterly Expenses & Special Meetings

Quarterly expenses and special meetings were reviewed for the First Quarter of 2019. Adjustments for absences and additional meetings included Red Eye Watershed 1W1P Policy Committee Meetings, RRVCSA Board Meeting and Township Weed Inspector Training.

Motion (Flottemesch, Schauer) to approve the Q1 payroll and expenses along with the noted adjustments.

#### **Reports** *Administrators Report given by Peter Mead*

With scheduling conflicts Mead was not able to attend the statewide managers meeting held in St Cloud last month, attending the steering committee meeting for the BRRWD instead. Issues were discussed and goals were stated.

Mead spoke with Nicole Bernd regarding the statewide managers meeting. The levy authority bill was most of the discussion. The governor's budget was another main topic of discussion.

Mead attended the steering committee meeting for the Red Eye Watershed District. Moriya Rufer will writing the plan in her new capacity with Houston Engineering.

Staff meeting was held on March 4th where we discussed many upcoming projects and our goals for construction season.

Mead, Pavelko and Schauer attended the Day at the Capitol event on March 5th and 6th. They heard from legislative platforms and were able to discuss worthwhile conservation topics with key legislators.

Wild Rice Watershed steering committee meeting was delegated to Ed Clem. Jerome Flottemesch and Barry Nelson were also in attendance.

Soil Health forum as held at M State on March 7th was a success. A total of 38 producers and 16 other agencies attended the event. The presenters were knowledgeable and made great conversation starters.

Irrigation management meeting attended by Aaron Salo. Solicitations of \$1,500 per District from Groundwater Protection grant funds will be necessary to continue this project into the future.

Approximately 7 applications have come in for the Office Manager position. We will continue to accept applications for another week. Jerome Flottemesch and Kathy Stenger are on the personnel committee, Travis Schauer will be an alternate.

Met with BRRWD regarding the 319 Grant – funds are now available. \$450,000 will be used at our discretion to fund targeted BMP implementation, Houston Engineering and the Watershed District will use the remainder for investigation and engineering to re-route a segment of the buffalo river back to its historic channel.

Builder's Expo and Lake Living outreach activities are scheduled for this weekend between Logan, Brandon and Karl.

AIS inspector recruiting and training is upon us - Mead has been working with Karl Koenig to get this underway.

*Shoreland Program report given by Logan Riedel*

34-36 shoreline projects are scheduled for this season. Middle Cormorant Beach opened up the following: LPA schools have decided to construct a raingarden with their sixth graders involved in much of the design, plant choice, some implementation and maintenance.

Both Logan and Brandon have been working with Claire Olson on simplifying operations and maintenance agreements along with fact sheets.

Additional outreach opportunities. Riedel and Norby attended the Detroit Lakes Ag in the Classroom event held at M State. Frazee's event will be held March 28th.

Lake and shoreland site visits will continue to happen throughout the season.

It was recommended that seed mixes and plant kits have a link on our website to the mature look and design of these options. We sell native plant kits, various cell packs and containers along with a variety of seed mixes for the community to purchase.

Riedel and Dahring are hoping for a more simplified approach to many of the shoreland project maintenance techniques and steps that all or most landowners will tackle.

**Grants & Agreements** Review & Approval of NACD Technical Assistance Proposal. This grant has been one year of funding and has brought Max Rykhus into our office to serve EQIP planning needs in Becker, East Otter Tail and Mahnomen. He has been a great help to Ed Musielewicz and Dusty Jasken in Mahnomen. This application seeks 3 years of similar funding for Max's position as well as an additional FTE that will serve Becker, Clay, EOT, WOT and Wilkin counties as well. Our application is amongst three overall for the state. TSA 1 was also in that pool of applications.

Motion (Flottemesch, Pavelko) to approve the NACD Technical Assistance Grant application.

2019 AIS Management Grants. We started this last year for treatment of invasive species. This is up to \$4,000 per applicant. Last year we funded Toad Lake, PRWD and City of Detroit Lakes.

Motion (Schauer, Flottemesch) to approve the release of this funding for AIS treatment and offer three grants of \$4,000 each.

### **State Cost-Share priorities for 2019**

Motion (Flottemesch, Schauer) to keep the 2019 State Cost-Share funds for general projects in line with state cost share policy and local priorities and not designate it to specific practices.

### **Open Forum**

Ed Musielewicz introduced Marissa as the new full-time Sinew (formerly Ultima) employee, working in our office. She began working Monday, March 18th. She's been organizing folders for the EQIP approval period. The other temp working for the training team will begin soon. The ACES individual is still in process of hire.

Middle Cormorant beach project will be better maintained during the winter months with designated access points in order to have less disturbance to the native planting project in 2019.

Nelson also discussed the county's involvement in an application for the Lake Eunice beach and access project. They plan to offer as minimal impervious surface as possible. Becker County is hoping for a resolution of support to the grant funding in creation of a better suited access point on Lake Eunice.

Motion (Flottemesch, Schauer) to support a written resolution from Becker SWCD in support of the grant funding for this project.

Approval of Plat book production with Mapping Solutions. We have a contract for printing services to begin last summer and to be ready by the fall of 2019.

Motion (Schauer, Pavelko) to approve the printing of a new plat book.

### **Local EQIP Workgroup**

Top priorities were reviewed. The larger the number, the higher the priority. There was in-depth discussion on cropland, water quality and tribal issues of water quality degradation into the Ponsford area and so forth.

Pasture area use for forage, water, cover area and shelter along with benefits of additional organic matter and structure.

Conservation practices for each of the land use practices were prioritized as well.

### **Human Resources**

Personnel Policy Articles I-IV Revisions. Three small changes were noted for Days of service for temporary and seasonal employees. Mead will present the changes at the next board meeting for approval.

Office Manager Vacancy.

Motion (Pavelko, Schauer) to remove Jennifer Wentz from the bank signature cards effective today. In the meantime, Alisa Bentley will be added as the second signer from the office with Board treasurer holding the third.

Seasonal Technician.

Mead would like to post a seasonal technician as we have in the past. This will be a 40 hour per week position at \$15 per hour. This position will run from May through September.

Motion (Schasuer, Flottesch) to approve the posting of a seasonal technician for the District.

Motion (Flottesch, Schauer) to approve the personnel committee and administration to interview and select the next Office Manager and Seasonal Technician including an offer of employment.

**State Cost Share Contract Cancellations**

#SCS-18-3, Dwight Hanson

Motion (Flottesch, Pavelko) to approve the cancellation of state cost share #SCS-18-3 which was attached with the previously amended state cost share #SCS17-12 and overlooked at a previous meeting.

**Clean Water Legacy Applications for Approval**

#CWL-9-WR, Vance Jirava, Water & Sediment Control Basins

Motion (PAVELKO, Flottesch) to approve the clean water application

**State Cost Share Applications for Approval**

#SCS-18-8, Curt Ballard, Field Windbreak

Motion (Flottesch, Schauer)

Seeing no further business, Chairman Beck adjourned the meeting at 10:34 am.

**Approved: Eugene Pavelko, Becker SWCD Secretary**

**Date: April 17, 2019**