



Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Due to COVID-19 concerns this meeting was held electronically.

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held via videoconference on Wednesday May 20, 2020 at the USDA Ag Center Building located at 809 8th Street SE, Detroit Lakes, MN.

Those present at the USDA Ag Center Building were Staff members District Administrator Peter Mead, Office Manager Deana Westberg, NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz and NRCS Team Lead Bob Guetter. Via video conferencing were Supervisors Tony Beck, Eugene Pavelko, Michelle Andresen and Curt Ballard and SWCD Soil & Water Technician Ed Clem and County Commissioner Barry Nelson.

Call to Order

Filling in for Chairman Schauer, Supervisor Gene Pavelko called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM.

Oath of Office and Installation of District 1 Supervisor

Curtis Ballard read aloud the Oath of Office, stating that he solemnly swear to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Minnesota and that he will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of supervisor, upon which he now enters. Curt will replace Jerome Flottesmesch and intends to file for the next election.

Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda Items

(April 15, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes; Employee Program Reports)

Motion (Beck, Andresen) to approve the consent agenda items including the April meeting minutes and employee program reports. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Financial Reports

Mead reviewed the Treasurers Report and Bills for Approval.

Motion (Andresen, Beck) to approve the April Treasurer's Report and May bills for payment. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

COVID-19 Response

Update on District & Partner Operations

- Due to the Government Stay at Home order, some staff are still working from home, out in the field by appointment or at the shop and practicing social distancing best we can.
- Administration staff is staggering their day's so someone is in the office to cover the phone calls, voice mail messages, mail and packages delivered.
- Level 1 AIS Inspectors and AIS Coordinator Koenig were given the DNR approval to start inspecting boat ramps opening fishing weekend. Masks are provided to the Inspectors and safety precautions are being exercised.
- Virtual meetings will continue as needed.

- Tree pickup went well using safety precautions.
- Masks have been ordered from Lakeshirts to distribute to all staff as needed.
- On the Federal side, Musielewicz reported that the doors are still locked to the public and now working in the office as long as each employee has a separate office or cubicle. FSA has 2 staff working in their office each day and the rest teleworking. Rural Development are all teleworking.

Reports

Administrators Report was given by Peter Mead.

- Primarily teleworking so meetings are all telephone or web based.
- 1W1P virtual meetings for Wild Rice. Buffalo Red and Redeye in preliminary draft review.
- Met with Pelican River Watershed District staff regarding consistency and communication regarding PRWD rules, City Ordinances and mitigation / storm water management requirements.
- Ed Clem and peter attended a Zoning Ordinance Advisory Committee meeting. With Jerry Flottesmesch's departure a new committee chair was appointed, Scott Walz from Meadowland Surveying.
- Tree season – Trees wrapped in record time with only a few issues. There are still a few potted evergreens left. The hand and machine tree planting projects also completed.
- Several shoreland projects already underway, mainly earthwork at this point.
- Photos of the Strawberry Lake project were shown – discussion on the use of Willow and Dog Wood wattles and live staking used on this project to help with soil erosion.
- Legislation is discussing the probability of up to a 25% reduction on the Clean Water Legacy grants.
- Reminder to the board supervisors that they need to file for their office either electronically or make an appointment to go to the courthouse by June 2nd.
- AIS 2005 Gold Chevrolet Silverado Pickup was stolen from the shop parking lot last week and damaged several other vehicles while attempting to steal the Catalytic Converters. There were 2 AIS vinyl decontamination mats that were in the back of the stolen pickup. Police report and insurance claims were made. The pickup was found on Tuesday night in Frazee and returned to us. Unfortunately, much damage to the interior and exterior of the vehicle make it unusable. The claim is now pending an insurance appraisal.

NRCS Team Lead Bob Guetter

- Robert (Bob) Guetter introduced himself as starting the end of March in the new NRCS position of Team Lead for Team 2 which includes the offices of Becker, Clay, Wilkin, East and West Otter Tail. Bob will take over the Supervision of all the staff in Team 2 which will free of some time for the District Conservationists. He will shift and take away duties and tasks to help employees, coordinate work loads and temporarily fill in where needed. Welcome Bob to the Detroit Lakes Conservation Office.

Open Forum

No discussion

Grants and Agreements

2020 AIS Management Grant Approvals - Aquatic Plant Management grants for Pelican, City of Detroit Lakes and Toad Lake up to \$4,000 each.

Motion (Beck, Andresen) approve the AIS Management Applications as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried

Clean Water Legacy Applications for Approval

- # CWL-44-BR, Don Berland, Water and Sediment Control Basins-Total Project Cost: \$23,181 Cost Share: \$20,863
- # CWL-45-BR, Albin Warling, Water and Sediment Control Basins-Total Project Cost: \$24,525 Cost Share: \$22,073
- # CWL-46-BR, Terry Kohler, Water and Sediment Control Basins-Total Project Cost: \$8,556 Cost Share: \$7,700
- # CWL-13-TD, Todd Andresen, Water and Sediment Control Basins-Total Project Cost: \$114,007 Cost Share: \$102,606
- # CWL-64-LP, Tom Moore, Shoreline Protection-Total Project Cost: \$3,537 Cost Share: \$ 1,769

Motion (Beck, Pavelko) to approve the Clean Water Legacy Applications as presented. Affirmative Pavelko, Beck, Ballard: Andresen abstained from voting. Carried

State Cost Share Applications for Approval

- # SCS-20-2, Heidi Harstad, Field Windbreak-Total Project Cost: \$480 Cost Share: \$292

Motion (Andresen, Beck) to approve the State Cost Share Applications as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried

Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Supervisor Pavelko adjourned the meeting at 09:21 am.

Approved: Michelle Andresen, Becker SWCD Secretary

Date: June 17, 2020