



Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, May 19, 2021

The meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday May 19, 2021 at the Becker County Courthouse – 1st Floor Meeting Room, Detroit Lakes, MN.

Present were Supervisors Travis Schauer, Tony Beck, Eugene Pavelko, Michelle Andresen and Curt Ballard. Staff members District Administrator Bryan Malone, Office Manager Deana Westberg, NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, District Program Technician Aaron Salo, Resource Technician Logan Riedel, MCC Apprentice Hailey Olson, County Commissioner Barry Nelson and visitors Jerry Matter and John Steffl.

Call to Order

Chairman Schauer called the meeting to order at 8:34 AM.

Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda Items

April 21, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes; Employee Program Reports

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

Financial Reports

Treasurers Report

Malone reviewed the April Treasurers Report and the May Bills for Approval.

Motion (Pavelko, Beck) to approve the Treasurers Report and bills for payment. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Buffers

Landowners Jerry Matter and John Steffl asked to address the board regarding their Non-compliant Buffer Law predicament which has received a Corrective Action Notice (CAN) from the County.

- Jerry Matter showed his plat map and explained why he feels the buffer law creates a financial hardship for his farm. He further explained that he receives more income in rent than if he put this land into Buffers. The Buffer would also create a sliver of land that would be unusable and unfarmable. He feels his situation is unique and is asking for any other options.
 - Resource Technician Salo stated that the Buffer Law is not always going to be fair to every situation.
 - The only options left now are MN Ag Water Quality Certification or other Alternative Practices that provide comparable water quality benefits which were explained by Salo and NRCS District Conservationist Musielewicz.
 - The next step was to contact Roger Hemphill, DNR Hydrologist for additional explanation of public waters criteria.
- John Steffl showed his plat map and explained that he thinks an estimated drainage area of 662 acres should exempt his parcel from the Buffer Law requirement. He asked questions regarding tiling and water drainage.
 - Salo and Musielewicz suggested looking into Protected Waters with the DNR Hydrologist.

County Commissioner Nelson stated if the CAN is not complied to by the 11 month deadline and the County is forced into further enforcement regarding fines and penalties, they will likely rescind their

enforcement authority back to the State of Minnesota. Nelson suggested to comply to the Buffer Law with the help of the Becker SWCD/NRCS or go to court.

Open Forum

- Resource Technician Logan Riedel introduced MCC Summer Apprentice Hailey Olson. Olson will assist the SWCD staff until August 13th. We welcome Hailey to the team.
- District Administrator Malone read the resignation letter from District Program Technician Aaron Salo. June 4th will be his last day.

Motion (Beck, Ballard) to regrettably accept the resignation of Aaron Salo. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

- Discussion and ideas regarding filling the District Program Technician position. Possibility of hiring a part-time temporary employee for the interim until a full-time permanent employee is hired.

Motion (Andresen, Ballard) to allow Administration to hire a Temporary part-time employee and advertise for a permanent full-time employee if needed.

District Reports

District Administrator Bryan Malone reported:

- Happy to report that he purchased a home in Detroit Lakes on Monday.
- 1W1P – The Wild Rice grant agreement is ready to be signed. The Pelican River WD approved the MOA for the Otter Tail Plan. Becker County has not signed on to the partnership and the Board of Soil and Water Resources has given approval to the Otter Tail partnership proceed forward with the planning effort. The Otter Tail planning team met this week to prepare for the Policy meeting on the 27th. Attended the Buffalo-Red planning team meeting. Redeye and Buffalo-Red have implementation funds available to spend.
- TSA 1- The Executive Committee meeting was held on April 28th. Took a step back and would like to try and hire an engineer for the area. Prepared 5 different budgets for the coming fiscal year.
- WCA- Participated in Monthly TEP meeting for the Ogema Bank site visit and Borash wetland bank prospectus.
- RIM- Sent in application for technical assistance funding for FY22.
- NACD- Finishing up the TA2019 grant and preparing the final report.
- Apprentice- Helped prepare office space for the MCC Apprentice Hailey Olson.
- Meetings:
 - Darren Mayers BWSR BC
 - Zoning Ordinance Advisory Council
 - NRM meeting to discuss Dunton Locks buckthorn removal project
 - Reviewed the grant log with Deana for both the SWCD and RRVCSA
 - RAC meeting to discuss the dam removal project at Buck's Mill and the shelter replacement at Dunton Locks
 - Area 1 planning meeting. Next meeting is June 15th at the Shooting Star Event Center
 - Pelican River WD meeting to help answer any questions about the Otter Tail MOA
- AgBMP- Worked with one applicant for SSTS replacement. Still have \$53,000 available for water quality projects.
- Trees- Helped unload trees. The crew works very well together to get the job done!
- U of MN- Max and I spent a day on the crop residue survey for the U of MN
- Shoreline Video – Working with Logan on his Shoreline restoration video idea.

Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning

Buffalo Red Watershed 1W1P status update

Otter Tail Watershed 1W1P status update

Grant budget of \$223,335 is proposed with a plan development timeline through September 2023.

Red Eye Watershed 1W1P By-Laws

The Red Eye Watershed 1W1P bylaws are ready to be adopted. They are similar to the Otter Tail and Buffalo Red bylaws. Funds available in the budget to Becker SWCD are \$15,000 for Project Development and Technical Assistance, \$8,000 for Non-Structural BMPs and \$5,000 for Forestry practices.

Wild Rice Watershed WBIF Grant Agreement

Motion (Beck, Ballard) to designate the District Administrator as the Authorized representative and enter the Wild Rice Watershed WBIF Grant Agreement. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Grants & Agreements

RIM Work Order 03-20-W099

Easement Delivery, 41 RIM easement inspections at \$50 each totaling \$2,050.

RIM Work Order 03-20-W801

Technical Assistance at \$2,000 for easement number: 03-01-20-01.

Motion (Andresen, Beck) to approve the RIM Work Orders as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

SSTS Upgrade Grant

Policy revision suggested by Malone to make it easier for applicants to apply and qualify. The board requested for the policy to be rewritten and presented at the next board meeting for review.

Education/Outreach

Shoreline Restoration Video project presented by Becker SWCD Resource Technician, Logan Riedel. Riedel explained that he would like to create a documentary style video for training purposes that can be shared with SWCD's, BWSR, Lake Associations, Watersheds and Facebook. Two quotes were presented and discussed.

Motion (Ballard, Pavelko) to approve the Shoreline Restoration Video project and enter a \$5,000 contract with "Turn 2 Creative" to create the product. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

AIS Management Grant Applications

Toad Lake Association for applied for a \$4,000 Grant for AIS control in Toad Lake.

Pelican River Watershed District applied for a \$4,000 Grant for AIS control in Detroit Lake.

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

Red River Valley Conservation Service Area

Reorganization proposals were explained by Malone. The Executive Committee met on April 28th and ultimately decided to relook at 5 different options and budgets and take to their respective boards and meet again in June to further discuss.

- Budget #1: GIS Staff, no dues, funds dispersed between 16 SWCDs, no Technicians or Engineers
- Budget #2: 3 staff, dues paid to RRVCSA, Engineer 15% + contracted Engineer
- Budget #3: 3 staff, in-kind match, Contract Engineer, No Engineer 15%
- Budget #4: GIS staff, dues paid to RRVCSA, no Techs or Engineer, funds dispersed
- Budget #5: 4 staff with Engineer, dues paid to RRVCSA

After discussion, the board is in favor of not hiring another Engineer, keep the GIS Staff and move the 2 Technicians to District employment.

MASWCD Resolutions

No new resolutions to present for the Area 1 meeting in June.

Clean Water Legacy Applications for Approval

#CWL-14-WR, Roger Foltz, WASCB-Total Project Cost \$37,158: 90% Cost Share \$33,443

#CWL-13-WR, Vance Jirava, WASCB-Total Project Cost \$45,349: 90% Cost Share \$40,814

#CWL-24-TD, Jake Nelson, WASCB-Total Project Cost \$106,054: 90% Cost Share \$52,989 & EQIP \$42,460

#CWL-26-TD, Matt Bjerke, Underground Outlet-Total Project Cost \$17,108: 50% Cost Share \$4,277 & BR319 \$4,277

#CWL-27-TD, Kevin Olson, Fence & Stream Crossing-Total Project Cost \$12,673: 50% Cost Share \$6,337

#CWL-77-LP, Lizbeth Conmy, Conservation Cover-Total Project Cost \$1,475: 75% Cost Share \$1,106

#CWL-78-LP, Liz Conmy, Conservation Cover-Total Project Cost \$1,528: 75% Cost Share \$1,146

#CWL-72-LP, Audubon Township, Grade Stabilization-Total Project Cost \$32,992: 40% Cost Share \$13,196.80

Motion (Ballard, Beck) to approve Clean Water Legacy Applications as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried

State Cost Share Contract Voucher for Payment

#SCS-20-6, Ray Skaro, Well Decommissioning-Total Project Cost \$750: Maximum payment \$312

Motion (Beck, Pavelko) to approve the State Cost Share Contract Voucher as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried

Other

Area 1 Meeting Tuesday June 15th in Mahnomen at Shooting Star Event Center.

Next month SWCD Board Meeting on Wednesday June 16th at Shop with LWG Meeting to follow.

Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Chairman Schauer adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Board Secretary

District Administrator

Date

Date