



**Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday December 22, 2021**

The meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday December 22, 2021 at the Becker County Courthouse- 1st Floor- Board Meeting Room, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501.

Present were Supervisors Travis Schauer, Tony Beck, Eugene Pavelko and Michelle Andresen. Staff members in attendance were District Administrator Bryan Malone and Office Manager Deana Westberg. Others in attendance included NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz and NRCS Team Lead Bob Guetter.

Call to Order

Chairman Schauer called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda Items

November 17, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes; Employee Program Reports

Motion (Beck, Pavelko) to approve the Agenda and November Meeting Minutes. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Financial Reports

Treasurers Report and Bills for Approval

Malone reviewed the November Treasurers Report and the Revised December Bills for Approval.

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

Supervisor's Quarterly Expenses & Special Meetings

4th Quarter Supervisor's Quarterly expenses and Special Meetings reviewed and approved.

Motion (Pavelko, Andresen) to approve the Supervisor's Quarterly Expenses & Special Meetings. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

CY2022 Compensation

The unofficial Federal GSA Cost of Living (COL) increase for 2022 is 2.6%. The official COL will be posted online the beginning of January.

Bryan is halfway through conducting employee evaluations and will have a full report for January's board meeting. Discussion regarding where the SWCD employees are on the previously adopted Federal Pay Scale System. Administration will compare each employee's current wage to the Federal Pay Scale and report the results to the board in January 2022 for further review.

Motion (Beck, Andresen) to approve the CY2022 COL Increase and Table the Federal GSA Step Increases. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

District Reports

District Administrator Malone reported:

- 1W1P -
 - Attended the Otter Tail Technical Advisory Committee meeting to prioritize the resource concerns list.
 - Studied forest management cost-share policies from other SWCDs.
 - Redeye Technical Advisory Committee meeting to discuss how to promote the program and get practices on the ground.
 - Phil held a Wild Rice Steering Committee meeting to discuss where we are at on projects and funding.
 - Assisted Ed with planning 3 sessions with landowners to discuss carbon credits, soil health and cost-share opportunities through the 1W1P funding or our NEW "Future of Farming in Becker County" Clean Water Fund Grant! This grant application for \$355,000 was approved for funding by the BWSR Board on December 16th.
 - Our workshops will be held January 26th in Wolf Lake, February 8th in Callaway and February 23rd in Lake Park.
- Projects –
 - Spent a lot of time the past month processing cost-share.
 - Officially received the grant extension for the Top Down CWF grant.
- Buffers – Adam was successful in contacting the 7 landowners that received Corrective Action Notices from the County last winter and having them agree to install their buffer by July 1, 2022.
- Meetings and Other-
 - Attended the RCPP Irrigation management training in Royalton.
 - Attended the County Department Head meeting
 - NRM meeting the end of November
 - Worked on Wannigan Park plan with Marsha
 - Area Technical Training team meeting to determine what training sessions should be held next year
 - MASWCD convention Dec 12-14
 - Hodge Podge year end summary
 - CWMA meeting on Dec 21st
- Personnel - Started on Performance Appraisals and made it through about half of the staff. Will continue and hopefully finish before the end of the year.
- TSA –
 - PRAP report anticipated to be sent out to us for review by the first week of January.
 - The next board meeting is scheduled for February 2nd in Mahnomen.
 - Partnering with the TNC and carbon crediting
 - Additional funding sources available to qualified producers
- Reminder for Board Supervisors to file their Minnesota Campaign form by January 31, 2022
- A sample Employee Exit Interview form was reviewed and discussed its use in the future.
- The Minnesota Conservation Corp notification of their rates increasing to \$2,500 per month.

Open Forum – No discussion

Board Retreat

- Date- February 16, 2022 Same day as regular monthly board meeting
- Location – to be announced
- Guest Speaker-possible options discussed

AIS Prevention

AIS Coordinator Karl Koenig reported on the 2022 AIS Program Budget review and Approval

- Discussion regarding the county eliminating the Administration budget for 2022
- Inspections costs to increase due to the need for higher wages
- Monitoring & Technical Services to the more, high risk lakes
- Decontamination rent increased
- The Stakke Lake Association has requested funds to remove carp from Stakke Lake. Residents there say that carp numbers have increased quickly, and lake water quality has declined.

Motion (Pavelko, Beck) to approve the AIS 2022 Program Budget. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Local Water Management

These practices will be funded through Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) where they are a priority. Cost-share policies for:

Forest Management

- Becker SWCD will reimburse landowners 75% of the cost of a Forest Stewardship Plan.
- The applicant is responsible for coordinating and paying the plan writer.
- The land must also be enrolled into a covenant thru the Sustainable Forest Incentives Act (SFIA) or agree to enroll in the Class 2c Managed Forest Land Program for 10 years.
- The landowner will provide:
 1. A copy of the plan
 2. Proof of enrollment in either program
 3. An invoice to the SWCD, to receive reimbursement

Ag Waste Pit Closures

- Becker SWCD will reimburse landowners 75% of the cost to close ag waste pits
- Closures must have an approved NRCS plan and landowners are responsible to receive 3 bids for construction

Pasture and Hay Planting

- Becker SWCD will provide an incentive to landowners to incorporate hay into a crop rotation.
- Land that has not had hay in the rotation for 10 years or more is eligible.
- The landowner/occupier agrees to maintain the practice a minimum of 5 years.
- The incentive will pay 50% of the NRCS EQIP rate for 512 – Pasture and Hay Planting Scenario #5 Cool Season.
- The FY22 rate is \$205.41/acre. These rates will be adjusted annually.
- A one-time payment will be issued after certification of a successful planting.
- The practice will be inspected in year 1,3 and 5.

Motion (Beck, Andresen) to approve the Local Water Management policies as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried

State Cost Share Amendments

- SCS-21-1 Brent Gilbertson, WASCBS/Grassed Waterway – Amend install date to 12/31/2022

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

Clean Water Legacy Amendments

- CWL-72-LP Audubon Township, Grade Stabilization - Amend install date to 12/01/2022

- CWL-23-TD Kevin Lunde, WASCBS - Increase Total Amount Authorized to \$17,720.77
- CWL-27-TD Kevin Olson, Stream Xing & Fencing - Increase Total Amount Authorized to \$8,766.92
- CWL-32-TD Matt Bjerke, WASCBS - Amend install date to 12/31/2022
- CWL-34-TD Terry Kohler, WASCBS - Amend install date to 12/31/2022
- CWL-19-TD Brent Gilbertson, WASCBS - Amend install date to 12/31/2022
- CWL-24-TD Jake Nelson, WASCBS - Increase Total Amount Authorized to \$69,943.66
- CWL-28-TD Tony Zurn, WASCBS - Increase Total Amount Authorized to \$44,703
- CWL-33-TD 3 Sisters Ogema, WASCBS - Increase Total Amount Authorized to \$12,343.50
- CWL-35-TD Matt Bjerke, WASCBS - Increase Total Amount Authorized to \$16,871.27

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

State Cost Share Vouchers

- SCS-20-3 Randy Lefebvre, WASCBS - Total Project Cost \$6,371.30:
75% Cost Share \$4,778.47
- SCS-21-1 Brent Gilbertson, WASCBS/Grassed Waterway – Partial Payment Project Cost \$3,217.20:
75% Cost Share \$154.98; EQIP \$2,257.92

Motion (Andresen, Beck) to approve payment of State Cost Share Vouchers as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried

Clean Water Legacy Vouchers

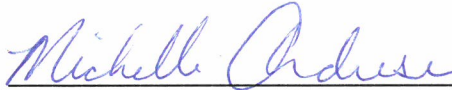
- CWL-50-BR Joel Crabtree, WASCBS - Total Project Cost \$23,484.93:
75% Cost Share \$9,763; BRRWD 319 \$7,850.70
- CWL-82-LP John Fitzpatrick, Conservation Cover - Partial Payment, Project Cost \$2,964.08:
50% Cost Share \$1,482.04
- CWL-83-LP Holly Sharp, Conservation Cover – Partial Payment, Project Cost \$1,295.18:
75% Cost Share \$971.39
- CWL-84-LP Julie Herman, Conservation Cover - Total Project Cost \$1,200:
75% Cost Share \$900
- CWL-85-LP Chad Wachter, Conservation Cover - Total Project Cost \$1,200:
75% Cost Share \$900
- CWL-14-TD Janet Olson, CAP/Raingarden - Total Project Cost \$6,710.79:
75% Cost Share \$5,033.09
- CWL-19-TD Brent Gilbertson, WASCBS – Partial Payment, Project Cost \$6,262.05:
90% Cost Share \$3,011.09; EQIP \$2,624.76
- CWL-23-TD Kevin Lunde, WASCBS - Total Project Cost \$19,689.75:
90% Cost Share \$17,720.77
- CWL-24-TD Jake Nelson, Conservation Cover - Total Project Cost \$117,781.50:
90% Cost Share \$69,943.66; EQIP \$36,059.69
- CWL-26-TD Matt Bjerke, Underground Outlet - Total Project Cost \$18,818.80:
50% Cost Share \$4,277; BRRWD 319 \$5,132.40
- CWL-27-TD Kevin Olson, Conservation Cover - Total Project Cost \$17,533.84:
50% Cost Share \$8,766.92
- CWL-28-TD Tony Zurn, WASCBS - Total Project Cost \$101,742.33:
90% Cost Share \$44,703; BRRWD 319 \$47,705.10
- CWL-29-TD Kevin Lunde, WASCBS - Total Project Cost \$7,618.31:

- 90% Cost Share \$3,428.24; BRRWD 319 \$3,428.24
- CWL-31-TD Matt Bjerke, WASCB - Total Project Cost \$14,857.13:
75% Cost Share \$4,855.11; BRRWD 319 \$6,287.73
- CWL-33-TD 3 Sisters Ogema LLC, WASCB - Total Project Cost \$27,430:
90% Cost Share \$12,343.50; BRRWD 319 \$12,343.50
- CWL-35-TD Matt Bjerke, WASCB - Total Project Cost \$44,990.06:
75% Cost Share \$16,871.27; BRRWD 319 \$16,871.28
- CWL-13-WR Vance Jirava, WASBBs - Total Project Cost \$47,421.06:
90% Cost Share \$32,480.67; WRWD \$8,333.33
- CWL-14-WR Roger Foltz, WASCBS - Total Project Cost \$33,693.25:
90% Cost Share \$11,972.97; EQIP \$10,017.63 & WRWD \$8,333.33

**Motion (Beck, Pavelko) to approve payment of the Clean Water Legacy Vouchers as presented.
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried**

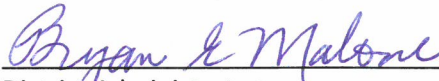
Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Chairman Schauer adjourned the meeting at 11:01 a.m.



Board Secretary

2-16-22
Date



District Administrator

02/16/2022
Date

