



Board of Supervisors Meeting  
Wednesday February 16, 2022

### Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday February 16, 2022 at the Cormorant Lakes Community Center located at 10929 County Highway 5, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572. Those present were Supervisors Eugene Pavelko, Travis Schauer, Tony Beck, Curt Ballard and Michelle Andresen. Staff members include District Administrator Bryan Malone, Office Manager Deana Westberg and Office Assistant Christy Johnson. Others in attendance included NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, NRCS Team Lead Robert Guetter, BWSR Board Conservationist Brett Arne and Administrator Wild Rice Watershed District Tara Jensen. Joining via Microsoft TEAMS Soil and Water Technician Ed Clem.

**Call to Order** Chairman Pavelko called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

#### Agenda and Consent Agenda Items

January 19, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes)

**Motion (Beck, Andresen) to approve the January meeting minutes. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.**

February 16, 2022 Agenda and Consent Agenda Items

**Motion (Beck, Andresen) to approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda Items. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.**

#### Financial Reports

##### Treasurers Report and Bills for Approval

Malone reviewed the Treasurers Report and Bills for Approval

**Motion (Ballard, Schauer) to approve the January's Treasurer's Report and February Bills for Approval. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.**

##### MASWCD PRAP Fiscal Agent

MASWCD is applying for a BWSR PRAP Grant and is requesting Becker SWCD to be the Fiscal Agent. The board had no objections, so ok to move forward with the application process.

#### Reports

District Administrator Bryan Malone reviewed his monthly board report.

- *1W1P* - Buffalo Red-River Planning Team Meeting, Landscape stewardship plan meeting and Otter Tail Technical Advisory Committee meeting.
- *Ag Landowner Forums* – Workshops held in Wolf Lake on January 26<sup>th</sup> and February 8<sup>th</sup> in Callaway. One left February 23<sup>rd</sup> in Lake Park.
- *Projects* – Attended the Wild Rice Watershed District meeting and was successful in requesting \$25,000 to match Wild Rice Phase II project installing 7 WASCBs.

- *Clean Water Fund Grant* – Need to complete the “Future of Farming in Becker County” work plan in eLink. The Board will approve policy for payments on this. Have a new grant application opportunity for Water Storage.
- *Meetings and Other* –
  - Completed eLink by the February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.
  - MASWCD Area 1 meeting planning committee.
  - Area Technical Training Team working on “Grassroots: Building a Local Soil Health Program” on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Developing a shoreline restoration training for this summer.
  - NACDE meeting
  - District Manager meeting with NRCS Team Lead Bob Guetter to discuss items that affect planning for all of us.
  - NRM meeting at the courthouse.
  - MASWCD SWCD Aid Webinar.
  - State TSA District Manager meeting where I presented our Workload Analysis Report.
- *Personnel* – Christy Johnson started on January 31<sup>st</sup> as Alisa’s last day was January 27<sup>th</sup>. Still revising the new timesheet.
- *TSA* -
  - Doug Thomas presented the Workload Analysis report at the TSA board meeting on February 2<sup>nd</sup> in Mahanomen. In 6 years, we could possibly use 3 Engineers, 5 Technicians and 1 CAD Tech.
  - TSA Technician Jeff Haverland is back to work half time now.
  - Discussions are taking place with 9 SWCDs in the north and 7 in the south on how to handle the staffing needs and the structure that will work best.
  - The board opted to table Phase II of the PRAP study to tackle the governance portion.

**Open Forum**

No discussion

**Local Water Management**

Otter Tail 1W1P Update

- Issues and focus lakes, streams and groundwater are being developed for 11 Planning Regions so that efforts can be specific to each local government.
- A draft Watershed Vision Statement was developed by the Citizen Advisory Committee.
- In March, the Technical Advisory Committee will begin drafting plan goals.

**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Becker SWCD was established May 10, 1948. 2023 will mark 75 years and discussion if an anniversary celebration should be planned and when. Potential ideas to further pursue were:

- Newsletter – Electronic and/or mailed
- Coffee mugs and/or hats
- Banquet with presentations/musicians
- Poster contest
- Project Tours – Bus and/or Pontoon
- Partnering with other local organizations/businesses
- Donations

More discussion and ideas to follow at the next regular board meetings.

**MASWCD Legislative Agenda**

SWCD Aid Advocacy – MASWCD is asking legislators to support a standing, statutory appropriation for SWCDs through the Department of Revenue – SWCD Aid – at \$22 million per year.

Legislative Briefing March 9, 2022 – Day at the Capital. Malone urged all the Board Supervisors to think about attending to show our District support and meet with local legislators at the Capital.

**Plat Books**

Fall 2022 Publish – 2023 Edition

Decision to go ahead and get a quote for trading in 100 of the old 2020 plat books for 50 new 2023 plat books (if the offer is still valid) plus order the minimum of 100 new 2023 plat books. Total of 150 new 2023 plat books.

**Motion (Andresen, Schauer) to approve the Fall 2022 Plat Book Publish – 2023 Edition. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.**

**2022 Financial Assistance Policies**

The Future of Farming in Becker County Clean Water Fund Grant

Malone and Musielewicz explained the rates projected from CSP/EQIP Programs such as Residue and Tillage, Cover Crop, Conservation Crop Rotation and Prescribed Grazing and how they are proposed to be incorporated into the Clean Water Fund grant payment schedule. Producers will be limited to 160 acres except for the Tier 5 Intensive Grazing which would be limited to 80 acres. A “Gold Standard” will be incorporated into the schedule at a Flat rate of \$3,500/yr x 3 (up to 80 acres) to improve on existing practices.

Tier	Practice	Base Rate/Acre	Performance Bonus	Performance Based Rate
1	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till	\$ 6.38		\$ 6.38
2	Residue and Tillage Management, No Fall Till	\$ 10.64		\$ 10.64
	Residue and Tillage Management, Strip Tillage	\$ 23.65		\$ 23.65
	Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till	\$ 21.90	\$ 4.59	\$ 26.49
3	Cover Crop - Basic	\$ 34.90		\$ 34.90
	Cover Crop - Basic with grazing	\$ 34.90	\$ 7.43	\$ 42.33
	Cover Crop - 4+ Species	\$ 42.67		\$ 42.67
	Cover Crop - 4+ Species with grazing	\$ 42.67	\$ 14.86	\$ 57.53
4	Conservation Crop Rotation	\$ 5.74		\$ 5.74
5	Prescribed Grazing – Standard	\$ 37.57		\$ 37.57
	Prescribed Grazing – Graze Cover Crop	\$ 37.57		\$ 37.57
	Prescribed Grazing – Intensive	\$ 37.57	\$ 35.61	\$ 73.18

\* Max Incentive rates derived using FY 2022 CSP/EQIP Program Rates & 2021 Iowa State University Custom Farm Rate survey

**Motion (Ballard, Andresen) to approve The Future of Farming in Becker County Financial Assistance payments and policies as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.**

**Adjourn**

Seeing no further business, Chairman Pavelko adjourned the meeting at 10:28 am.

**Real Colors**

Team Building Exercise presented by Cindy Bigger

**Lunch & Staff Photos**

**Board Retreat**

2021 Highlights – Employee Program Reports & Presentations

Curtis R. Ballard

Board Secretary

03/16/22

Date

Bryan E. Malone

District Administrator

3/16/2022

Date