



Board of Supervisors Meeting
Wednesday April 20, 2022

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday April 20, 2022 in the Conference Room of the USDA Ag Center Building located at 809 8th Street SE, Detroit Lakes, MN.

Those present were Supervisors Tony Beck, Curt Ballard, Eugene Pavelko and Michelle Andresen. Staff members include District Administrator Bryan Malone, Office Manager Deana Westberg, Resource Technician Brandon Dahring, CAI Marsha Watland, NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz and The Real Estate Company Broker Dave Neisen.

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

Agenda and Consent Agenda Items

March 16, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes; Employee Program Reports)

Motion (Ballard, Andresen) to approve the March meeting minutes and employee program reports. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

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

Financials

Treasurers Report and Bills for Approval

Malone reviewed the Treasurers Report and Bills for Approval

Motion (Ballard, Back) to approve the March Treasurer's Report and April Bills for Approval. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

County Highway Property

The Real Estate Company of Detroit Lakes Broker Dave Neisen was asked by Bryan Malone to attend the board meeting to answer questions about the Becker County Highway property and buildings that are currently for sale. Monday April 25th is the deadline for submitting offers. A 3:00 PM showing appointment is scheduled for Thursday April 21st.

CD Renewals

Westberg reviewed the April and May Midwest Bank CD's Maturing and the current Interest Rates.

Motion (Andresen, Beck) to renew CDs at the 17 month special interest rate. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Reports

District Administrator Bryan Malone reported:

- 1W1P
 - Technical Advisory Committee meeting to finalize the recommended list of lakes and streams to focus our efforts on.
 - Appeared before the County Board to present a resolution of support to apply for the 1W1P grant to begin planning Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan in the Crow Wing River Watershed.
 - Met with the Wild Rice, Buffalo-Red and the Redeye Steering Committee to discuss planning the next round of funding in July.

- Projects
 - Toured projects with Wes and Ed during spring break up to see how they are holding up. They did well.
 - Met with Houston Engineering on Wally Danielson bank application and with a group looking to build an independent living complex for seniors.
- Grant Applications
 - Completed the Water Storage grant that was due by April 4th for \$1.1 million.
 - Submitted for another round of the NACD conservation planning grant.
 - Logan and I are starting on the application for a new Lake Protection grant that will likely be due in August.
 - Started on a Soil Health Grant application that is due in May.
 - Interviewed with MPCA on a new 319 grant.
- Meetings and Other
 - Attended the Contractor certification training in DL.
 - Attended the Local Weed Inspector training in Callaway.
 - BWSR provided “spring training” – I attended a session about working with private foresters on forest management plans.
 - Submitted quarterly reports for DNR Farm bill Assistance, NACD Conservation Planner and MAWQCP.
 - Attended the CWMA meeting.
 - And numerous others too.
- Personnel
 - Deana, Marsha and I interviewed 3 candidates for the Ag Inspector Position.
 - All were good perspective employees.
- Training
 - Logan put together an agenda for the Area 1 Technical Training Team for shoreline restoration training,
 - This will be held at the Becker SWCD shop and conclude with a tour of projects on July 13th.
- TSA
 - Completed final elink report for Phase I PRAP report.
 - Phase II Structure and Governance will kick off on May 3rd with a smaller group of Managers at our office.
 - We are advertising for the engineer position for the 9 SWCDs in the north.
 - Needed to update job descriptions and put together an announcement.
 - Working with 5 SWCDs in the south and have WOT SWCD hire a technician to work with Wes.
 - Matt Fisher and I interviewed with BWSR staff for an article in the BWSR snapshots regarding the Phase I workload analysis.

Grants & Agreements

U of MN Residue Transect Survey PO of \$5,000. Max Rykhus will submit cover crop survey photos once crops are 75% planted in the county. Invoice submitted for payment June or July.

Motion (Ballard, Andresen) to approve signing the U of MN Residue Transect Agreement as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Open Forum

Discussion to pursue other tree vendors for next year to compare prices and availability.

Human Resources

Ag Inspector

CAI Marsha Watland reported that 3 interviews were conducted on Friday April 8th and Brandon Gill was offered and accepted the position on Monday April 11th. He will start on Monday May 2nd, 2022. Watland will stay on full-time until May 31st and then part-time until December 2022.

Engineer Agreement

- Scope – To provide technical and engineering services to meet the Non-Point Source Engineering assistance needs for Becker SWCD, EOT SWCD, Grant SWCD, Traverse SWCD and WOT SWCD.
- Effective as of June 1, 2022 and shall remain in effect until December 31, 2024 unless terminated.
- Agreement can be revised yearly as needed.
- Becker SWCD and WOT SWCD will invoice on a quarterly basis.

Motion (Beck, Ballard) to enter into the Engineer Services Agreement as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Pay Scale

Bryan Malone showed and explained the NRCS Area Engineer Pay Scale the Northern Districts used when advertising the new TSA Engineer position. It has a higher max wage than the Becker SWCD pay scale. To keep all the Engineers on one similar pay scale, it was recommended to increase the Becker SWCD Engineer maximum from Grade 13 Step 10 to Grade 14 Step 10. This Grade will match up closer to the higher max wage of the Northern Districts pay scale. This Grade change is effective immediately.

Motion (Ballard, Andresen) to change the Engineer grade level limitation to Grade 14 step 10. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

EQIP

Reminder: Local Work Group Meeting at 1:00 in Fergus Falls. Due to weather conditions, Curt and Bryan will attend virtually.

75th Anniversary

Celebration ideas discussed. A banquet day, time and location to be decided at future meetings.

AIS

An Electronic Billboard sign located on Highway 10 with a 6-7 second AIS ad was presented for June and July for \$636.00.

Motion (Andresen, Beck) to approve the AIS Billboard advertising as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Cost-Share Policy

Well Sealing

State cost-share rules limit the cost-share percentage to 50%. Discussion if 1 or 2 bids necessary for a Well Sealing application and if there should be a “not to exceed” payment.

Motion (Beck, Ballard) to set State Cost Share Well Sealing Policy at 50% not to exceed \$750 with one bid needed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried

Future of Farming in Becker County Applications

Decided to accept applications on a first come, first served basis.

Equipment

The Board is interested in providing a no-till drill and weed barrier fabric machine for landowner projects. To move around the county, a tractor, truck, and trailer may be needed also. Resource Technician Brandon Dahring presented a few No-Till Drill options and prices. He has been in contact with dealers regarding tractors and leasing options but hasn't received numbers yet. The board requested that Dahring get more quotes for new and used options to review.

Clean Water Fund Applications

- CWF-01-FFBC, Jake Nelson, No-till and cover crop - Total Project Cost \$29,467.20:
No-till \$12,715.20 & Cover Crop \$16,752.00
- CWF-02-FFBC, Todd Andresen, No-till, Multi species cover crop and grazing -
Total Project Cost \$34,450.48:
No-till \$12,341.70 & Cover Crop \$22,108.78

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

Watershed Based Implementation Fund Applications

- 1W1P-01-WR, Gabe Foltz, Cover Crop – Total Project Cost: \$17,414.80

Motion (Andresen, Ballard) to approve the Watershed Based Implementation Application as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried

State Cost Share Application for Approval

- SCS-20-9, DTETC Dairy Farm Inc, Cover Crop- Total Project Cost \$3,457.35

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

Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Chairman Pavelko adjourned the meeting at 11:32 am.

Curtis R. Ballard
Board Secretary
05-18-22
Date

Bryan J. Malone
District Administrator
5/18/2022
Date