



Board of Supervisors Meeting
Wednesday September 21, 2022

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday September 21, 2022 in the Conference Room of the USDA Ag Service Center Building located at 809 8th Street SE, Detroit Lakes, MN.

Those present were Supervisors Eugene Pavelko, Travis Schauer, Tony Beck, and Curt Ballard. Staff members include District Administrator Bryan Malone, Office Manager Deana Westberg, Office Assistant Christy Johnson, NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, NRCS Team Lead Bob Guetter, Pete Waller from BWSR, Liz Larson CLWD District Administrator, Lyle Hanson CLWD Board Member and County Commissioner Barry Nelson.

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

Agenda and Consent Agenda Items

August 17, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes; Employee Program Reports

Motion (Schauer, Beck) to approve the August meeting minutes and employee program reports. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

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

Financial Reports

Treasurers Report and Bills for Approval, Supervisor's Quarterly Expenses & Special Meetings
Malone reviewed the Treasurers Report and Bills for Approval

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

Motion (Beck, Ballard) to approve the Supervisor's quarterly expenses and special meetings. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried

CD Maturing

Deana Westberg provided copies of current CD Interest rates from Midwest Bank. One CD is Maturing on 09/19/2022 and another on 10/03/2022. Wait until the end of the grace period before renewing to get the highest rate since rates are climbing.

Motion (Beck, Schauer) to approve renewing the Midwest Bank CD's at the 12 month rate. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

MCIT

Westberg reported that MCIT will be allocating Workers Compensation Dividends again this year in mid-November. This year's Dividend is \$4,007.00. There will not be a dividend for Property/Casualty this year.

Reports

District Administrator Bryan Malone reported:

1W1P – Policy Committee meeting for the Otter Tail River. Received the first final draft of the whole plan and sent out to the Board to review. Will have a Policy Committee meeting at the end of September to send the plan for its official 60-day review. Otter Tail Technical Advisory Committee met and reviewed the last couple of draft sections in the plan before it was sent out. Still on track to have the Otter Tail plan approved in January. Also met with the Local Forestry Team that will cover Redeye, Otter Tail and Long Prairies CWMPs.

Projects – Finished up the Adeline Sherbrooke SSTS project. Will receive another \$33,418 to replace failing septic systems. Yliniemi pit closure is complete. AgBMP loan application approved for a SSTS replacement at \$11,075.

Grant Applications – Submitted 2 Clean Water Fund Grant applications. BWSR received 52 applications which is down from previous years but still requests for more than double what they have available. Soil Health grant is funded, will need to complete workplan and hope to include our no-till drill in that.

Meetings and Other – Met with the DL paper and Brent Gilbertson's family to interview for the Outstanding Conservationist Award. Completed the Outstanding Conservationist Nomination, photos, photo narrative and submitted to MASWCD. Met with Liz Larson of Cormorant Lakes Watershed District to discuss possible project cooperation. District Manager meeting with the area covered by Brett Arne. Good discussion on upcoming programs, wetland topics, cost-share procedures and Training. Attended Area and State Technical Training Team annual meeting online.

TSA – Postponed the August 30th to October 6th due to the development of the agreements. Met with Peter Nelson and Matt Fischer to work on agreements. Sent to MCIT for risk assessment and incorporated their comments. They are now at the County Attorney for review. Should have them back by Sept. 9th. Interviewed three candidates for the engineering technician position in Pennington. Elink plan for FY23 funding was approved.

Open Forum - Nothing to discuss

Agreements

RRVCSA for GIS Services

Malone presented an Agreement between Becker SWCD and RRVCSA for GIS Administration. Agreement agrees to utilize NPEETA funding for shared GIS Administration between the 16 Districts of Area 1. Discussion regarding the transfer of ownership and liability of equipment and future expenses.

Motion (Beck, Ballard) to approve the RRVCSA GIS Services Agreements. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

RRVCSA for Engineering Services

Malone presented an Agreement between Becker SWCD, West Otter Tail SWCD and RRVCSA for Engineering Services provided to the South Pod 5 member SWCDs of the RRVCSA funded with Non-Point Engineering and Enhanced Shared Technical Assistance (NPEETA) funding. Discussion regarding present and future equipment. Board decision to table an approval until after the October TSA board meeting.

RRVCSA for Terms of Employment Agreement

Discussion regarding a Memorandum of Agreement between Becker SWCD and RRVCSA for terms of employment with Mary Steinlicht beginning January 1, 2023. Malone will set up a meeting with Steinlicht by month end to discuss the terms.

NACD Conservation Planner

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) approved our application for a 1-year grant of \$112,575 to employ one FTE for assisting NRCS with EQIP, CSP and CTA.

Motion (Schauer, Ballard) to approve the NACD Conservation Planner Agreement. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

BWSR SSTS Grant Agreement

2023 Septic Treatment Systems Upgrade of \$52,018.00 was awarded from BWSR. Expiration date of 12/31/2024.

Motion (Schauer, Beck) to approve the SSTS Upgrade Grant Agreement. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

CWF Soil Health Grant

2023 Future of Farming in Becker County Phase II of \$480,014.00 was awarded by BWSR. Expiration date of 12/31/2025.

Motion (Schauer, Ballard) to approve the CWF Soil Health Grant Agreement. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

SWCD Local Capacity and Buffer Law Implementation

BWSR awarded 2023 Buffer Law of \$21,500 and Local Capacity Services \$143,940 totaling \$163,144. Expiration date of 12/31/2025.

Motion (Schauer, Beck) to approve the SWCD Local Capacity and Buffer Law Implementation Grant Agreement. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

SSTS Upgrade Grant

Due to the number of eligible applications received and limited funding, applications will need to somehow be ranked for funding. Malone presented possible criteria to rank applications on and their scores.

Septic Compliance Status

- Imminent Threat to Public Health and Safety - 30
- Failing to protect groundwater – 15

Distance to Public Water or Legal Ditch

- 0-100 feet - 30
- 101-300 feet - 15
- 301 - 500 feet – 10

Income Level (Adjusted Gross Income)

- Very Low - 30
- Low – 15

Does the existing septic system meet the MN Dept. of Health setbacks

- No - 10
- Yes - 0

In the event of a tie in application points, the priority goes to:

The system that is first an Imminent Threat to Public Health and Safety; Then: The system closest to Public Water or Legal Ditch; Then: The candidate with the lower adjusted gross income on their most recent tax return.

Motion (Ballard, Beck) to approve the SSTS Upgrade Grant Ranking Criteria. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

75th Anniversary

Donor List – Christy Johnson presented updates on the 75th Anniversary, asking for any additional names to add to the donor list. She has reserved Magnolia Bakery for cupcakes at the banquet, and Claire Olson will start working on the program, invites, and RSVP design in October. The Junior Envirothon is scheduled for October 5th at Detroit Mountain. Soil Soakers is 9/22, 9/23 with staff from our office running a station both days. She also provided an update on our tree sale online store with a sneak peek scheduled for next month’s board meeting.

Cormorant Lakes Watershed District

Liz Larson CLWD District Administrator and Lyle Hanson CLWD Board Member presented and proposed a possible joint position with Becker SWCD for a Technician. The position overview, timeline and budget were discussed. More information will be gathered and discussed at a future board meeting.

Local Water Management

Otter Tail Plan Update - The Otter Tail Plan is moving along on schedule. A draft final plan was done the end of August, reviewed by staff. The Policy Committee will meet September 29th to approve the final draft and begin the 60-day review process which ends November 29th, 2022. The Public hearing will be held December 15th, 2022 then will be presented to the Northern BWSR meeting January 4th, 2023. Finally, it will be present to the BWSR Board for final approval at their meeting January 25th, 2023. The

deadline for LGUs to adopt the plan will be no later than February 2023. By March 31st, 2023 work plans are due for funding.

Cost Share

SSTS Upgrade Grant Voucher

- SSTS-04-2022, AdSh, Subsurface Sewage Treatment System – Total Project Cost: \$10,500.00
Very low-income eligibility – 100% cost-share \$10,500.00

Motion (Schauer, Ballard) to approve SSTS Upgrade Grant Voucher as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried

Clean Water Legacy Applications

- CWL-91-LP, JoFiRe, Conservation Cover- Total Project Cost \$3,273.14
50% Cost Share \$1,636.57
- CWL-92-LP, LiCo, Conservation Cover- Total Project Cost \$1,096.09
75% Cost Share \$822.07
- CWL-93-LP, LiCo, Conservation Cover- Total Project Cost \$1,165.14
75% Cost Share \$873.86
- CWL-94-LP, AnCo, Conservation Cover- Total Project Cost \$976.93
50% Cost Share \$488.47

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

Clean Water Legacy Vouchers

- CWL-88-LP, KeCo, Conservation Cover - Total Project Cost \$5,033.22
50% Cost Share \$2,666.61
- CWL-90-LP, ArLi, Conservation Cover - Total Project Cost \$366.26
50% Cost Share \$183.13

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

State Cost Share Vouchers

- SCS-21-7, HoRoCh, Conservation Cover – Total Project Cost \$4,381.50
50% State Cost-share \$2,190.75
- SCS-21-8, NaCo, Conservation Cover – Total Project Cost \$7,145.49
50% State Cost-share \$3,572.75

Motion (Beck, Schauer) to approve State Cost share Vouchers as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Watershed Based Implementation Fund Application

- 1W1P-05-BR, VaJi, WASCBS - Total Project Cost \$103,877.94
90% Cost Share \$45,822.14; EQIP \$47,668.00

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

Watershed Based Implementation Fund Vouchers

- 1W1P-08-RE, MyRa, Forest Management - Total Project Cost \$984.50
75% State Cost-Share \$738.38
- 1W1P-09-RE, InRa, Forest Management - Total Project Cost \$2,323.50
75% State Cost-Share \$1,742.63

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

Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Chairman Pavelko adjourned the meeting at 10:47 am.

<u>Michelle Anderson</u>	<u>Byron J Malone</u>
Board Secretary	District Administrator
<u>9-21-22</u>	<u>9/21/2022</u>
Date	Date

