



**Becker  
Soil & Water  
Conservation District**

**Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting**  
SWCD/NRCS Conference Room  
USDA Service Center

**Wednesday, September 25, 2024**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Supervisors Present:**

Curt Ballard, Vice Chair  
Tony Beck, Treasurer  
Gene Pavelko, Public Relations  
Travis Schauer, Secretary

**Staff Present:**

Bryan Malone, District Administrator  
Jamie Bischoff, Office Manager  
Christy Johnson, Education/Outreach Coordinator  
Ed Clem, Soil & Water Resource Technician  
Amy Moors, Program Technician  
Ed Musielewicz, NRCS

**Guests:**

Sophie Kalina, High School Intern  
Willis Mattson, Izaak Walton League of America  
Barry Nelson, Becker County Commissioner

**Absent:**

Michelle Andresen, Chair

**Call to Order**

Vice Chair Ballard called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Agenda Approval**

**Motion (Pavelko, Schauer) to approve the September agenda. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Minutes**

August 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes

**Motion (Beck, Schauer) to approve the August 20, 2024 meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Financial**

Treasurers Report and Bills for Approval

Bischoff presented the August Treasurers Report and September Bills for payment.

**Motion (Schauer, Beck) to approve the August 2024 Treasurer's Report and September Bills to pay. All in favor, motion carried.**

Supervisor's Quarterly Expenses

Bischoff explained that Q3 was in their folder for signatures and Q4 was ready for them to input any meetings.

### FY Wild Rice WBIF

BWSR has allocated \$1,993,181.00 for the FY25 Wild Rice-Marsh Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) grant. Becker SWCD is the Plan Coordinator and Wild Rice Watershed District is the fiscal agent.

**Motion (Beck, Pavelko) to enter into the FY25 Wild Rice grant agreement with BWSR. All in favor, motion carried.**

### Fee for Services

#### WCA Fee Schedule

Bryan explained that the WCA fees have not been adjusted since 2015. Discussion was that a flat rate fee should be used instead of a per hour slide scale. Malone recommended to double all the fees.

**Motion (Schauer, Pavelko) to double the fees presented from 2015. All in favor, motion carried.**

### Out of County Customers

If we were to do any projects for trees, seeding or other that requires staff to travel outside Becker County, should we charge an additional fee? Discussion was held in regard to what others charge for trucking. The average trucking fee is \$3 per mile one-way. However, if the landowner is a regular Becker SWCD customer and has property in a joining township to Becker County, then no fee should be charged. Becker County projects take priority to Out of County projects.

**Motion (Pavelko, Schauer) that Becker County projects take priority to Out of County projects and to charge \$3 per mile for Out of County customers. No fee will be charged to Out of County projects if the customer is a regular to Becker SWCD and the property is in an adjacent township. All in favor, motion carried.**

### Cost Share

#### Watershed Based Funding Application

1W1P-23-OT CrSh, Forest Mgmt Plan: Project Cost \$621; 50% cost-share; \$310.50 allocated  
**Motion (Pavelko, Beck) to approve contract 1W1P-23-OT. All in favor, motion carried.**

#### Watershed Based Funding Amendments

1W1P-20-BR ToAn, WASCBS: allocated amount of \$66,809 amended amount \$69,172  
1W1P-11-OT KyBe, WASCBS: allocated amount of \$27,979.58 amended to \$38,665.92  
1W1P-20-OT LoCo, Conservation Cover: allocated amount of \$3,707.45 amended to \$3,847.37  
**Motion (Beck, Pavelko) to approve the Watershed Based Funding amendments. All in favor, motion carried.**

### MASWCD Convention Registration

Tim and Angie Lehrke won the Area 1 Outstanding Conservationist award. They are now in the running for the MN State Award. Bischoff will register the staff and supervisors for the MASWCD Convention held December 2-4, 2024. The Board was informed to work with Jamie on details and accommodations.

### Grant Support

#### Letter of Collaboration with MN DNR Forestry

Malone presented a letter of collaboration for the DNR grant application to USFS for implementing forest management practices. Becker SWCD would provide outreach time as match and would be eligible to access grant funds for landowners in Becker County to implement those practices and for staff technical assistance time.

**Motion (Schauer, Beck) to approve the letter of collaboration for the DNR grant application to USFS. All in favor, motion carried.**

## **Becker County Comprehensive Land Use Plan**

### **Willis Mattison, Izaak Walton League of America**

Mattison introduced himself and his background, then presented a summary of the Izaak Walton League's study on Concentrated Animal Feedlot Operations (CAFOs). This report was completed for information to possibly assist with the Becker County comprehensive plan update. He briefly talked about Becker County Zoning vs SWCD. He answered questions from the board and ask the board to think about a partnership with the Izaak Walton League to protect water quality in Becker County.

## **Personnel**

### **Shoreland Technician**

This position has been advertised. We currently have eight applications.

### **SWCD Internship**

Malone expressed the need for a paid internship for the summer. This position would be advertised at \$20/hr. It will be advertised next week.

### **UMC Career Fair – October 3, 2024**

Brandon, Karl and Bryan will be attending the Career fair in Crookston, MN on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will bring our job descriptions and applications to the fair along with the booth items. Travis mentioned sending our positions to the Ag Dept at NDSU and NDSCS in Fargo, ND.

## **Open Forum**

Beck mentioned a rain system at Spadgenske Dairy. Bryan said we would reach out to the state climatology office for clarification.

Ballard invited all of us to attend his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **Staff Reports**

### **Ed Musielewicz – District Conservationist**

Ed shared highlights from his Iowa Soil Health trip.

### **Amy Moors – Program Technician**

Amy introduced herself to the board and presented her background.

### **Bryan Malone – Administrator**

**1W1P** – The deadline for comments on the Crow Wing River Draft plan is September 24<sup>th</sup>. Plans are almost finalized for the Otter Tail Policy Committee meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup>. We are near completion of the workplan for the FY25 Wild Rice WBIF. The Crow Wing Planning Committee met to begin discussions about implementation and next month we will discuss the workplan budget. Also presented the plan summary to the Becker County Board.

**Projects** – Made a Clean Water Fund competitive grant application for projects and practices for \$800,000 to extend our structural practice funds. More projects are getting wrapped up and we really appreciate the ability to make payments once the as-built certification and invoices are received. It seems to reduce the stress of getting everything pot tighter for the meeting. Met at the Lehrke farm with the Newspaper to take photos and interview them on the Outstanding Conservationist Nomination. I completed that nomination and submitted to MASWCD for the Area and State Competition. Submitted a MPCA SSTS Upgrade Grant for \$40,000. Met with Clay SWCD staff to compare weed barrier fabric machine set up and performance. Met with NRM staff to discuss Straight Lake Beach shoreline issues and restoration possibilities.

**Personnel** – Held interviews and offered the Program Technician position to Amy Moors. She started September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Colton submitted his resignation as Shoreland Technician and we have opened that position for applications. Will attend the U of MN-Crookstons Career Fair October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our MCC Apprentice finished his time with us on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. He did a great job. We have already been notified that we will get another MCC apprentice next year.

**Meetings and Other** – Attended the County NRM meeting. MCIT webinar on toxic workplaces. Presented our budget to County Finance Committee and attended the County budget work session. The WCA TEP meeting discussed LL Ranch Ag Bank application.

**TSA** – The BWSR Snapshots Bulletin published an article about how the TSA operations are going after the reorganization. Attended the quarterly Host District Manager meeting.

**Adjourn**

Seeing no further business, Vice Chair Ballard adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

  
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Board Secretary

  
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District Administrator

20 NOV 2024  
Date

10/16/2024  
Date