

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, August 20, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, August 20, 2014 in the Conference Room of the Ag Center Building located at 809 8th Street SE, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Those present were Supervisors Tony Beck, Duane Grossman, Kathy Stenger, Jerome Flottesmesch and Eugene Pavelko. Others present include Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson, District Administrator Peter Mead, District Admin Assistant Jen Wentz, NRCS Soil Conservationist Ray Hummel, and District Technicians Ed Clem and Marsha Watland.

Call to Order – Chairman Stenger called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

July Minutes – no changes noted.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Beck) to approve the July minutes as written. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Financial Reports and Bills – Peter reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for July paying close attention to the disbursements for the month as well as our outlook for the remainder of the year.

Motion (Beck, Grossman) to approve the financial reports and bills for August. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Reports –

District Technician Ed Clem reported on the following:

- WRP monitoring through a contribution agreement with NRCS. He and Claire have been working to fulfill the easement monitoring. They reported on the cover types and violations.
- State C-S inspections were completed with a report of practice conditions
- Completed the nitrate water testing at the Becker Co. Fair. We did well with about 25 tests completed. Typical results as in the past. Some were elevated but nothing exceeding the drinking water standard.
- Construction inspection has continued all summer long; we’re constructing projects right into standing crops
- 3 basins were finished on Osten. 5 basins completed around crop for Bjerke and Nelson. Crabtree has 3 wetland restorations that we’re currently creating.
- There are nine more projects that we’d like to complete before the end of 2014.

- A Wetland replacement plan will be brought forward at the board meeting next month regarding driveway widening and raising near Little Toad Lake; Otto Zeck Road off Hwy 34 to the new DL Mountain Recreation Area will be widened and paved.
- Currently working a large wetland violation on Tulaby Lake that hit various agencies: Planning & Zoning, DNR, SWCD, Army Corp and MPCA. The owner has developed lakeshore with a wetland leading up to the lake. We will be meeting with landowners next week to finalize a restoration plan. All fill will need to be removed whether it's in the lake or the wetland, as well as vegetation added back to the natural landscape of the lake.

District Technician Marsha Watland reported on the following:

County Ag Inspector

- Marsha covered her short course training and the resolution that was proposed to offer more funding for each county that is currently being spent with in-house funds.
- She is the President of the Association for the 2014-2015 year.
- Steph, our Intern with Conservation Corp, was helping Marsha with weed complaints and mapping.
- Many townships are not following procedure to address weed complaints in a timely manner.
- She would like to see a better job of using Perspective to control weeds along roadsides.
- There will be some fall treatment this year but must be completed by October 15th

Shoreland Specialist

- She reviewed slides of the Berg site installation with the Board. This was completed on Cormorant Lake using Nature's Design for hydro-seeding and District labor for most of the installation.
- She mentioned the shoreland contractor certification course to be held next September.
- Claire has been helping Marsha with design. Ed Clem has been completing shoreland design as well, especially regarding wetland regulations.
- Conservation Corp has been a great help with many of the projects this year. They will be helping us again over the next couple weeks on several shoreland projects.

NRCS Soil Conservationist Ray Hummel reported on the following:

- Working on CSP sign-ups. The new farm bill has made the task of completing a sign-up difficult. Just finished the fourth selection period. Four contracts have been approved.
- EQIP sign-ups have been similar. We have 23 approved contracts for a total of \$301,000.
- Every year NRCS must complete compliance checks. We check for compliance in another county and they in turn check us. We are inspecting Mahnomen County this year.
- CRP spot checks have begun. 10% of all contracts need to be checked for establishment.
- Construction has been steady for the last three weeks. 30 basins have been installed thus far.

- CRP contract extensions or continuous contracts have been updated with Adam Kleinschmidt, our in-house PF Biologist. 2,500 acres were set to expire this year; he has made contact with each and every one of them.
- CRP past compliance issues have been monitored by Ed M. and Ray.
- Our District completed on-site monitoring on 9 easements and 15 summary reviews. They have been submitted to the state for reimbursement.
- NRCS has to step in to certify if there are problems with CRP contracts.
- Many programs are wrapping up for this time of year; we can now put forth all efforts in completing construction projects.

Area 1 State Convention Planning – Jen reviewed the planning conference call from last week with the Board. Sheila Vanney had previously requested topic ideas for the state convention from all Districts in Area 1. We discussed the most popular choices, appointed leads on each as well as keynote speaker, auction, hospitality room and special projects. Kathy Stenger is involved with this planning process too.

Grants Cradle to Grave – Peter reviewed the grants learning session that he and Jen recently attended in Twin Valley. Various staff from BWSR led the presentations and did a great job of pointing out key areas that need to be addressed for grant verifications including grant application, contracts, billing rates, and vouchers. During the session, we volunteered Becker Soil & Water to be next on their list for 2013 grant verifications.

2015 Supervisor Retreat – Peter reviewed what our Board Conservationist, Brett Arne had mentioned during his recent visit – hold a one day retreat to give our Board the opportunity to offer suggestions in a plan of operations for each coming year. This will be attended by key staff and all Board supervisors after the January board meeting each year. Location to be determined.

2014 BWSR Targeted Watershed RFI and Response – Peter reviewed the stance that NRCS has taken regarding off-easement projects – they no longer complete them. He visited with BWSR to talk about the opportunities. They will call it a phase project with this leg being Phase II. Outcomes and objectives: to achieve sediment and phosphorus reductions. This will be specifically for the Rice Lake operation. \$2.5 million is being requested. The lower structure has not yet been engineered. \$600,000 is needed for the main structure as well as road improvements and equalizing culverts. When combined with the lower structure, we're looking at costs upwards of \$2.5 million.

Phase III will include a reconstruction of the old Snappy ball fields in the east industrial park.

Monitoring has been completed. There are specific goals of pollution reduction with time frames included. Data has been compiled that compares project results with current conditions.

Motion (Flottemesch, Grossman) to authorize administration to write the application and continue with our support of the Rice Lake operation and its completion. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2013 State Cost-Share Contract Cancellations – the following contracts were not completed during the time constraints listed on the contract agreement. The grant period expired 6/30/14.

Contract #13-1 with Duane Salmen, well sealing.
Contract #13-3 with Eric Hegna, well sealing.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to authorize administration to cancel the contracts noted above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2014 State Cost-Share Contracts – The following contracts were presented for approval:

Contract #14-7 with Brad Grant, well sealing. Estimated project cost \$480; eligible state cost-share \$240.

Contract #14-8 with Tom & Carol Risdahl, shoreland buffer. Estimated project cost \$2,089; eligible state cost-share \$250 with \$794.50 from Pelican River Watershed.

Motion (Grossman, Pavelko) to approve the above listed 2014 state cost-share contracts. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Legacy Contract – The following contract was presented for approval:

Contract #CWL-21-2013 with Gary Villiard, water and sediment control basins. Estimated project cost \$38,838; eligible cost-share \$11,849 with \$17,280 from EQIP.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to approve the above listed 2013 Clean Water Legacy contract. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2014 State Cost-Share Voucher – The following project was submitted for payment approval:

Contract #14-4 with Mark & Ranelle Fogelson, shoreland protection. Total project cost \$3,132.80; cost-share payment \$1,563.

Motion (Grossman, Pavelko) to approve the payment of the shoreland protection project noted above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Other –

Peter will be applying for the following grant prospects:

- 2015 Clean Water Legacy grant application period is now open. Peter has spoken to Buffalo Red Watershed District and Clay SWCD. They will try to establish a joint application.
- Opportunity for the south branch of the Wild Rice River to establish buffers and basins. Requested amount will be \$250,000-\$300,000.
- He will apply for grant funding on various shoreland projects.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to authorize administration to proceed with the following three applications – 2015 Clean Water, Wild Rice River buffers and basins and shoreland restoration grant requests. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Flottemesch commented on the policy committee meeting he attended recently. They reviewed 29 resolutions which will be summed up at next month's meeting and prior to the state convention business meeting.

Peter presented this week at the Clean Water Council held at the Science Center in Moorhead.

- Chuck Fritz spoke about the Red River Basin and the status of all projects put in place. Prioritizing and targeting is the topic of discussion, but what are we doing to get that research on the ground and amongst landowners where it really matters?
- Producers spoke about their take on recent EQIP funding for making improvements. Certifying producers was a major topic of discussion. Many will now be exempt from any changes to water quality standards over the next 10 years.

Being no further business, motion (Grossman, Pavelko) to adjourn meeting at 10:45 a.m.