



Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting

Tuesday February 20, 2024

Holiday Inn

1155 US-10, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Meeting Minutes

Supervisors Present:

Michelle Andresen, Chair(teams)

Curt Ballard, Vice Chair

Tony Beck, Treasurer

Travis Schauer, Secretary

Gene Pavelko, Public Relations

Staff Present:

Bryan Malone, District Administrator

Jamie Bischoff, Office Manager

Christy Johnson, Office Assistant

Ed Clem, Resource Technician

Adam Mortenson, Program Technician

Brandon Gill, County Ag Inspector

Claire Olson, Project Coordinator

Colton Utecht, Resource Technician

Karl Koenig, AIS Coordinator

Logan Riedel, Resource Technician

Mary Steinlicht, GIS Specialist

Phil Doll, Private Lands Biologist

Wes Drake, District Engineer(virtual)

Bob Guetter, NRCS District Conservationist

Ed Musielewicz, NRCS District Conservationist

Guests:

Hayley Courneya, NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist

Matt Preis, NRCS Soil Scientist

Max Rykhus, NRCS CET

Lisa Johnson, NRCS Administrative Assistant

Vice Chair Ballard called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Agenda and Consent Agenda Items

January 18, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes; Employee Program Reports

Motion (Pavelko, Schauer) to approve the January meeting minutes and employee program reports.

All in favor, motion carried.

Motion (Schauer, Pavelko) to approve the Revised Agenda and Consent Agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Reports

Treasurers Report and Bills for Approval

Malone reviewed the Treasurers Report and Bills for Approval

Motion (Schauer, Beck) to approve the January's Treasurer's Report and February Bills. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Assistance Policy

Summer Construction Incentive – Revision

The contract cancellation portion of the policy was clarified to include:

Cancellation by the Board – Becker SWCD Board of Supervisors will cancel all contracts for structural ag practices not completed by December 1st of year two.

A contract that has been cancelled by the Board, will not be eligible for any cost-share for 5 years.

Cancellation by the Contract Holder - If a contract holder cancels the contract after year one, they will be limited to 50% cost-share on a future contract addressing the same resource concern on the same property for 5 years.

Motion (Schauer, Beck) to approve the adjustments to the Summer Construction Incentive Policy as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Shoreland Restoration Cost-Share Increase

The current policy provides 50% cost-share on lower priority lakes and 75% on higher priority lakes. In an effort to increase the participation of landowners in installing shoreland practices, it was asked if the cost-share amount in keeping landowners from moving forward. If so, WBIF allows for a higher rate of cost-share than 75%.

Motion (Beck, Schauer) to increase the cost-share rates for shoreland projects to 75% for lower priority lakes and 90% on higher priority lakes. All in favor, motion carried.

Windbreak Establishment maximum

Current policy provides 75% cost-share for Field Windbreaks. The State Legislature revised the state cost-share rules to give SWCDs more flexibility in setting their own priorities for this funding. Malone recommended including all windbreak/shelterbelt practices and provide 75% cost-share not to exceed \$5,000.

Motion (Schauer, Pavelko) to approve the change to the cost-share policy for Windbreak Establishment as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Ag Waste Pit Closure Cost-Share increase

Some landowners are not able to afford the remaining 25% of the cost due to the increased amount in the last couple years to complete the jobs. Since WBIF allows for a higher rate of cost-share, Malone inquired how we could provide more in certain situations. Ed Clem worked on a priority list many years ago. The Board suggested we find that old list and work on a new way to prioritize these practices. This was tabled until a prioritization table is created.

Forest Management SFIA requirement

The Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans include goals for forestland protection and management. Cost-sharing on a forest management plan does not guarantee that any protection or management will be completed by the landowner. If a landowner enrolls in SFIA, one management practice must be completed during the covenant period and landowners can enroll in 8, 20 or 50-year covenants. It is our understanding that the 2C program is a year-by-year contract so protection would not be guaranteed at all.

Motion (Schauer, Beck) to pay 100% of the Forest Management Plan after the landowner provides a copy of the plan and a SFIA covenant. All in favor, motion carried.

Shoreland Request

There was miscommunication with the cost-share contract for a shoreland project completed last summer. Staff was instructed to work with the landowner to resolve the miscommunication and if the projects meets specifications, to investigate possibilities of providing a cost-share payment.

Motion (Schauer, Beck) to work with the landowner to resolve the miscommunication. All in favor, motion carried.

Cost Share

Clean Water Fund Amendment

CWL-37-TD LuSt WASCBS – Changing funding source. The total amount of \$25,444.50 shall be \$21,103.12 from FY21 Buffalo Red WBIF and \$4,341.38 from FY22 Buffalo Red WBIF

Motion (Beck, Pavelko) to approve the Clean Water Fund Amendment as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Clean Water Fund Application

CWF-06-FFBCII KyBe, Cover Crops - Total Project Cost: \$20,950.35; Flat Rate Cost Share \$20,950.35.

Motion (Schauer, Beck) to approve the Clean Water fund Application as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Clean Water Fund Voucher

CWF-04-FFBCII IsHj, Cover Crops - Total Project Cost: \$5,341.50; Flat Rate Cost Share \$5,341.50.

Motion (Beck, Schauer) to approve the Clean Water Fund Voucher as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

State Cost-Share Applications

- SCS-24-03 KeBr, Windbreak Establishment - \$1,175.00 cost estimate; 75% Cost Share \$881.25.
- SCS-24-04 JeLe, Windbreak Establishment - \$3,802.00 cost estimate; 75% Cost Share \$2,851.50.
- SCS-24-05 RiHo, Windbreak Establishment - \$600.00 cost estimate; 75% Cost Share \$450.00.
- SCS-24-06 DeJo, Windbreak Establishment - \$16,256.00 cost estimate; 50% Cost Share \$8128.00.

Motion (Schauer, Pavelko) to approve the State Cost-Share Applications as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

State Cost Share Voucher

SCS-21-01 BrGi, Grassed Waterway - \$8,828.16; 75% Cost Share \$2,272.02

Motion (Pavelko, Beck) to approve the State Cost Share Voucher as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Watershed Based Funding Applications

- 1W1P-11-OT KyBe, WASCBS - \$31,088.42; 90% Cost Share \$27,979.58.
- 1W1P-12-OT KyBe, Crop Rotation - \$16,000.00; Flat Rate Cost Share \$16,000.00.

Motion (Beck, Schauer) to approve the Watershed Based Funding Applications as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

MASWCD Legislative Agenda

Legislative Priorities Webinar March 4, 2024 and Supervisors should attend for information.

Legislative Briefing is March 12-13, 2024 in St. Paul, MN and is the same day as the Soil Health Roundtable, as a result nobody from the Board or staff will be attending.

Open Forum

The Becker County Fair Board would like to meet with Bryan Malone, Ed Clem and Wes Drake on site to discuss storm water management from the gymnastics building located on City property that runs through the fairgrounds.

Staff Reports

District Administrator - Bryan Malone

1W1P – The results of the supplemental funding request for the WBIF grants are in. Received an extra \$138,750 in the Otter Tail Watershed that will fund the 2 projects submitted and provide extra funding for the shoreland program. In the Buffalo-Red we received \$242,237.76 which is enough to mostly fund one of our projects of the three submitted and most likely won't receive anything additional in the Wild Rice as we don't have anything shovel ready in that watershed. Attended the Crow Wing River Watershed Technical Advisory Committee meeting in Staples. Submitted our existing funding amounts in that watershed for the plan. Still on task to have a draft plan by mid-summer and Watershed Based funding about a year from now. Needed to submit pollution reduction numbers to the other CWMPs for project reporting.

Projects – The tree planter is ready for shipment. Will wait until the end of March for that to show up (could be earlier if needed). Worked on revisions to the Summer Construction Incentive policy. 1 SSTS AgBMP loan application was completed in February for \$10,000. Ed M and I worked on possible funding scenarios for the \$1.2 million of structural projects not funded by EQIP that are ready for construction in 2024. Have approximately \$900,000 available so there will be some unfunded at this point. There was much activity with tree planting plans and cost-share applications in the last month.

Personnel – Held interviews for the Office Manager position on January 19th with 5 candidates. Jamie Bischoff accepted our offer and her first day will be at our meeting on February 20th. Excited to have her on board. There were no applicants for the Engineering Technician Job announcement. Will regroup and advertise in different areas now. Submitted a proposal for Soil Health Capacity Grant in partnership with Hubbard SWCD. This may lead to further shared staff with forestry from Hubbard and engineering from us. Ben Sundby is our high school intern. He started on February 5th and spends each school day here from 2-3:30pm until the middle of May.

Meetings and Other – Attended the CWMA partners meeting. Brandon G did a great job of leading the meeting and there was a good discussion on weed management efforts from the group. The last week of January is usually spent on elink reporting and this year was no different. Thank you to the team that provided information! Especially Ed C for the pollution reduction numbers and Christy for entering the financials. Even though Phil broke elink (lol), we finished before our deadline. The local half day workshop for the Becker County Groundwater Atlas will be February 27th at the DL Police station. South Pod meeting in Fergus Falls. NRM meeting at the Courthouse. WCA Technical Evaluation Panel to review possible grazing of the Becker County wetland bank. Attended the Area 1 planning committee meeting to work on the agenda for the next Area meeting on March 19th. Attended the SWCD Supervisor training with Travis, Gene and Curt in Fergus Falls. BWSR BCs Pete, Brett and Matt presented the responsibilities of a SWCD Supervisor.

TSA – Completed the 2023 Accomplishments report that is attached to our elink report. Attend the “RRVCSA Pod Managers and Staff get together” on February 9th with BWSR to see how things are going.

2023 Accomplishments – SWCD Staff

Each staff member gave a power point presentation to the board regarding their 2023 accomplishments.

Lunch

Lunch was served.

Staff Reports cont./Team Building

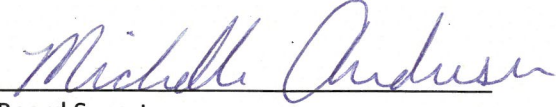
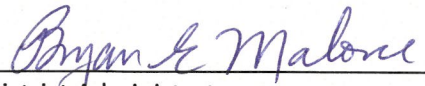
Christy led the group in the team building exercise. The topic was 16 different personalities and how we can learn to learn to with others based on what we know about their personality.

Board and Staff Photo

The photo was taken.

Adjourn

Seeing no further business, Vice Chair Ballard adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

	
Board Secretary	District Administrator

3/20/2024
Date

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