

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, October 16, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, October 16, 2013 in the Conference Room of the Ag Center Building located at 809 8th Street SE, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Those present were Supervisors Duane Grossman, Kathy Stenger, Jerome Flottesmesch, and Don Lefebvre. Others present include Becker District Administrator Peter Mead, District Administrative Assistant Jen Wentz, District Technician Ed Clem and District Technician Marsha Watland. Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson joined the meeting once in progress.

**Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by Vice Chairman Flottesmesch

**Approve September Minutes** –

Motion (Grossman, Stenger) to approve the September meeting minutes as presented.  
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Financial Reports, Bills for Approval, and Supervisor’s Special Meetings** – The financial reports and bills for approval were presented by Peter. Discussion.

Motion (Lefebvre, Stenger) to approve the financial statements and payment of bills for October.  
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Jen presented the special meetings from Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 as listed below. These will be noted in the meetings on a quarterly basis.

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter special meetings

April 3	MASWCD Area I – Crookston (Beck, Grossman, Lefebvre, Stenger)
April 10	RRVCSA JPB Exec Committee – Mahnomen (Flottesmesch)
May 23	Special Board – Orientation of new staff (all)
June 26	MASWCD Area I – Bijou (Beck, Flottesmesch, Grossman, Stenger)

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter special meetings

July 10	SWCD Budget Committee (Beck, Grossman)
August 28	Special Board – Intro of new BC, Matt Fisher (Beck, Flottesmesch, Lefebvre, Stenger)

Motion (Grossman, Lefebvre) to approve the Supervisor’s special meetings for Q2 and Q3.  
Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**MASWCD Resolution Packets & Recommendations** – Presented to Board members for their review and ballot vote.

**Reports –**

*NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz on furlough given the Federal Shutdown*

**Reports --**

*District Technician Ed Clem reported on the following:*

He has been busy installing, reviewing, and inspecting construction projects with the following results:

- Tom Bergren with 4 WASCObS on the east side of Stinking Lake. Completed and certified.
- Dale Binde has a series of 5 WASCObS. Waiting on embankments for completion.
- Okeson Farms has a series of 7 WASCObS on the west side of Hwy 59
- Okeson embankments with tile installation by Kyle Schmit has been completed
- Chris Erickson with 13 WASCObS is still being installed. Construction has been delayed with harvest and other contractor issues. All tile has been placed. Last of the intakes have been installed. He's realized that construction inspection is a must for these projects to be completed correctly.

A few projects still remain for 2013:

- Matt Bjerke with 3 WASCObS
- Todd Andresen with 5 WASCObS planned through the Bemidji TSA 8
- Gary Villiard with 5 WASCObS
- Russ Okeson farms needs to finish the WRP from Campbell Creek. Tile has been placed but still need to build the structure.
- Joel Crabtree with 4 WASCObS and 2 WRPs

Looking forward to having our federal partners back in the office to help with these projects.

Reviewing state cost-share inspections for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> year inspection periods.

Wetland issues:

- Kurt Luschen hearing later today
- Bruce Paakh wants to have the TEP review a wetland bank next week. A senior specialist from BWSR will attend as well.

We were scheduled for spot checks from the NRCS Area I office yesterday, but those were cancelled because of the government shutdown.

**Reports –**

*District Technician Marsha Watland reported on the following:*

County Ag Inspector

- November 13 CAI meeting in Mahnomen
- December 15 CAI Executive meeting in St. Paul
- Noxious Weed Area committee meeting is reviewing their control list categories. She would like to take a look at the following weeds in more detail: Wild Parsnip, Canada Thistle, and Plumless Thistle. Discussion.

Motion (Grossman, Stenger) to approve that the 3 weeds noted above be left on the Noxious Weed Control List. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

- Hounds tongue treatment results are being noted in Silver Leaf and H-O-L townships
- Tansy on CR 37 is being handled by landowners that were notified last month
- She recently attended the Heritage/Cultural Field Day in White Earth and reviewed forestry regulations, Ag inspector issues, and made some additional contacts

#### Shoreland Technician

- Met with the Minnesota Conservation Corp recently and found that they have grants available for various shoreline projects. We need to be proactive regarding our move on this as they are competitive grants.
- Offering additions to the Floyd Lake newsletter on recent shoreline projects
- Working with Tulaby Lake residents on upcoming projects
- Cormorant Lake township improvements will be discussed tomorrow with design plans for this winter and project installations next spring.

Chad West installation site on Cotton Lake was presented to the Board. This is the final shoreline project for the 2013 season.

Before and after pictures were also presented to the Board for the following sites:

- Tom and Christine Strand on Floyd Lake
- Joann Strand on Floyd Lake
- Shauna Slabik on Lake Ida
- Mary and Bill Briggs on Floyd Lake

Currently working on the Ken Huesman site which originally began with a Zoning permit in June. Stormwater runoff is the problem. Also working with the Health Department. The rain garden has been started. The location of the well head has been a concern. Marsha presented her project plans to the Board. Discussion continued regarding the placement requirements of the rain garden in this situation.

Peter mentioned the project and pointed out that this is mitigation. While the District has taken the position of not cost sharing mandated mitigation, Mr. Huesman is choosing to go above and beyond the required mitigation to incorporate native plants and additional ecological enhancements. We do have a cost-share contract for plant materials in place for consideration later during the meeting.

Adjourned regular Board meeting for a short recess before the WCA Public Hearing

**WCA Public Hearing – Kurt Luschen, Shell Lake Replacement Plan** was called to order at 9:32 a.m. with Ed Clem presenting the application and plan map to the Board as well as the proposal from the TEP and other agencies involved.

Additional participants to the meeting include BWSR Wetland Specialist Steve Hofstad and Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson.

Proposal in question: Construction of a private road on the west property line off of County Road 26 and to the ice ridge along the lakeshore. The landowners would like to construct a cabin near the lakeshore.

Original TEP meeting was held in February and the site visit was completed at the end of August.

TEP panel consists of Steve Hofstad, Ed Clem and Peter Mead, with advisory input from Rob Maroney, Army Corp of Engineers and Emily Siira, DNR Hydrologist. The Corp and DNR bring in additional expertise and/or input on legal requirements but are not members of the TEP.

The Board reviewed the materials presented, looked further into the visuals offered, and brought forward several discussion topics regarding the wetland impact on this proposed project.

A chance to offer final comments was given by the Vice Chair. The hearing was closed at 10:06 a.m.

Regular meeting resumed at 10:06 a.m. for the Supervisor's to make a decision on this proposal. Extensive discussion evolved.

Findings by the Board:

- Applicant has not met WCA sequencing requirements
- Application and TEP Panel have identified valid alternatives for minimization/ avoidance
- The stated use of the property would adequately be covered by the TEP panel recommendations
- The landowners purchased this property with WCA rules already in effect
- The location of the property does not lend itself well to a multi-use recreational cabin
- Magnitude of fill for 1/2 mile of road built on wetland base would negatively impact the wetland complex in question
- Special considerations including endangered and threatened species and inconsistency with the goals of the Becker County Comprehensive Local Water Management plan.

Motion (Grossman, Lefebvre) to deny the application based on the findings and recommendations of the TEP panel. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**2014 Tree Order and Pricing** – Peter offered the Board a draft copy of the 2014 Tree Order form. Prices were changed somewhat for inflation and to keep consistent throughout. Marsha raised the question of adding Butternut to the Fruit/Nut Trees & Shrubs category. All agreed.

Motion (Stenger, Grossman) to approve the tree order form and pricing for 2014 as well as adding the Butternut. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Pelican River Watershed District GIS** – Peter was approached by Tera Guetter on the recent needs for upgrading their GIS and database systems. He presented those findings to the Board as well as future possibilities for storage, data usage, and technical aspects regarding a multi-purpose use of GIS.

He also spoke of the District obtaining their own domain name and website to better serve the public.

Motion (Stenger, Flottemesch) to authorize Peter to move forward with creating a public domain and website for the District. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Motion (Flottemesch, Grossman) to authorize Peter to work on his own time to help develop a GIS program with Pelican River Watershed District. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The Board discussed the possibility of the District becoming involved with a GIS system to work with Becker County and forward this onto other counties within the state.

**2014 Clean Water Legacy Grant** – submittals have been made for the GIS staff person for the TSA 1 as well as the 2014 Clean Water Assistance grant for 19 area lakes.

CWMA grant period has opened and we will pursue \$15,000. Other additional grant opportunities are available as well.

Motion (Grossman, Stenger) to authorize the District to apply for the 2014 CWMA grant. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Defensive Driving Training** – our insurance carrier, Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust is offering a no-cost 40-minute online defensive driving course to all of their members. This is for all employees and elected officials. Board agreed to pursue this benefit.

**Authorized Grant Representative** – Peter discussed the possibility of having the District Manager as authorized representative to sign all grant agreements. This would eliminate the delay of needing to wait for a Board meeting in order to begin work under the agreements.

Motion (Stenger, Grossman) to allow the District Manager to authorize and sign future grant agreements. Those grant agreements will then be brought to Board for confirmation. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Cost-Share and Clean Water Legacy Vouchers** – The following vouchers were presented for payment authorization:

2013 State Cost-Share

Contract #13-13 with Chad West was presented for payment authorization. Total project cost \$4,419.74; eligible cost-share payment \$2,193.68

Contract #13-14 with Shauna Slabik was presented for payment authorization. Total project cost \$3,400; eligible cost-share payment \$1,037.50

Motion (Lefebvre, Grossman) to authorize payment of the above mentioned 2013 state cost-share vouchers as presented and for the amounts listed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2013 Clean Water Legacy

Contract #CWL-6-2013 with Roen Family Investments LLC was presented for payment authorization. Total project cost \$14,259; eligible incentive payment \$7,350.

2011 CWL Shoreland – Floyd Lake allocation

Contract #CWL-11-11 with Joann Strand was presented for payment authorization. Total project cost \$2,400; eligible cost-share payment \$1,050.

Contract #CWL-11-12 with Tom and Christine Strand was presented for payment authorization. Total project cost \$4,025; eligible cost-share payment \$2,012.50

Contract #CWL-11-13 with Mary and Bill Briggs was presented for payment authorization. Total project cost \$1,440; eligible cost-share payment \$700.

Contract #CWL-11-14 with Bill and Marilyn Guy was presented for payment authorization. Total project cost \$10,609.32; eligible cost-share \$2,638.49

Contract #CWL-11-15 with Wayne and Joselyn Tang was presented for payment authorization. Total project cost \$2,264.65; eligible cost-share payment \$1,132.33

Motion (Grossman, Stenger) to authorize payment of the above mentioned CWL vouchers as presented and for the amounts listed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Cost-Share Contract** – The following cost-share contract was presented for consideration:

2013 State Cost-Share

Contract #13-16 with Ken Huesman, rain garden. Estimated project cost \$3,407.89; eligible cost-share \$1,149.45

Motion (Stenger, Grossman) to approve the above listed cost-share contract as presented and for the amounts listed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Other** – Being no further business, motion (Grossman, Stenger) to adjourn at 11:55 a.m. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Approved: Don Lefebvre, Becker SWCD Secretary**

**Date: November 20, 2013**