



Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Wednesday, July 19, 2017

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 in the Conference Room of the USDA Ag Center Building located at 809 8th Street SE, Detroit Lakes, MN.

Those present: Supervisors Tony Beck, Jerome Flottesmesch, Chairman Eugene Pavelko and Kathy Stenger. District Administrator Peter Mead, Office Manager Jen Wentz and Water Resource Tech Ed Clem, District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz and Conservation Corps MCC Apprentice Logan Riedel. Others present include Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson.

Call to Order

Chairman Pavelko called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Approval of June Meeting Minutes

Motion (Beck, Stenger) to approve June meeting minutes as written. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Financial Reports

Motion (Flottesmesch, Stenger) to approve the June Treasurers Report and July Bills for Approval. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Gabe Dretsch would like to cash out 40 hours of comp time. This has historically been allowed during year-end. We will review again at December's board meeting.

District Reports

District Conservationist - Ed Musielewicz

- He will be gone during our board meeting in August as the acting Area Resource Conservationist.
- Continue working through CSP contracts and applications. Forestry contracts tend to run higher. The conservation activity tool is particularly for land use.
- Construction update. Rains have slowed things a bit. Norby has been working on grade stabilization projects that are partially complete. Some projects are on hold due to a lack of supplies. Bergren will begin this week.
- EQIP application deadline is August 18th for 2018 funding. They have 22 applications with most being structural in nature as well as a couple forestry conservation plans and one Ag waste system.
- Danny Olson and crew will start tomorrow at Wally Danielson's north of Richwood Rd near the Buffalo River.
- Schouviller project has been placed on hold until I&E can be done on sediment basins.

District Administrator - Peter Mead

- BWSR's FY 2018 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants RFP has been released and the application period is open until August 9th.
- Accelerated Implementation, Community Partners and Minnesota Department of Health Well Sealing grants are not available for FY2018
- Was not able to attend the managers meeting for Brett Arne's work area, but has followed up with Brett.

- Last 10 years of state cost share contracts have been reviewed and/or inspected. A few projects will need to be addressed but most are in satisfactory condition.
- Peter and Staff have experienced increasing referrals from Planning and Zoning, particularly for mitigation, but also for ordinance-specific issues best handled by planning and zoning staff.
- Phil Doll has accepted the offer for Private Land Biologist in our office and will begin working on Monday the 24th. This is a term appointment utilizing FY 18 via a Joint Powers Agreement with the MN DNR. The SWCD will seek continued funding for the position.
- He and Flottesch did not attend the TSA Workgroup meeting in St Paul, but have since followed up with the Freshwater Society and provided a full accounting of reorganizational efforts in TSA 1.

Program Reports

AIS Prevention

- Violation rates are slightly higher and more in line with state averages, which Koenig attributes to the number of returning experienced inspectors on staff this year, increased training as well as diligence on the inspector's part. Rossman Ave and West Lake Drive access has seen a few minor issues. Inspectors have been working hard and sticking to regulations.
- Karl has been working overtime to assist with performing decontaminations or inspections when needed. South Detroit access has seen a huge increase in activity since the renovation of the access.
- Starry Trek, a statewide search for Starry Stonewort, was recently advertised as a press release in newspaper. This is a volunteer event held throughout the state that offers training for individuals interested in spotting the invasive species. Training has been set for Saturday, August 5th. Hoping to have 12-15 people for this activity.

Wetland Conservation Act

- Property splits within 2 miles of the city. Impacting wetland to gain access. County typically utilizes a tech committee to review these splits and offers suggestions to lessen the impact. The City of DL is exercising their authority to plat within 2 miles of city limits. Replacement plans and mitigation or de minimis exemptions will be coming forward in the next few months. Lot of record that is really not feasible for building.
 - State Statute notes that cities have subdivision control, not parcel control. The subdivision fee for large residential is a percentage of the market value or set aside for park dedication.
 - City and county should work out an arrangement for a more consistent and equal fee schedule.
 - City doesn't have control on parcel splits over 3 acres. SWCDs would be contacted in this situation.

Farm Bill Assistance

- Salo has been assisting with CSP eligibility checks and CRP.
- Conducting Irrigation Scheduler routes. Uniformity tests have been mailed to landowners.
- CREP marketing, reviews and planning is underway.
- Making buffer arrangements with landowners.

Engineering

- Wes Drake remains busy. Preliminary plans and cost estimates have been returned for several complex projects in the Upper Buffalo Red Sediment reduction grant area.

Ag Inspector & CWMA

- Weed complaints. Giant Hogweed in Runeberg Township. Poison Hemlock near Island Lake was noticed by AIS Inspectors. It is considered the most toxic plant in North America.
- Attended the Lake Eunice Township meeting and spoke of Wild Parsnip affecting that area.
- Conducted an Erie Township weed tour for Tansy treatment.
- Funding approved for noxious weed program. She will have more specifics after the short course meeting she is attending this week.

- Gabe has been working diligently on installs and voucher completions for most projects.
- Eleven contractors met for a hands on training at a shoreline project on Little Detroit.
- Middle Cormorant access purchase agreement is signed and closed. The lot to the south will be included into the location. Improvements will be made for shoreline loss and erosion control efforts. No boats to be launched on this site.

Water testing for nitrates will be conducted at the Becker County Fair on Thursday, July 27th.

Regular monthly board meeting was called to recess at 9:28 a.m.

9:30 – Public Hearing – Wetland Conservation Act

Those present include Detroit Lakes City Administrator Kelcey Klemm, Mead & Hunt Consulting associate Taylor Peterson, former City Administrator Bob Louiseau and City Engineer John Pratt.

1. City of Detroit Lakes Airport Runway 13/31 Shift/Extension

Ed Clem asked the city to present and summarize the application for the DL Airport. We will hear comments and then present findings of the TEP.

DL City Administrator Kelsey Klemm described the project purpose and need.

Peterson of Mead Hunt Consulting described the project's wetland impacts.

Comment, Eugene Pavelko

Why 5,200 feet? This is a standard runway length for an airport designated as a key airport in Minnesota.

Comment, Ed Clem

Review of sequencing – listing alternatives, avoidance of wetland impacts, and the concurrent point process. Army Corps administers the concurrent point process in regards to WCA sequencing requirements of avoidance, minimization, alternatives analysis, and mitigation. All of this was reviewed in 2016 with the COE, EPA, Becker TEP, and others. The City is hoping for Army Corps permits to be received in August.

Comment, Bob Louiseau

Concurrence points were agreed to along the way for this project. Approximately 20+ alternatives were reviewed to offer the least amount of impact. Mitigation options and alternatives were considered.

TEP Findings and Recommendations were reviewed by Peter Mead: TEP recommends approval.

Chairman Pavelko asked for further comments in support of or against this wetland replacement plan. None were heard.

2. City of Detroit Lakes TH 59 Sanitary Sewer, Watermain and Multi-use Trail Improvements.

DL City Engineer John Pratt described project purpose and need. The multi-use trail will impact 0.23 acres of wetland. The cul-de-sac on Stony Road will impact 0.06 acres of wetland. 0.58 acres of wetland credits will be purchased from the Becker County wetland bank to replace the impacts.

TEP Findings and Recommendations, including wetland avoidance/minimization efforts, and alternatives analysis, were reviewed by Peter Mead. TEP recommends approval.

Chairman Pavelko asked for further comments in support of or against this wetland replacement plan. DL City Administrator Kelsey Klemm commented about future plans for extending the city's multi-use trail system. No wetland impacts are expected for any additional expansion. No further comments were heard.

Public Hearing closed at 10:47 a.m. Chairman Pavelko reconvened the regular monthly meeting.

City of Detroit Lakes Airport Runway 13/31 Shift/Extension

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to accept the findings and recommendation of the TEP panel, noting there were no further positive or negative comments made, and approve the wetland replacement plan. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

City of Detroit Lakes TH 59 Sanitary Sewer, Watermain and Multi-use Trail Improvements.

Motion (Beck, Flottemesch) to accept the findings and recommendation of the TEP panel, noting there were no further positive or negative comments made, and approve the wetland replacement plan. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Buffer Implementation

Review and approval of Flat Rate Cost Share Policy for Buffer Implementation. Guidance must be consistent with BWSR and Clean Water Funding. We have the choice of traditional cost-share payment percentages or a flat rate cost share payment. Because the latter seems the simplest, we have decided to go with that. However, policies must be in place.

To qualify for cost share assistance buffers on public waters must be a continuous buffer of perennially rooted vegetation measuring a 50-foot average width, 30 foot minimum width measuring from from the top or crown of the bank, as required by Minnesota Statutes §103F.48, Subd. 3(c). Where there is no definable bank, measurement must be from the edge of the normal water level; or buffers must meet the design criteria set forth in USDA-NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 393 (Filter Strip). For public drainage systems established under chapter 103E, a 16.5-foot minimum width continuous buffer as provided in section 103E.021, subdivision 1. The buffer vegetation shall not impede future maintenance of the ditch.

A Cropping history is required, which is defined as agricultural crop production for at least two of the last five years.

A minimum of five native species such as Big bluestem, Indian grass, Little bluestem, Switchgrass, Canada wild rye, Virginia wild rye, Slender wheatgrass, Kalm's brome or Prairie brome must be planted. Invasive species, state Noxious Weeds and aggressive species, such as reed canary grass, sweet clover, Phragmites species and Miscanthus species cannot be used. Native shrub plantings (amongst native grasses and flowers) for wildlife, fruit or nut production is allowed.

Allowable Activities after establishment include haying, seed propagation, bio energy production, and prescribed burning, outside of the nesting season of May 15 to August 1. Alternative dates can be approved by the SWCD on a case by case basis for weed control, tree and shrub management or emergency repairs. Grazing after successful establishment is allowed with an approved grazing management plan (Prescribed Grazing, practice standard 528).

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to approve a flat rate as suggested by administration with slight modifications that will appeal to a larger group of landowners. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Grants & Agreements

Approval of FY18 Farm Bill Assistance Grant.
Approval of 2018 Buffer Cost Share Grant.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to approve submittal of the two above grants for 2018. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Approval of SWCD/NRCS Operational Agreement

This agreement explains what NRCS provides to Districts with work and in-kind work. All documenting was completed earlier and there was a discrepancy of equitability. Mead reviewed main topics of the agreement, noting that the SWCD is committing to far less on paper than occurs in actuality.

Approval of SWCD/NRCS Cooperation Agreement

This allows SWCDs to access producer information and the agreement that we will work well together to conserve natural resources. This is part of an annual agreement that is reviewed each year which ensures that personally identifiable information must remain safe. Shared vehicle policies in place, etc.

Motion (Stenger, Beck) to approve submittal of the two above agreements between SWCD/NRCS. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2018 Operational Budget

Review and Approve Committee Recommendations

No additional money will be requested from Becker County. \$14,500 to be listed as a special project between SWCD and Becker County. Private Land Biologist has been added. Most funding will be from DNR. There were a few minor changes based on actuals from 2016 and where we stand thus far with 2017 figures.

Motion (Flottesch, Stenger) to approve the Becker SWCD 2018 Budget as written. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Legacy Vouchers for Payment

CWL-22-BR, Joel Crabtree, Water & Sediment Control Basin, Critical Area Planting. Total project costs \$8,091 with an eligible cost share payment of \$7,282.

CWL-25-LP, Becky & Joe Burns, Shoreland/Streambank Stabilization. Total project costs \$5,939 with an eligible cost share payment of \$4,454.

CWL-26-LP, Kevin & Brenda Wolf, Shoreland/Streambank Stabilization. Total project costs \$3,487 with an eligible cost share payment of \$2,616.

CWL-27-LP, Bryan & Lisa Olschlager, Shoreland/Streambank Stabilization. Total project costs \$4,848 with an eligible cost share payment of \$3,636.

Motion (Beck, Flottesch) to approve payment of the above Clean Water Legacy grant vouchers. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Legacy Contracts for Approval

CWL-7-WR, Jeri Jasken, Water & Sediment Control Basins. Estimated project costs \$35,417. This project is eligible for 90% cost share assistance with \$6,850 from 2015 CWL South Branch Wild Rice and \$25,023 from 2017 USDA EQIP.

Motion (Flottesch, Beck) to approve the above 2015 CWL South Branch Wild Rice Clean Water Legacy contract. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

With nothing further to report, the meeting was adjourned by general consensus at 11:09 a.m.

Approved: Kathy Stenger, Becker SWCD Secretary

Date: August 16, 2017