



Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Wednesday December 18, 2019

## Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday December 18, 2019 in the Conference Room of the USDA Ag Center Building located at 809 8th Street SE, Detroit Lakes, MN.

Those present were Chairman Tony Beck, Jerome Flottemesch, Kathleen Stenger, Travis Schauer and Eugene Pavelko. Staff members include District Administrator Peter Mead, Office Manager Deana Westberg, AIS Coordinator Karl Koenig, NRCS Soil Conservationist Travis Doeden, and Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson.

Call to Order Chairman Beck called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

### **Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda Items**

(November 20, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes; Employee Program Reports)

Mead added 3 Amendments for Approval, 2 Contract Cancellations and an application for Approval to the December Agenda

Motion (Stenger, Pavelko) to approve the amended agenda. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Motion (Schauer, Pavelko) to approve the November Meeting Minutes and Employee Reports. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

### **Financial Reports**

Treasurers Report and Bills for Approval were reviewed by Mead and Westberg.

Motion (Flottemesch, Schauer) to approve the November Treasurer's Report and the list of bills to pay for December. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Review and Approve 4<sup>th</sup> QTR Supervisor Expenses & Special Meetings

Motion (Pavelko, Schauer) to approve the Supervisor's Expenses and Special Meetings. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

### **District Reports**

Administrator's Report was given by Peter Mead.

The Red Eye 1W1P Advisory team met November 21<sup>st</sup>, and the process continues to go quite smoothly. 5 sections of the plan have now been drafted, and the meeting focused on decisions necessary for drafting the next section on measurable goals which is expected to be drafted by the group's next meeting January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

November 25<sup>th</sup> Mead participated in discussion with the partners in MDH's application to NRCS's RCPP grant program for Precision Irrigation across the majority of MN's irrigation intensive counties. Darren

Newville, the folks at central lakes college, and staff at the Department of Ag have done the bulk of the heavy lifting and it's looking like a 5 million dollar application with loads of state and local match.

Time was also spent over the course of the week corresponding with TNC's Todd Holman and the Crow Wing Health Watershed group working on the District sponsored RCCP application for Working Land Easements in the Upper Mississippi River Basin.

The Buffalo Red 1W1P Policy committee met November 27<sup>th</sup>, taking action on Plan section 5: Implementation Programs, plan section 6: Plan Administration, and reviewing watershed-wide actions for the plan.

December 2<sup>nd</sup> The Wild Rice 1W1P Advisory team met in Ada, discussing Implementation programs, Implementation Scenarios, and Implementation Actions. The process continues to move smoothly and quickly, with surprising consensus amongst all members of each committee.

Jeanette Austin, BWSR Grants Compliance Specialist spent a few days in the office auditing the TSA FY 2017 Enhanced Shared Technical Services grant that expired on June 30, 2019 and the Upper Buffalo River Sediment Reduction Grant that will expire on December 31, 2019.

Mead and Karl Koenig explained the new Minnesota Dept of Health free well water test kits for up to 200 homes beginning in January 2020. The focus is for families in Becker County that have children under the age of 5. This fee is normally at least \$100 for all 5 tests including lead, nitrates and arsenic. A map showing total nitrate concentrations greater than 10 mg per liter in new private wells in Becker County as of 2017 was displayed and discussed. Lead and arsenic are found in our area communities which is a naturally occurring thing. More discussion and questions on what to do if unsafe results come back, follow up testing, funding awareness, using bottled water, etc.

The annual MASWCD Convention in Bloomington, MN Dec 8-10 was attended by SWCD and NRCS staff, Managers, Board Supervisors and our Area 1 District Outstanding Conservationist-Todd and Michelle Andresen. Beck and Mead went down early to the Sunday afternoon Leadership Summit. Mead chaired and was on the question/answer panel for the two-part Concurrent Sessions: What is the Future of Technical Service Areas? Discussion was held on the sessions, meetings and awards.

On December 12<sup>th</sup> Reidel, Dahring, Clem and Mead from the SWCD office hosted a Shoreline Restoration and Protection training in Alexandria. Reidel gave the power point presentation which included how to do cost estimates, spreadsheets for shoreline projects, Storm water mitigation and rain garden designs. Everyone was asked to respond by text to an interactive Poll and the response was very positive. Including a comment "best training I have been to".

Engineering meeting this week to discuss the current 33 projects that are divided up among all the engineer staff and how to manage them next year.

### **Open Forum**

Travis Doeden, NRCS Soil Conservationist reported that CSP can now make payments. This is 2 months later than normal funding. In order to receive payment in 2019 the payment application form must be signed and uploaded by Friday December 20, 2019. Therefore, to make this possible, all staff have been helping out.

Doeden also reported that the General CRP signup deadline is Feb 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Reenrollment rates are up a bit.

Doeden told about the 8 new workstations that the NRCS set up in anticipation for a few more new positions to be filled. One of which is the NRCS Team Lead position of Becker, Clay, Wilkin & Ottertail counties which closes this week. Selection process is anticipated by February 2020.

### **AIS Prevention**

2019 and 2020 AIS Program Budget review was given by Becker SWCD AIS Coordinator Karl Koenig. Karl noted the 2019 Budget v. Actuals as of 11/30/19. He explained the changes that were made for 2019 and 2020, including less inspection hours than anticipated. Discussion on the reserve funds for future treatments and grants to cities and lake associations for treatment services.

Questions Koenig was asked regarding the future of AIS included, a Watercraft Operator's License, Starry Stone-Wart and Zebra Mussels in our area lakes and what effect does it have, harmful algae blooms and native mussel's reduction.

Discussion on the survival of Zebra Mussel's in our wetlands, how and when law enforcement becomes involved. Only 1 person known to be cited and only 3% of the recorded statistics had an actual AIS concern. The largest concern is the movement of docks and lifts between lakes. There is a twenty one day state law to leave docks and lifts out of the water, so as not to transfer any live invasive species.

Motion (Flottemesch, Schauer) to approve the 2020 AIS Program budget as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

#### **Clean Water Legacy Amendments for Approval**

#CWL-8-UB, Bill Steffl, Fund Source Change– Amended Total Project Cost: \$64,103

#CWL-33-BR, Kevin Lunde, Increased Project Costs – Total Project Cost Increase: \$3,061

#CWL-39-BR, Albin Warling, Increased Project Costs– Total Project Cost Increase: \$15,964

Motion (Stenger, Schauer) to approve the Clean Water Legacy Amendments for Approval as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried

#### **Clean Water Legacy Contract Cancellations**

#CWL-7-UB, Scott McCaslin, Partner funding exceeds C/E

#CWL-9-TD, Dennis Schouviller, Fund Source Change

Motion (Schauer, Flottemesch) to approve the Clean Water Legacy Contract Cancellations as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried

#### **State Cost Share Vouchers for Approval**

#SCS-19-5, Darren Keranen, Ag Waste System– Total Project Cost: \$5,500 Cost Share: \$3,500

Motion (Flottemesch, Pavelko) to approve the State Cost Share Vouchers as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried

#### **Clean Water Legacy Vouchers for Approval**

#CWL-6-UB, Dennis Schouviller, Water and Sediment Control Basins– Total Project Cost: \$61,920.45 Cost Share: \$26,101.41

#CWL-8-UB, Bill Steffl, WASCB/Grade Stabilization/Waterway– Total Project Cost: \$21,917 Cost Share: \$19,725

#CWL-33-BR, Kevin Lunde, Water & Sediment Control Basins– Total Project Cost: \$41,999 Cost Share: \$22,363

#CWL-34-BR, Matt Bjerke, Water & Sediment Control Basins– Total Project Cost: \$13,914 Cost Share: \$6,540

#CWL-38-BR, Kevan Nelson, Water & Sediment Control Basins– Total Project Cost: \$31,730 Cost Share: \$3,095

#CWL-39-BR, Albin Warling, Water & Sediment Control Basins– Total Project Cost: \$15,963 Cost Share: \$6723

#CWL-40-BR, Elvin Anderson, Water & Sediment Control Basins– Total Project Cost: \$15,436 Cost Share: \$4,162

#CWL-41-BR, Kevin Lunde, Water & Sediment Control Basins– Total Project Cost: \$11,339 Cost Share: \$5102.50

Motion (Flottemesch, Pavelko) to approve the Clean Water Legacy Vouchers as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried

**Board Supervisor Resignation**

SWCD Board Supervisors and staff regretfully accept the resignation of Kathy Stenger. Kathy has been on the board as a supervisor since 2012. Kathy's term will expire on 12-31-2019.

Motion (Schauer, Pavelko) to approve the Board Supervisor resignation of Kathy Stenger. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried

**Upcoming Events**

Jan 14<sup>th</sup> TSA Manager's Meeting in Mahanomen

Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> SWCD Board meeting

**Adjourn**

Seeing no further business, Chairman Beck adjourned the meeting at 10:20 am.

**Approved: Michelle Andresen, Becker SWCD Secretary**

**Date: January 22, 2020**