



## **Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Wednesday, September 16, 2020**

### **Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday September 16, 2020 at the Becker SWCD Shop Facility located at 1366 Mallard Street, Detroit Lakes, MN.

Those present were Supervisors Travis Schauer, Tony Beck, Eugene Pavelko, Michelle Andresen and Curt Ballard. Staff members District Administrator Peter Mead, Office Manager Deana Westberg, SWCD Soil & Water Technician Ed Clem, NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, NRCS Team Lead Bob Guetter and County Commissioner Barry Nelson.

#### **Call to Order**

Chairman Schauer called the meeting to order at 8:36 AM.

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

(August 19, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes; Employee Program Reports)

Motion (Beck, Pavelko) to approve the consent agenda items including the August meeting minutes and the employee program reports. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

#### **Financial Reports**

Mead reviewed the Treasurers Report and the Bills for Approval.

Motion (Andresen, Ballard) to approve the August Treasurers Report and September bills for payment. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

#### **District Reports**

District Administrator Peter Mead reported:

- Probably the last board meeting due to Mead's last fulltime day is Friday September 18<sup>th</sup>. He will stay on for 8 hours per week for as long as needed to help with the hiring and transition of the new District Administrator.
- Majority of time spent on finalizing files, projects and spreadsheets.
- Red Eye 1W1P meeting approved by BWSR, adopted and tabled for now.
- Buffalo Red 1W1P was approved
- Zoning Tech panels meeting weekly (more zoning issues lately)
- PTMapp meeting – money leftover so may have to return some funding
- Met with Mike Brethorst, County Administrator for a 2021 budget meeting. Collectively compiled and split out by category a detailed spreadsheet by category which will help with future year budgeting.
- EOT resubmitting RCPP proposal which could result in possible funding to Becker County.
- TEP meeting on the Ogema Wetland Bank
- Special TSA meeting was held virtual at the shop and a quorum was met so the June minutes were approved.

- Also Malone from Pennington County expressed a need for more Engineer's. A workload assessment is needed from all districts to determine the need. Malone will convene the Manager's committee and volunteered to head up this project.
- Lyle Dittmann was nominated and accepted as the new chairman for the TSA for a 1 year term.
- Met with the Personnel committee (Pavelko and Beck) to discuss the four applications received for the District Administrator position.
- Attended the County Commissioners meeting and presented the SWCDs 2021 budget request. LWM planning match was approved for 2021 and the AIS Coordinator salary assistance was reduced accordingly.
  - Discussion regarding the county relationship with Becker SWCD
  - Suggestion to ask for more water planning funds instead
  - Zebra Mussels no longer the primary county concern
- Buffer Law Certified letters were mailed out by the request of BWSR from Planning and Zoning to 15 noncompliant Becker County landowners.
  - Discussion and questions on ways to become Buffer compliant.
  - Alternative practices discussed
  - Discussion and questions regarding the CRP program with the Buffer Law.
  - About half of the landowners became compliant with the aid of the SWCD by the deadline. The rest will be turned over to the County Attorney for next steps.
- COVID update – USDA Level 3 so doors are still locked to the public but do have public access through walk up windows.

Chairman Schauer closed the regular meeting and opened the public hearing at 9:29 a.m.

---

**Public Hearing – Wetland Conservation Act**

Ogema Wetland Bank Mitigation Plan

Date of Application: 7/29/20

SWCD Technician Ed Clem explained the needed approval of the Mitigation Plan by MN Board of Water & Soil to create a Wetland Bank called the Ogema Bank by restoring wetlands on 173 acres in Section 6 of Callaway Township, Becker County. The project's purpose is to create 87.5 acres of wetland credits to be deposited in the MN Wetland Bank and used by Local Govt Road Authorities for approved public road maintenance projects to mitigate wetland impacts.

Chairman Schauer asked for comments in favor or against the application. Hearing none, the public hearing was closed and the regular board meeting was reopened at 9:55 a.m..

---

Discussion: Clem noted that the SWCD Board should make a decision on approval of this project based on its merits; including purpose and need, wetland impact avoidance and minimization measures, and proposed compensatory mitigation. The Board is under no obligation to follow or concur with the TEP recommendation. Also, the decision of the Board can be appealed to the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Findings: Motion to approve the TEP's findings and approve the mitigation plan, with the stipulation that the state will perform annual inspection and maintenance of culverts and drainage features within the project area to ensure no adverse effects to adjacent landowners.

Motion (Pavelko, Ballard) for the SWCD serving as WCA LGU to concur with the findings of the TEP and approve the Wetland Replacement Plan for the Ogema Wetland Bank Mitigation Plan. Motion affirmative; unanimous, carried.

### **Open Forum**

No discussion

### **Local Water Management**

- Redeye 1W1P One Watershed, One Plan approved by the State of Minnesota and ready to implement
- Buffalo Red 1W1P plans ready for submittal, Wild Rice nearing end of 60 day comment period.
- Mississippi Headwaters 1W1P only a small northern portion of Becker County
- Ottertail has received a planning grant, the process is in its initial stages, and Crow Wing watershed partners hoping to follow in 2022.
- Resolution to Adopt and Implement Redeye One Watershed, One Plan was presented.

Motion (Beck, Ballard) to approve the Local Water Management resolution as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

### **Outreach & Education**

- 2020 Soil Management Summit to be held virtually at the Holiday Inn on December 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> with Becker SWCD hosting
- Participant Scholarships to cover the registration costs.
- Limited capacity due to Covid-19 – only up to 20 people
- Cost to cover are room rental and equipment
- No vendors this year
- Look into inviting the local FFA chapters

Motion (Andresen, Beck) to approve the Participant Scholarships as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

### **Human Resources**

- Review Personnel Committee recommendations
  - Four applications received and screened for qualifications
  - Committee decided to interview three applicants that meet the desired criteria
  - The full board will interview all three applicants on September 24<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. – 12:00 at the shop.
- Two more resignations were recently received
  - Program Technician Salo's last day will be October 2<sup>nd</sup>. This open position will be posted this week.
  - Engineer Technician Wallace's last day will be October 1<sup>st</sup>. This position will not be filled at this time. Engineer Technician Olson will increase her weekly hours from 32 to 40 and the NRCS recently hired an Engineer Technician. We will revisit this position opening next Spring.
- Interim Staffing Plan
  - Supervisor Beck will be added to the bank's check signature card
  - Board also recommended to add Clem to the bank's check signature card

- Westberg will be the POC until the District Administrator's position is filled.

**State Cost Share Contracts for Approval**

# SCS-18-13, Bruce Nelson, Mulching & Crimping- Total Project Cost:\$1,200 Cost Share: \$900  
# SCS-19-8, Allen Bergquist, Cover Crop -Total Project Cost:\$3,500 Cost Share: \$3,500  
# SCS-19-9, Anne Buelow (Jolly Fisherman), Conservation Cover-Total Project Cost:\$6,212 Cost Share: \$3,106

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

**State Cost Share Amendments for Approval**

#SCS-18-7, LPA Elementary, Increased Scope and costs-Total Amended Project Cost: \$4,275

Motion (Beck, Andresen) to approve the State Cost Share Amendment as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried

**Clean Water Legacy Contracts for Approval**

# CWL-18-TD, David Rousu, Grade Stabilization-Total Project Cost:\$49,238.75 Cost Share: \$49,238.75  
# CWL-67-LP, Janis Aiken, Conservation Cover-Total Project Cost:\$6,570 Cost Share: \$4,928  
# CWL-68-LP, Lori Thronson, Conservation Cover-Total Project Cost:\$2,997 Cost Share: \$1,499  
# CWL-69-LP, Bowe & Horner Property, Critical Area Planting-Total Project Cost:\$8,025 Cost Share: \$4,013  
# CWL-70-LP, Linda & Terry Beilke, Conservation Cover-Total Project Cost:\$3,700 Cost Share: \$1,850  
# BA-13, Frieda Greenland Trust, Filter Strip-Total Project Cost \$990.00, Cost Share: \$900.00

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

**State Cost Share Cost Share Vouchers for Payment**

# SCS-18-7, LPA Elementary, Critical Area Planting, Raingarden-Total Project Cost: \$4,275 Cost Share: \$2,138  
# SCS-19-6, Brent Gilbertson, Cover Crop-Total Project Cost:\$1,280 Cost Share: \$1,280

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

**Clean Water Legacy Vouchers for Payment**

# CWL-11-WR, Tom Bergren, Water & Sediment Control Basins-Total Project Cost:\$75,368 Cost Share: \$67,831  
# CWL-11-TD, Brent Gilbertson, Cover Crop-Total Project Cost:\$2,302 Cost Share: \$2,302  
# CWL-15-TD, Eric Zurn, Water & Sediment Control Basins-Total Project Cost:\$16,706 Cost Share: \$12,530

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

**Adjourn**

Seeing no further business, Chairman Schauer adjourned the meeting at 10:40 am.

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

**Date: October 21, 2020**