

**Becker Soil & Water Conservation District  
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting  
November 19, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District was held on Wednesday, November 19, 2008, at 8:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Ag Center Building, 809 8<sup>th</sup> St. S.E., Detroit Lakes, Minn.

Those present were supervisors Roger Tychsen, Duane Grossman, Don Lefebvre, Dale Lubitz, Jerome Flottesch, County Commissioner Barry Nelson, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, Dist. Technician Ed Clem, and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant. Others present Colleen Oestreich, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist, and landowner Arlen Huwe.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lefebvre.

The October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were presented for approval.

Motion by Tychsen, second by Grossman to approve the October 15<sup>th</sup> minutes as sent out and received by the supervisors. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Flottesch, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

The financial reports and bills payable were presented.

Motion by Grossman, second by Lubitz to approve the payment of bills and financial statements as presented. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Tychsen, Flottesch. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Arlen Huwe, a landowner from Spruce Grove Township, was present to discuss a Federal WRP Easement he has on land he owns in Spruce Grove Township. Mr. Huwe explained the history of the WRP Project and expressed his dissatisfaction with the wetland restoration that took place. As this is an easement between the Federal Government and a private landowner and did not involve the SWCD in any way the supervisors felt there was nothing they could offer to resolve Mr. Huwe concerns.

NRCS Assistant State Conservationist Colleen Oestreich from the Fergus Falls Area Office updated the supervisors on the current EQIP Program audit that is being conducted, and the status of the grazing specialist position that was moved from Detroit Lakes to Thief River Falls. The position for this area will be filled and located in Perham to better fit the area of service.

**Reports:**

**WesMin RC&D** – Don Lefebvre reported that there was no WesMin Meeting in November. However WesMin director Dean Schmidt sent out a memo highlighting a few items, one being that WesMin has been awarded a \$10,350 Marketing Grant from NRCS. Also the Minnesota Association of RC&D's will have booths at the AMC Conference and the MASWCD conference.

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**Dist. Conservationist Report:** Ed Musielewicz reported on the following:

- WesMin received a grant to put on a bio-fuel workshop. This may be held in cooperation with the White Earth Tribe.
- Local EQIP work group meeting is tomorrow at 9:00.
- Due to weather conditions several sediment basin projects were not completed.
- Ed presented a map showing all the project locations for 2008. Thirty-four contracts totaling \$655,000 EQIP funds were approved. Ed commented briefly on some of the grazing plans and the ag waste system that is going in Runeberg Township.
- New CRP contracts are on hold at FSA.

Ed presented a request for plant materials from Dustin Jasken for 25 black cherry and 25 pin cherry from the plant materials center in Bismarck.

Motion by Flottesmesch, second by Grossman to approve the plant materials request as presented. Affirmative: Flottesmesch, Lubitz, Tyachsen, Grossman. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Lefebvre inquired about the PL566 Project for Rice Lake. Ed noted that the Pelican River Watershed District is taking the lead on the project.

**Dist. Technician Report:** Dist. Technician Ed Clem reported on the following:

- Presented a summary of the No-Till Drill Program for 2008. Seventeen landowners rented the drill and seeded a total of 1,352 acres.
- Beginning to make contacts for windbreak designs.
- Completed 13 CRP status reviews for NRCS as part of a contribution agreement.
- Fall construction halted due to wetness.

**Public Hearing:** Chairman Lefebvre closed the regular meeting and called to order a public hearing for the Bruce Paakh Wetland Banking Application Part-B. Brad presented a list of concerns on the Part-B Application that were received from BWSR Vegetation Specialist Dan Shaw and BWSR Engineer Leon Zeug. These concerns were reviewed with Mr. Paakh at a recent TEP Panel Meeting. Mr. Paakh has provided a written response to the concerns. However the TEP Panel has some additional concerns such as a copy of the Wetland Delineation is needed, seed source, pure live seed, and seed mix to be used.

Chairman Lefebvre asked for comments against the application. None were offered. Chairman Lefebvre asked for comments in favor of the application. Brad stated that the TEP has no opposition to the application but would like to see that the conditions presented are addressed.

Chairman Lefebvre closed the hearing and re-opened the SWCD meeting.

Motion by Tyachsen, second by Lubitz to approve Part-B of the Bruce Paakh Wetland Banking Plan with the conditions as presented from the TEP panel concerning the seeding, seed and wetland delineation report. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Flottesmesch, Tyachsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

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**Invasive Species Conference:** Marsha Watland reported on the Invasive Species Conference she attended in Duluth, Oct. 27-29. Marsha thanked the Board for nominating her for the Carol Mortenson Award. Marsha presented at the conference on the efforts being made in Becker County to combat invasive species. Marsha also updated the Board on the Gravel Pit Inspection Program that we hope to develop for Becker County, and also reported on the lap top computer and programs purchased through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant to assist with the invasive program. As required we will be presenting the Annual Ag Inspectors Report to the County Commissioners in December.

**BWSR Academy:** Staff reported on the BWSR Training Academy that was held Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup>. Training and information on many of the BWSR Programs were presented during the session. Staff felt it was one of the better training opportunities with costs being reasonable.

**Grants:** Brad updated the supervisors on the two grant applications that were submitted since last meeting. One is for \$26,783 to expand the lake monitoring program by 17 lakes. This is a cooperative effort with RMB Laboratories. The other is a request for \$12,563 for the Native Buffer Cost-share Program to establish native stands.

**Junior Envirothon:** Ginger reported on the 1<sup>st</sup> Area II Junior Envirothon that was held October 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center in Fergus Falls. Twenty-four teams from area schools took part in the event for students in grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. The first place team came from the Fergus Falls Public Schools.

**Equipment:** Brad noted that the hard drive on Gingers computer crashed. It was still under warranty and the Becker County IT Department had it back up in a couple days. The County is on a three year replacement program for most of their computers. We may want to evaluate our computer needs after the first of the year and consider upgrading a couple units.

**Plat Book:** Sales of the new book are going well. We are still having problems getting books from the company; they seem to have delays in their printing schedule.

**Wetland Conservation Act:** Ed Clem reported on wetland conservation act violations. We have contacted the one on Elbow Lake and will be meeting with them after Thanksgiving. Also responded to a complaint from a Conservation Officer which turned out to be a wildlife excavation. Some spoil material from this project will be moved next spring. One area of confusion this summer has been with beaver dam removal. We may want to do a newspaper article on this aspect on the wetland law to help with the issue.

**State Cost-share Program:** The following State Cost-Share contracts were presented for payment authorization:

Contract #09-2 with Jan Rootham for Abandoned Well Sealing. Total cost \$375.00. Eligible Cost-Share \$187.50.

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Motion by Flottemesch, second by Grossman to authorize payment of contract #09-2 for \$187.50. Affirmative: Lubitz, Grossman, Flottemesch, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

Contract #09-5 with John Steffl for sediment basins. Total cost \$21,206.00. Eligible State Cost-Share \$340.00.

Contract #08-29 with Pete Jacobson for sediment basin. Total cost \$3,570.00. Eligible State Cost-Share \$477.00.

Contract #08-30 with John Schouviller for sediment basins. Total cost \$20,301.00. Eligible state cost-share \$2,165.00. Also \$2,165.00 from Buffalo-Red Watershed District allocation.

Motion by Lubitz, second by Tychsen to authorize payment of the above Cost-Share Contracts for the amounts presented. Affirmative: Lubitz, Flottemesch, Grossman, Tychsen. Opposed: None. Motion carried.

**MASWCD Conference:** Final arrangements for the State Conference Dec. 7-9 were discussed. Dale, Jerome, and Duane plan to attend. Staff attending will be Ed, Ginger and Brad. The Conservationist of the Year also plans to attend. Brad noted the information on the MASWCD officer candidates that will be acted on at the conference.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Lefebvre.

**Approved: Jerome Flottemesch, Secretary**

**Date: December 17, 2008**