

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District**  
**Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 16, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Ag Center Building, 809 8<sup>th</sup> St. S.E., Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Those present were supervisors Jerome Flottemesch, Duane Grossman, Tony Beck, Becker Co. Commissioner Barry Nelson, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, Dist. Technician Ed Clem, and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Flottemesch.

Motion by Grossman, second by Beck to approve the minutes of the August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting as sent out and received by the supervisor's. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The financial reports and bills payable were presented. In reviewing the cost-share financial report Brad noted that cost-share contract #09-16 should be canceled as the land owner has been contacted and had no objections to canceling the contract and felt he could re-signup later.

The supervisors also discussed the issue with Cloud Cartographics concerning our plat book publication. Board instructed staff to contact the Becker County Attorney's office to see if a lien or judgment could be filed.

Brad noted that he discussed the reduction in state cost-share funds with Bruce Albright, Administrator for the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District and how it affects the funds that they provide for projects. Bruce felt the watershed funds should be used as in the past but not to exceed 12 ½ percent of any project if no state cost-share was being used.

Motion by Beck, second by Grossman to cancel cost-share contract #09-16. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

8:15 a.m. Supervisor Lefebvre arrived. The chair was turned over to Chairman Lefebvre.

Motion by Flottemesch, second by Grossman to approve payment of bills and financial reports as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Reports:**

**WesMin RC&D** – Don reported that at the September 9<sup>th</sup> WesMin RC&D meeting the council reviewed the projects that had been assisted through WesMin during this past fiscal year. Other items included:

- Heard a report on the Wadena Wildlife Festival.
- Received a portion of the Minn. Dept. of Ag. Grazing Grant. This first allocation will be used to start the book publication and also begin planning grazing workshops.

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- Becker County submitted 2 dry hydrants proposals to WesMin for Carsonville and Frazee Fire Departments. Funding will be applied for from the DNR Rural Fire Grants Program. Planning will take place this winter and applications submitted in April for funds.

Motion by Flottesch, second by Grossman to approve the dry hydrant project proposal. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

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

- Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> was the deadline for EQIP contract acceptance. We had \$390,000 in contracts approved. Another 13 contracts totaling \$200,000 did not get funded.
- Contribution agreements are on hold.
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) started August 10<sup>th</sup>. Ed held three meetings throughout Becker County. One in White Earth, Detroit Lakes and Wolf Lake. Have seven sign-ups to date.
- Hay Creek Project is going well. Bids for 3 additional jobs were approved by the BRRWD at their last meeting. Two more applications are pending. Ed thanked the District staff for their assistance on the construction projects this season.
- Phil Doll is working on WRP easements with the Pelican River Watershed in the Rice Lake Restoration Project Area.
- The Wild Rice Watershed District has contacted the NRCS State Office requesting assistance on flood control sites.

Brad requested approval of the cost of facilities that were used for the CSP meetings. One was the White Earth Community Center and the other was the Wolf Lake Lions Club building. The cost was \$50 per site.

Motion by Beck, second by Grossman to approve the sponsorship of the CSP meetings. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Ed M. presented the LAN-WAN Contribution Agreement with NRCS. This is the phone charges to the SWCD for the past FY. Cost \$109.00.

Motion by Flottesch, second by Grossman to sign and approve payment on LAN-WAN Contribution Agreement. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Dist. Technician Report** – Busy with construction supervision on several sites plus the Hay Creek Project Area.

**Wetland Conservation Act** –

- Checked restoration work done on a beaver dam removal, will be meeting with landowner to re-assess the replacement of the dam to an agreed to height.

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- Technical Evaluation Panel met on Monday and viewed Bruce Paakh banking site for structure completion. Discussed Pat Onstad excavation proposal, Rodney Syverson excavation on Bad Medicine, and the Bill Dillion proposed access site.
- Attended a lateral effect drainage meeting in Fergus Falls.

**Red River Valley Conservation Service Area Joint Powers Board Meeting** – Jerome reported on the RRVCSA meeting that was held September 2<sup>nd</sup> in Mahnomen. No quorum was present for the meeting. Only SWCD supervisors from 5 counties out of 17 were present, all being from the old West Central JPB. Because of no quorum only reports were heard. As a result Jerome has drafted a letter to each member District on the responsibility as elected officials to attend these meeting. The letter will go to all Area I supervisors and District Managers as well as BWSR Chief Engineer Al Kean, BWSR Executive Director John Jashke, MASWCD Executive Director LeAnn Buck, Board Conservationist Chad Severts, Peter Waller, and Brian Dwight.

**Wild Rice River Watershed District** – Received a notice from Norman County SWCD Dist. Manager Curt Borchert concerning the Wild Rice Watershed District Project Incentive Program. We have sent an invoice to the WRRWD requesting the funds committing 34 hours of time toward the project.

Brad also noted that an 8.1 acre wetland restoration is being constructed in the WRRWD that will store 24 acre feet of water. This may be eligible for an incentive payment from the watershed through the incentive program also.

**Plat Book Project** – As authorized last meeting, Chairman Lefebvre and Brad met and reviewed our current plat book as to what pages could be excluded in a new book. Some of the map pages were removed and a contract with Rockford Map Publishers was entered into to publish a new plat book. Brad reported that Steve Griffin emailed indicating that a delivery date for the book could be in December.

**Vehicles** – Brad reported that the District was the successful bidder on the GSA auction for the 1999, Ford 250 4x4 pick-up.

Motion by Grossman, second by Beck to approve the administration purchase of the 1999 Ford pick-up as discussed with each supervisor prior to bidding. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion by Flottesmesch, second by Grossman to authorize Administrator to dispose of the 1996 Ford pick-up. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried. (Suggested contacting Becker County on there up-coming auction as a possible sale site.)

**Envirothon** – Ginger reported the recent Envirothon meetings she attended. On September 3<sup>rd</sup> the Area I Envirothon Committee met. With the new expanded area, it was decided to have three envirothons in the area beginning in 2010. Ginger also attended the State Envirothon Committee Meeting September 9<sup>th</sup>. This

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was a wrap up session for this past State Envirothon and discussed next year's events. The old Area II Jr. Envirothon will be held October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Fergus Falls.

**Ag Inspectors Program** – Marsha reported on the Executive Ag Inspectors Committee meeting she attended Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>. The committee discussed the new weed law, cooperative weed management agreement. Changes to how noxious weeds are added to the noxious weed list will be determined by the Noxious Weed Advisory Committee. Consideration is being given to add Wild Parsnips to the state list. We have been notified by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that we were not selected to submit a final request for a third PTI grant. Brad noted that BWSR may have an application period later this year. Also as part of our current grant we will have another tour in 2010.

**MASWCD Resolutions** – Ginger handed out the resolution packets for the MASWCD Conference to be held Dec. 6-8, in Duluth. Supervisor is to bring their completed ballots to the next meeting so they can be sent to St. Paul.

**State Conference** – Ginger noted that room reservations have been made for the MASCD Conference for Dec. 6-8, at the Radisson. We can cancel if some don't attend. We should have more registration details next month.

**Cost-share Contracts** – The following cost-share contracts were presented for consideration:

Cont. #09-08 with Becker County Environmental Services for well sealing. Cost of sealing \$350.00.

Eligible cost-share payment \$175.00.

Cont. #09-33 with Barry Gish critical area stabilization. Total cost of project \$832.00. Eligible cost-share payment \$624.00.

Motion by Grossman, second by Beck to authorize payment of the above listed cost-share contracts for the amounts presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

The following cost-share contracts were presented for consideration:

Contract # AW474 with Robert Larson for well sealing. Eligible cost-share 50% not to exceed \$240.00 from the Water Plan Funds.

State Cost-share Contract #09-34 with Vance Jirava for abandoned well sealing. Eligible cost-share 50% not to exceed \$240.00.

Contract #NB-OT1 with Mark Anderson to establish a native buffer seeding. Estimated cost \$4,500.

Eligible cost-share \$3,375.00.

Motion by Beck, second by Flottesmesch to approve the above listed cost-share contracts as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

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### **Other –**

- Reviewed the 2010 MCIT coverage, Ginger noted some items have been removed that were no longer needed.
- Brad reported that the nursery prices for ordering trees for 2010 are out. Brad reviewed the prices and noted that only a few varieties changed in price. Brad requested authorization to complete the 2009-2010 tree order with just a few price changes so we can get the order form out before next meeting.

Motion by Flottesch, second by Grossman to approve the administrator preparing the 09-10 tree order year's prices as a guide and adjust on species that increased. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

- Brad reviewed the training items to be offered at the BWSR Academy training Nov. 2-4. Several of the sessions deal with recent legislative and new program grant opportunities. Staff felt last year's academy was worth the cost and time. Brad noted if 4 staff attended the cost will be \$825.00. The 2009 training budget has an adequate balance for the session.

Motion by Flottesch, second by Grossman that Administrator Grant make decision on attending the BWSR Training Academy as long as within budgeted item. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

- Brad reminded supervisors of the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District annual tour to be held tomorrow.
- Presented a request for engineering assistance from Tom Bergren to the Red River Valley Conservation Service Area Engineering staff for 5 erosion and sediment control basins.

Motion by Flottesch, second by Grossman to approve the engineering request and forward it the RRVCSA staff. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

- Brad briefly touched on the Conservation Easements on Riparian Lands in Minnesota project application that is being submitted for 15 Northern Minnesota Counties. The proposal uses the BWSR Reinvest in Minnesota Easement Program to take easements on carefully prioritized private lands. It seeking \$3.3 million dollars per year to fund the program.
- Re-visited the resolution of support for the Red River Basin – Natural Resource Framework Plan as discussed at an earlier meeting.

Motion by Grossman, second by Flottesch to approve the resolution of support for the RRB-NRFP. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

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

**Approved: Duane Grossman**

**Date: October 21, 2009**