

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 20, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Ag Center Building, 809 8th St. S.E., Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Those present were supervisors Jerome Flottesch, Duane Grossman, Tony Beck, Don Lefebvre, Joe Stenger, Becker Cty. Commissioner Barry Nelson, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, Dist. Technician Ed Clem and Dist. Adm. Brad Grant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lefebvre.

The first item of business was the reorganization of the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Flottesch nominated Duane Grossman for Chairman and moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Grossman, seconded by Beck. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried
The chair was turned over to Chairman Grossman.

Supervisor Lefebvre nominated Tony Beck for Vice-chairman and moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Beck, seconded by Stenger. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Supervisor Lefebvre nominated Jerome Flottesch for Secretary and moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Flottesch, seconded by Beck. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Supervisor Flottesch nominated Joe Stenger for Treasurer and moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Stenger, seconded by Lefebvre. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Motion by (Flottesch/Beck) to designate Bremer Bank of Detroit Lakes as the main depository for the District and all other local banks as secondary depositories. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Motion by (Flottesch/Stenger) to designate the Detroit Lakes Tribune as the official newspaper for the District. Affirmative: Unanimous: Carried.

Motion (Lefebvre, Beck) to approve the minutes of the December 16th meeting as sent out and received by the supervisor's. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Brad requested to add review 2010 budget and employee salaries to the agenda.

The financial reports and bill payable were reviewed. Brad noted that we received a bankruptcy notice on one of the past due accounts that we had taken to small claims court.

Motion (Flottesch, Beck) to approve the financial reports and payment of bills as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The following organizational dues were presented for consideration.

- Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts - \$2,750
- National Association of Conservation Districts - \$775
- Minnesota Ag Inspectors Association - \$75

Motion (Flottesmesch, Lefebvre) to approve paying the above organizational dues for 2010. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Reports:

WesMin RC&D – Don reported on the following from the January 13th WesMin RC&D meeting he attended:

- Glacier Ridge Trail grant is being held up.
- Grazing Workshop will be held in Staples
- Ralph Peterson of Pope County has agreed to run for President of WesMin.
- Annual WesMin meeting will be by Feb. 10th in Breckenridge. The Biomass workshop that was held in Ponsford last year will be recognized at the annual meeting.
- Tastefully Simple has been awarded a \$15,000 grant.
- Reviewed the 2010 workplan.

Don noted that Becker County will only fund one member to represent Becker County on the WesMin Council. They have appointed County Commissioner Gerry Schram. Soil and Water Conservation District can also appoint a member.

Motion (Lefebvre, Beck) to appoint Gerry Schram as the Becker SWCD representative to the WesMin RC&D Council. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

District Conservationist Report – Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz reported on the following:

- Thirteen Conservation Stewardship applications were approved in Becker County totaling \$254,000.
- Finishing EQIP payments for projects completed last fall.
- The current EQIP scoring period ends Feb. 26th.
- Met with Lee Ingvalson on a possible ag waste management system.
- Met with all permitting agencies that may be involved in the Rice Lake Restoration Project to make sure all permits issues can be addressed.

EQIP Local Work Group Mtg. – Ed M. reported on the final EQIP docket and priority areas that were established at the January workgroup meeting. The final worksheet is due in the area office January 21st. Thirty applications for EQIP have been received to date.

Ed also presented the 1619-Freedom on Information Compliance Agreement between the SWCD and NRCS. This deals with Freedom of Information Act issues that may be shared with the SWCD in carrying out program responsibilities.

Motion (Lefebvre, Beck) to approve the 1619 Compliance Agreement and authorize the chairman to sign. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Technicians Report – Dist. Technician Ed Clem reported on the following:

- Currently loading all practices installed on the eLink system.
- Will start making tree contacts when elink reporting is done.
- Some Wetland Conservation Act issues this month included meeting with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on a possible walking trail in cooperation with them and an adjoining landowner. Issue on Fish Hook Lake with a landowner wishing to install a marina. This appears to be a DNR issue or tribal issue.
- Brad and Ed have been asked to serve on the Detroit Lakes Transportation Study Steering Committee.

New Plat Book – Brad noted that the new plat books have arrived and have been distributed for sale at several sites. Brad noted that we have books left from two editions ago.

Motion (Lefebvre, Stenger) to discard the old plat books. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Cloud Cartographics Issue – Brad noted that Ginger and he will be meeting with Asst. County Attorney Kevin Miller to discuss the sales tax issue and old plat book contract with Cloud Cartographic. Attorney Miller will give us an opinion on if it is worth pursuing the matter or not.

Forest Conservation Easement Program – Brad reported on an email from Brad Matlack of the Carlton SWCD stating that the Forest Easement Program proposal was submitted to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Committee in November and got a hearing in early December but was voted down. The Forest Conservation Easement resolution was passed at the 2009 MASWCD conference in December. The group is now pursuing bonding funds.

Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG) – Brad reported that the recent SWAG grant for 2010 -11 was approved. The grant will be funded for monitoring three additional lakes and the Gull River inlet into White Earth Lake. The grant amount is for \$19,176.00 which covers the cost of monitoring and administrative costs.

Rural Preserve Property Tax Program – The Becker SWCD will be preparing the Conservation Management Plans for the landowners that are applying for the property tax program. The landowner will apply first at the Becker County Assessor's office and if they qualify, the assessor will send them to our office to prepare the plan. The District is able to charge a fee for preparing the conservation management plan.

Motion (Lefebvre, Beck) to set a fee of \$250 per plan.

Motion by (Flottemesch/Beck) to amend the motion to add "a higher fee may be charged for unusually complex plans that take excessive time." Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The question was called for the motion as amended. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried

Comprehensive Plan - A Resolution Adopting the Becker County Local Water Management Plan as the Comprehensive Plan of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District for the calendar years 2010 through 2014 was presented -

Motion (Flottemesch/Beck) to approve the Resolution #10-1- Adopting the Becker County Local Water Management Plan as the Comprehensive Plan of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District for the calendar years 2010 through 2014. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Water Plan Amendment - Brad updated the Board on the Water Plan Implementation amending process for the Becker County Local Water Mgt. Plan. The Goals, Objective and Action Items Input for the Becker County Local Water Mgt. Plan form is on our website for citizens and agencies to use to comment. Brad also sent this out to town boards, BWSR, PCA, DNR, newspapers and requested that comments be sent back by February 20th. A new committee will have to be selected to review the action items of the Local Water Mgt. plan.

Wild Rice Watershed District Project Incentive Program. – Brad reported on the funding for this incentive program.

Ag-In-The-Classroom – A letter from Mary Ann Jorgenson, Program Coordinator for Ag-in-the Classroom, requesting a financial contribution of \$125 was presented. Ag-In-the Classroom provides agricultural education for area 4th graders. This is a budgeted educational item in our budget.

Motion (Flottemesch/Lefebvre) to approve a \$125.00 contribution to Ag-In-The Classroom Program. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Cost-Share Program - The following cost-share contracts were presented for Board action:

Contract #09-1 with Terry Kohler. Total Project Cost \$16,299.13. Eligible cost-share payment \$1,611.00 state cost-share funds and \$1,611.00 from the Buffalo Red River Watershed District funds. Additional cost-share were provided through the EQIP Program.

Contract #09-7 with Matt Bjerke. Total Project Cost \$9,861.66. Eligible cost-share payment \$1,185.00 state cost-share funds and to increase the Buffalo Red River Watershed District from \$948.00 to \$1,185.00. Additional cost-share funds were provided through the EQIP Program.

Motion (Jerry/Stenger) to increase the Buffalo Red River Watershed District's share on Contract #09-7, Matt Bjerke, to \$1,185.00. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion by Flottemesch/Beck to approve payment of the above listed cost-share contracts for the amounts presented upon signature of landowners. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

MACAI Board Meeting – Brad handed out a summary of the Minn. Assn. of County Ag Inspectors Board meeting that Marsha had attended and the summary she prepared.

Motion (Flottemesch/Beck) that the District write a letter to the USFWS regarding seeding buffers around their water bodies. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried

Next Meeting – Following our next meeting, we will be reviewing the Becker SWCD's 2010 Annual Plan of Operations, goal setting, and also review the progress of District Programs and activities.

Other – Brad reported on the following:

- MASWCD Legislative Day at the Capital – Feb 17-18
- WesMin Annual Meeting Feb. 10, Wahpeton
- Annual Weed Meeting – in March, at Callaway Community Center
- Envirothon – Ginger presented a request for a \$100 donation for the Area I Envirothon. This is a budgeted educational item in our budget. This is for students in 9-12 grade.

Motion (Flottemesch/Lefebvre) to contribute \$100 to the Area I Envirothon Program. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

- Annual Work Plan- May be asking for an extension of time.

Brad presented the 2010 budget for review by the Board and requested a salary increase to the employees. It was noted that the County Commissioners recently approved a one percent salary increase for 2010 with a \$24.50 month increase in health insurance benefits for most bargaining units in the county.

Barry Nelson elaborated on the leadership training and the respect that the County has for this agency and for Brad.

Motion (Lefebvre/Flottesch) to increase full-time and part-time employees by one percent for calendar year 2010 and that the full-time employees receive the \$24.50 per month increase in salary for the health insurance benefit. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Motion (Flottesch/Stenger) to adjourn the meeting. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Approved: Jerome Flottesch, District Secretary

Date: February 17, 2010