

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, August 18, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday August 18, 2010, at 8:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Ag Center Building, 809 8<sup>th</sup> St. S.E. in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Those present were supervisors Duane Grossman, Tony Beck, Jerome Flottemesch, Don Lefebvre, Dist. Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, County Commissioner Barry Nelson, Dist. Secretary Ginger Flynn, Dist. Technicians Ed Clem and Dean Hendrickson and Dist. Administrator Brad Grant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Grossman.

Motion (Beck, Flottemesch) to approve the July minutes as sent out and received by the supervisors. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried.

The financial statements and bills payable were presented for approval.

Motion (Lefebvre, Beck) to approve payment of bills and financial statements as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**2011 Budget** – Brad noted that the budget meeting with the County Commissioners has been rescheduled for Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:45. Duane and Jerome will attend the meeting.

**Audit** – Ginger reported that the financial audit of our 2009 financial records was completed on July 30<sup>th</sup>. The final report will arrive in a few weeks. Everything seemed to be in order.

Brad reported that shortly after the last meeting our General Service and Cost-share Grant Agreement arrived. Brad contacted Chairperson Grossman and had him sign the agreement and forwarded it to the BWSR for processing.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to approve the action of the Chairperson in the signing of the Grant Agreement. Affirmative. Unanimous. Carried.

**Reports:**

**Dist. Technicians Report** – Dist. Technicians Dean Hendrickson and Ed Clem reported the following:

- Kevin Lunde project, all the tile is installed. Dikes will be constructed when crop is off.
- Continue to inventory project sites in the South Branch of the Wild Rice River watershed.
- Held well water testing clinic for nitrates during the Becker County Fair.
- Structure for Landrum Gun Club in Hamden Township has been repaired.

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

- Final CSP Program approvals have been made. We had 24 sign-ups with 7 being approved.
- A general Conservation Reserve Program sign-up is on until August 27<sup>th</sup>. There are about 50 existing contracts that expire this year.
- Conducting rotational grazing plan spot checks.
- The new NRCS State Conservationist Don Baloun stopped in our office on August 11<sup>th</sup> to visit with staff. He also visited the Huwe, Mickelson and Yliniemi WRP easement sites.

**Drill Program** – Ed updated the supervisors on the condition of the no-till drill. Usage of the drill has dropped off the last couple years. It needs some repairs etc. The supervisor felt we should have RDO in

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Hawley look at the drill, estimate repair costs and get an idea on its value for trade in, sell, and what they would need to sell it for us, if we would decide to sell it, and bring the information back.

**Local Water Management Plan** – The Becker County Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the five year addendum to the Implementation Schedule of the Local Water Management Plan. Brad has sent them a copy of the final update and will present it at the public hearing on August 24<sup>th</sup>. The reason for the public hearing is to give the public an opportunity to comment on the addendum. After the hearing it will be forwarded to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for a 45 day review period and then returned for final adoption by the County Board.

9:00 a.m. Ray Vlasak arrived.

**South Branch of the Wild Rice River Project** – Brad updated the supervisors on the South Branch of the Wild Rice Project area. Dean has almost completed the inventory of possible project sites. We have a couple sediment basin projects going in this fall and a grassed waterway next spring. These projects are part of the Clean Water Fund Grant received by the Wild Rice Watershed District in partnership with Becker, Clay, Norman, and Mahnomen SWCD's.

**Red River Valley Conservation Service Area JPB (RRVCSA)** – Jerome reported on the RRVCSA Personnel Committee meeting held July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The committee did not increase salaries as they received an adjustment in health insurance benefits at the June meeting of the full Board. The executive committee for the RRVCSA will meet in September as the full Joint Powers Board will only meet twice a year.

**Bad Medicine Lake Area Foundation (BMLAF)** – Ray Vlasak of the BMLAF and Kim Embretson of the West Central Initiative (WCI) presented information on the Bad Medicine Lake Natural Shoreland Preservation Project and its efforts to preserve sensitive shoreland and under water areas on Bad Medicine Lake. Ray asked if the Becker SWCD would be willing to serve as the fiscal agent for BMLAF to distribute funds that come to BMLAF through the WCI. Then make payment to individuals that BMLAF is purchasing land easements on in cooperation with Minnesota DNR. Before a formal agreement is written the BMLAF wanted to know if the SWCD would consider being the fiscal agent.

Motion (Flottemesch, Lefebvre) to work with the BMLAF on their request, with final action to be taken upon receipt of the formal agreement. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Clean Water Funds (CWF)** – Brad reported on the Clean Water Funds Competitive Grants meeting he attended in Fergus Falls on August 4<sup>th</sup>. These are the same grant funds we applied for last year. There are a few projects we could apply for that would qualify. The deadline for application is September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to make application for CWF Competitive Grant funds. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Ag Inspector Program** – Weed complaints are winding down. Marsha is working on fall treatment of weeds and spotted knapweed weevils. We hope to apply for a third grant through the Fish and Wildlife Foundation as we have one left that we can receive, even though we did not get one last year. Marsha will be attended the invasive species conference in November. This cost will come from the PTI grant funds.

**Monica Almeida** with the Pelican River Watershed District presented information on a DNR Shoreline Restoration Grant they are considering applying for. They would like to partner with the SWCD on the

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grant. They would take care of projects within the watershed district and the SWCD could offer it to the rest of the County. Our role would be to take signups, do a site visit to make sure the area qualifies. The grant would offer 75% cost-share to restore and establish a minimum of a 25' wide buffer on 75% of lake frontage.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to cooperate with the Pelican River Watershed District in applying for a DNR Shoreline Restoration Grant. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

### **Wetland Conservation Act –**

- Ed noted that we have been receiving several requests on small wetland issues, basically people seeking advice before they work in a wetland.
- May have to appear in court on a DNR violation if it goes to court.
- Received a report on a possible wetland fill. We have visited the site several times and discussed the issue with the landowner and found no violation. We have explained our position to the complainant.
- Ed and Brad will be attending wetland mitigation training for road impacts at MNDOT tomorrow.

**Cost-share Program –** Brad reported that our General Service Grant and Cost-share Program Grants have arrived. Brad requested the supervisors to allocate the 2011 cost-share dollars. The supervisors discussed the various projects and priorities and available funding.

Motion (Lefebvre, Beck) to allocate the 2011 cost-share dollars as follows: \$14,000 tree program, \$2,000 for abandoned well sealing, and \$4,175.00 erosion control and other practices. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The following cost-share contracts were presented for payment authorizations:

Cont. #NB-08-4 with Keith Carlson, rain garden. Total cost \$1,212.27. Eligible cost-share \$750.00.

Cont. #10-14 with Marvin Parvi, abandoned well sealing. Total cost \$400.00 Eligible cost-share \$200.00.

Cont. #HCNB-5 with T.Jay Schauer, native buffer seeding. Total cost \$3,642.00. Eligible cost-share \$2,604.83.

Cont. #HCNB-4 with Gary Myers, native buffer seeding. Total cost \$1,445.99. Eligible cost-share \$1,091.99.

Cont. #HCNB-3 with Kevin Lunde native buffer seeding. Total cost \$1,405.45. Eligible cost-share \$978.00.

Motion (Beck, Flottemesch) to authorize payment on the above listed contracts for the amounts presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The following cost-share contract was presented for consideration:

Cont. #10-16 with Okeson Farms, water & sediment control basin. Estimated cost \$3,200.00. Eligible cost-share \$2,400.00.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to approve contract #10-16 for 75% of the cost not to exceed \$2,400, with \$1,200 from Cost-share funds and \$1,200 from Buffalo-Red River Watershed District funds. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

A sign up for cost-share from the Lower Wild Rice River Turbidity Project for Nick Zurn was presented for consideration. The project is for 6 sediment and erosion control basins in project area. Incentive funding available is \$1,375 per basin. Funds are handled by the Wild Rice Watershed Dist. as this is a multi county grant.

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Motion (Lefebvre, Flottemesch) to approve the Nick Zurn incentive request for 6 basins and forward it to the Wild Rice Watershed District for holding the funds. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**District Capacity Award** – Ginger reviewed the District Capacity Award entry with the supervisors. The award is a self evaluation of the District’s programs, supervisors, and staff. It reflects the efforts put forth by the District in addressing the conservation needs of the District.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to approve the District Capacity Awards Evaluation and forward it to the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Conservationist of the Year Award** – The supervisors reviewed the list of nominations to be considered for the Becker SWCD Conservationist of the Year Award.

After discussion, motion (Flottemesch, Lefebvre) to award the Conservationist of the Year Award to Kevin and Candace Lunde of Lake Park. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Other –**

- Don and Jerome noted that they have been re-appointed to the Planning and Zoning Ordinance Advisory Committee.
- Jerome has been asked to serve on a state committee of 10 Watershed District Managers, 10 SWCD Supervisors, and 10 County Commissioners. This is a result of the water summit held July 12<sup>th</sup> in St. Cloud. The committee is expected to meet three times over the next few months.
- Ginger reported the Envirothon team from Minnesota took third at the National Envirothon in California. Each team member received a \$3,000.00 scholarship to their choice of college, two-year school or vocational school.

Motion (Beck, Lefebvre) to authorize mileage and per diem for supervisor Flottemesch to attend the Water Summit committee meetings. Affirmative: Lefebvre, Beck. Opposed: None. Abstain: Flottemesch. Motion carried.

Due to conflicts in September, moved by (Flottemesch, Beck) to change the September meeting from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

- Board of Water and Soil Resources tour is August 19th, hosted by the Buffalo Red Watershed Dist. Tour starts in Moorhead at 8:00. Tour will stop at two sites in Becker County. The supervisors indicated they would be attending.
- Registration and courses for the BWSR Academy is now out. The training academy will be held October 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>.

Being no further business, moved (Flottemesch, Lefebvre) to adjourn. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Approved: Jerome Flottemesch, Secretary-Becker SWCD

Date: September 22, 2010