

**Becker Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 20, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, April 20, 2011, at 8:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Ag Center Building, 809 8th St. S.E. in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Grossman.

Motion (Beck, Flottesmesch) to approve the minutes of the March 16th meeting as sent out and received by the supervisors. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Financial Items - The March financial statements and bills were presented.

Motion (Stenger, Flottesmesch) to approve the financial statements and payment of bills as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Pay Equity Report – Brad reported that the Becker SWCD's 2011 Pay Equity Report was found to be in compliance.

2008 Final Cost-share Report – Ginger presented the FY2008 final cost-share program report. All funds have been expended and accounted for.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Beck) to approve and sign the 2008 final cost-share program report and forward to BWSR.

Hubbard County Water Plan Update – The Becker SWCD has received notice, as required, that Hubbard County Commissioners have authorized the update of the Hubbard County Local Water Management Plan. The notice gives adjacent counties the opportunity to comment on and list concerns they feel should be addressed within the plan. The Becker SWCD supervisors expressed no concerns at this time.

Reports:

Dist. Conservationist - Ed Musielewicz reported on the following:

- The Conservation Stewardship Program scoring period ended March 25th. Becker County got 10 contracts approved totaling \$590,000. Three hundred seventy CSP applications were received basin wide, with 35 being funded.
- Four EQIP contracts were accepted totaling \$216,000. Practices include two high tunnel huts, one ag waste system and one sediment basin system.
- Two WHIP contracts for tree plantings.
- The latest CRP sign-up had 75 sign-ups.
- Jeff Norby has been training on Civil-3D for doing surveys.
- Rice Lake Project – running flood models. Anchor Road is still undecided on vacating or building up.
- The RC&D Program has been zeroed out. We have one dry hydrant project left to do under the WesMin RC&D.

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Dist. Technicians Report –

- Dean – staking tree jobs for cost-share contracts that will be hand planted.
- Ed – completing tree plans. We have 13 plans for cost-share with seven machine plantings that we will be doing.
- Attended a RIBBITS Banking Program training. This is an Army COE program to track wetland banking credits that are available.
- Attended a meeting on the Central Sands Private Well Monitoring Network in Staples with Brad. Developing the budget and testing strategies. Sampling of well water will begin in 2012. Our role in the project will be to conduct one on site visit to the wells selected to be monitored. There will be a re-imbusement for the site visits.
- The no-till drill has been taken to RDO in Hawley to get an estimate on repairs. We have a couple landowners interested in using the drill this spring.

Discussion was held on the repair of the drill and to continue offering the service or should we consider selling the drill.

Motion by (Lefebvre, Flottesmesch) to authorize the chairman and administrator to decide on repairing the drill once the estimate is received. Affirmative: Unanimous. Motion carried. (Discussion on the future of the no-till drill rental program will be re-visited at a future meeting).

Area I MASWCD Meeting – Jerome and Ginger reported on the Area I MASWCD meeting they attended March 17th in Ada.

Red River Valley Conservation Service Area JPB (RRVCSA) – Jerome reported on the Executive Committee meeting of the RRVCSA held on April 6th. The committee reviewed the engineer and technician compensation packages and acted on a proposal that will be brought before the whole board at their June meeting. They also prepared a preliminary FY2012 budget for the RRVCSA that will also be presented in June.

Annual Noxious Weed Meeting – Supervisors Beck and Grossman attended the March 17th Annual Noxious Weed Meeting for Becker County. 31 of 37 townships and 5 cities were represented at the meeting. Topics included the new weed law changes, possible permits needed for herbicide application, and an update on the new recycling program for Becker County.

Becker Dam Natural Resources Enhancement Meeting – Ed Musielewicz and Brad Grant attended a meeting in Ada on March 30th to discuss upland treatments in the proposed Becker Dam project. Our role would be to work with landowners on installing upland conservation practices in the riparian area of the dam and South Branch of the Wild Rice River.

Redeye-Long Prairie Rivers Watershed Project – Brad attended the kick-off meeting for the Redeye-Long Prairie Rivers Watershed Project on April 12th in Parkers Prairie. The meeting was put on by MPCA and is the starting of the project. Water quality data will be gathered the next two years in the watershed and an action plan developed from the results. All watersheds in the state are being visited on a 10 year cycle to determine water impairments.

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Envirothon – Ginger reported that the planning for the Area I (South) Envirothon is moving forward. It will be held at the Prairie Wetlands Center in Fergus Falls on May 9th. Twenty teams are registered so far. We have received contributions from the Buffalo-Red Watershed District, Wild Rice Watershed District, Bremer, Pelican River Watershed District and the Cormorant Lakes Sportsmen Club.

VRS Survey capabilities – Ed Musielewicz reported on the availability of VRS survey grade equipment through the NRCS Area office. They have various components on hand and can build a unit but are unable to add the needed cell phone service. Brad noted that the District could upgrade our current cell phone to provide the needed program for the VRS survey equipment for an additional \$30 to \$35 a month.

The supervisors felt this would be a good addition to the capabilities to assist with the survey and design of conservation practices.

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to approve the update to the District cell phone to accommodate the VRS survey capabilities. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Lake Protection Challenge Grant –

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to authorize chairman to sign the Lake Protection Challenge Grant and forward to BWSR. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

5th Grade Conservation Tour –

Motion (Lefebvre, Beck) to sponsor the 5th Grade Conservation Tour as in the past. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Wetland Conservation Act – Ed and Brad reported on the following wetland issues:

- Viewed a complaint on Linden Lane in Detroit Lakes. Discussed with landowner and asked that some fill be dug back out of a wetland.
- Met with Lake Eunice Township Supervisor on culvert replacement.
- Will be viewing fill issues at Swanie's Resort in Cormorant Township.

Ag Inspectors Program –

- The Becker County Commissioners have approved the county noxious weed list. It will be published with the general notice as required.
- Marsha will be inspecting the gravel pits that are in the certification program.
- Have been working with Leo Splonkowski on the COA for their proposed helicopter spraying program.
- The 2009 -11 PTI National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grants final report is about complete. Once completed we will receive the final \$7,500.
- Brad presented a revised budget for the 2010 BWSR CWMA grant and a request to ask for an extension through 2012.
- The next pre-proposal for NFWF grants are due July 15th.

Motion (Flottemesch, Lefebvre) to request an extension of 1 year for the 2010 CWMA grant. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

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Hay Creek & Wild Rice Watershed Projects – Brad presented information on the number of projects to be installed in the Hay Creek, Campbell Creek and Wild Rice Watersheds. A total of 40 sediment basins are scheduled for construction this summer and another 63 in 2012.

Clean Water Legacy Grant Project Contracts – The following Clean Water Legacy projects were presented for consideration:

Cont. #CWL-11-1 with Curt Nelson for sediment & erosion control basins, Mike Odegaard property. Eligible CWL funds not to exceed \$34,200.

Cont. #CWL-11-2 with Gary Myers for sediment & erosion control basins. Eligible CWL funds not to exceed \$46,400.

Cont. #CWL- 11-3 with Cuba Lake Trust for sediment & erosion control basins. Eligible CWL funds not to exceed \$1,800.

Cont. #CWL – 11-4 with Matt Bjerke for sediment & erosion control basins. Eligible CWL funds not to exceed \$8,700.

Cont. #CWL – 11-5 with Okeson Farms for sediment & erosion control basins. Eligible CWL funds not to exceed \$4,000.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Beck) to approve the above listed Clean Water Legacy project contracts as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Cost-share Program –

Contract #10-7 with Larry Enget was presented for cancelation due to the practice not being installed due to weather conditions. A new contract for this contract will be presented later.

Motion (Beck, Flottesmesch) to cancel contract #10-7 as recommended. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

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

Cont. #10-13 with Dale Jenson, well sealing. Total cost \$400.00. Eligible cost-share \$200.00.

Cont. #09-34 with Vance Jirava, well sealing. Total cost \$545.00. Eligible cost-share \$240.00.

Motion (Stenger, Flottesmesch) to approve payment of the above cost-share contracts in the amounts presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

The following cost share contracts were presented for consideration:

Cont.#10-20 with Janalee Wyckoff. Wdbk. Cost \$1,673.00. Eligible cost-share \$1,189.00.

Cont.#10-21 with James Savig. Wdbk. Cost \$3,016.00. Eligible cost-share \$2,262.00.

Cont.#10-22 with Jason Askelson. Wdbk. Cost \$1,803.00. Eligible cost-share \$1,352.00.

Cont.#10-23 with Ron Dow. Wdbk. Cost \$1,715.00. Eligible cost-share \$1,286.00.

Cont.#10-24 with Casey Schlauderaff. Wdbk. Cost \$473.00. Eligible cost-share \$355.00.

Cont.#10-25 with Lowell Seaberg. Wdbk. Cost \$531.00. Eligible cost-share \$315.00.

Cont.#10-26 with Brad Bachmann. Wdbk. Cost \$1,045.00. Eligible cost-share \$783.00.

(\$285.86 from 2010 funds and \$497.14 from 2011 funds).

Cont. #11-7 with Larry Enget. Sediment basins. Cost \$4,380.00. Eligible cost-share \$3,285.00. (\$1,643.00 from state cost-share, \$1,642.00 from Buffalo-Red Watershed Dist.)

Cont.#11-11 with J. Babb Jr. Wdbk. Cost estimate \$1,451.00. Eligible cost-share \$1,088.00.

Cont.#11-12 with Brian Stalberger. Cost estimate \$842.00. Eligible cost-share \$631.00.

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Motion (Stenger, Beck) to approve cost-share contracts as presented. Affirmative. Unanimous. Carried.

The following abandoned well sealing contracts were presented for consideration:

Cont.#11-8 with John Willette. Well sealing. Cost estimate \$480.00. Eligible cost-share \$240.00.

Cont.#11-9 with Dennis Fechtner. Well sealing. Cost estimate \$480.00. Eligible cost share \$240.00.

Cont.#11-10 with Ross Quam. Well sealing. Cost estimate \$480.00. Eligible cost-share \$240.00.

Motion (Stenger, Flottesmesch) to approve the above listed contracts as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Other:

- Brad reported that any resolutions to be considered for the MASWCD Conference need to be acted on at the upcoming area meetings in June. We have received the resolution process from the Association.
- Handed out the Local Government Roundtable Statement of Position and Support.
- The legislature has changed the Rural Preserve Program so conservation plans are no longer needed. Thus SWCD's are no longer involved in the Rural Preserve Program.
- Will be getting tires put on our Ford pick-up.
- Our Comprehensive Weed Management Program was mentioned in the recent issue of Tidbits. Marsha was quoted on our program in the article.
- Trees will be arriving tomorrow, with pick-up day scheduled for April 30th.

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

Approved: Jerome Flottesmesch, Secretary Date: May 18, 2011