



Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Wednesday, December 20, 2017
Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, December 20, 2017 in the Conference Room of the USDA Ag Center Building located at 809 8th Street SE, Detroit Lakes, MN.

Those present were Supervisors Tony Beck, Jerome Flottemesch, Chairman Eugene Pavelko and Kathy Stenger. District Administrator Peter Mead, Office Manager Jen Wentz, NRCS Soil Conservationist Jeff Norby, Soil and Water Resource Technician Ed Clem and Program Technician Aaron Salo. Barry Nelson, Becker County Commissioner, also attended.

Call to Order

Chairman Pavelko called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda Items

No changes or updates were noted. Motion (Beck, Stenger) to approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda as distributed. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Financial Reports

Wentz reviewed the November Treasurer's Report and December Bills for Approval. Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to approve the treasurer's report and pay the list of bills. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2017 Q4 Supervisor Vouchers & Special Meetings

Special meetings are as follows:

- Nov. 8th TSA Meeting
- Nov. 21st MASWCD Area 1 Meeting
- Dec. 3rd-5th MASWCD Convention

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to approve the supervisor's 4th quarter special meetings and vouchers for payment. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Program Reports

Farm Bill Assistance – Aaron Salo

- There has been some interest in the CREP program from Phil's mailing but no new applications at this time.
- The current RIM program is RIM Wild Rice. One Maple Grove Twp. landowner has run into a road block; payment is being reduced by approximately \$40,000. This is due to an issue with a non-meandered lake and assessed acres.
- Wild Rice easements have been proposed for Rock and Little Cotton Lake and possibly Shell Lake. These are perpetual easements on water bodies identified as wild rice harvesting lakes. We calculate payments using the assessed property value and take 60% of that.
- Working with a young dairy farmer who's interested in trying some new practices and is able to do that with the support of EQIP funding.
- Landowners will begin to see invoices for the Irrigation Scheduler program.
- Straight River Groundwater Mgmt. money will be used for scheduling services on 20 fields in the grant area.
- Attended the Freshwater Society meeting in Perham and will attend the Parkers Prairie and Osage meetings. There was great small group discussion between producers and large agencies.
- Attended the Conservation Tillage Conference which was held during the state convention. It was one of the best conferences held in a long time. Sponsored by NDSU and Univ. of Minnesota. He took away great ideas regarding soil compaction studies and soil scans.

Open Forum

Peter explained to the board that Becker SWCD is due to be approved for \$774,250 of grant funding which includes a second round of funding for Buffalo Red Shallow Lakes, Lake Protection and the 2018 CWMA.

Ed Clem mentioned a spread sheet from Jeff Norby indicating plans and designs for working with over a dozen landowners for over 50 water and sediment control basins to be installed in 2018, which highlighted the importance of receiving the additional CWL grants mentioned by Peter.

Chairman Pavelko recessed the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Public Hearing (Wetland Conservation Act)

Application # 17-8, Steve Wright, Wetland Replacement Plan

Introductions were made. Clem advised the supervisors to review the applicant's project purpose and need, wetland impact avoidance, and impact minimization efforts as written by applicant Steve Wright. This concerns construction of a driveway on a lot in the Sandy Ridge plat on Snowshoe Beach Rd near Big Cormorant Lake. The graphic plat was reviewed. Clem gave some history of the plat and property noting the wetland that was delineated. The lot is a lot of record that is not considered substandard for zoning purposes. This lot and an adjacent lot are owned by the applicant's father. The applicant is interested in purchasing the lot from his father and constructing a driveway that would utilize an easement through a portion of his father's lot, while also impacting 3500 square feet of wetland.

The TEP panel discussed the wetland avoidance and impact minimization alternatives that were listed by the applicant. The use of one shared driveway for both lots was considered. This option would result in less impact, but not avoid impacts entirely. This option was discounted due to the adjacent lot owner (applicant's father) unwillingness to share his driveway. The TEP found that due to the fact that the lot in question is a lot of record, to be in separate ownership after sale to the applicant, it is reasonable to discount the shared driveway option. The TEP listed further findings and recommended approval of the purchase of wetland credits to replace the public value of wetland lost due to this project.

Contingent in the recommendation is that the replacement plan approval is pending on the sale of the property to the applicant and contingent on proper erosion control used in the project construction.

Chairman Pavelko closed the public hearing at 9:46 a.m.

Flottesch recommends that the SWCD Board accept the TEP findings. This plat met zoning requirements at the time it was approved, which was prior to WCA. There could be a problem sharing the driveway because ownership will change over time. It would be reasonable to have an established, separate driveway. This would be less wetland impact than a separate owner requesting a driveway with no easement onto the adjacent lot. In the future, their lot may be sold to someone else. With the use of the two lots by two separate owners, this proposed plan will address access issues and minimize wetland impacts to the extent possible.

There has been precedent set over the years with lots of record—if it's a buildable lot, we allow some sort of an access. This is a local precedence.

Motion (Flottesch, Stenger) to approve the Wetland Replacement Plan application per the findings and recommendation of the TEP panel and the discussion made herein. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

USDA Civil Rights & Equal Opportunity Requirements

Annual review of Partner Requirements. Mead presented the board with recommendations from the acting USDA Director of the Civil Rights Division. He reviewed our responsibilities for providing fairness and equal treatment and some of the main points from the guidance document.

- A non-discrimination statement is to be included in all NRCS productions.
- Customer Service data sources include the following: PRS Reports, Protracts, Department of Labor County Profile and Census of Agriculture County Profile.
- SWCD Board demographics and protection of private information after board term period commences.
- Program outreach efforts and to be in compliance with Section 1619.
- Display the "And Justice for All" poster.

Employee Position Descriptions

Approval of updated position descriptions. Contracted positions are not grade and step related. Classifications take place and go into effect January 1st of each year.

2018 hourly wages: We will review budgeted numbers and find the most suitable step without going under their current hourly wage.

Motion (Stenger, Flottemesch) to use the 2018 federal pay grade and step schedule with the nearest pay step without going lower than 2018 existing rates. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Grants and Agreements

Approval of 2018 Conservation Corps Site-Partner Application. This brings us an apprentice every year.

Approval of 2018 Conservation Corps Crew-Labor Application. We requested eight days with a crew of five people.

Approval of NACD Technical Assistance Grant Application. LeAnn Buck made us aware of this program to allow for EQIP farm program planning. They reviewed the top 10 contract work loads and dollar obligations along with existing vacancies. We met all requirements. A joint application was submitted between EOT, Mahnomen and Becker. Our District will employ this individual with only a one year guarantee on funding. This will be similar to the Farm Bill Technician position.

Motion (Flottemesch, Beck) to approve the submission of 2018 Conservation Corps Site-Partner Application, 2018 Conservation Corps Crew-Labor Application and NACD Technical Assistance Grant Application.

State Cost-Share Amendments for Approval

SCS-2016-7, Travis Schauer, Increased Project Costs. Requires an additional \$1,521 of assistance. The breakdown is \$1,134 from 2016 Cost-Share and \$387 from 2017 Cost-Share.

Motion (Beck, Stenger) to approve the 2016 and 2017 State Cost-Share amendment. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Legacy Contracts for Approval

CWL-5-GWP, Nelson Farming Assoc, Irrigation Water Management. Estimated project cost \$17,143; eligible for 90% funding of \$15,429.

CWL-39-LP, Dave & Catherine Gaboury, Shoreline Stabilization. Estimated project cost \$5,975; eligible for 50% funding of \$2,987.

CWL-40-LP, Mary & Robert Meyer, Shoreline Stabilization. Estimated project cost \$3,470; eligible for 50% funding of \$1,735.

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to approve the Groundwater Protection and Lake Protection CWL contracts noted above. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

State Cost-Share Contracts for Approval

SCS-2018-1, Denise Anderson (City of Frazee), Shoreline Stabilization. Estimated project cost \$11,848; eligible for 50% funding of \$5,924.

Motion (Stenger, Beck) to approve the 2018 State Cost-Share contract. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Legacy Vouchers for Payment

CWL-8-WR, Tom Bergren, Water & Sediment Control Basins. Total project cost \$123,583; eligible for 90% assistance of \$29,139.70. Also uses EQIP of \$82,085.

CWL-1-UB, Roger Foltz, Grade Stabilization, Water & Sediment Control Basins. Total project cost \$79,982; eligible for 90% assistance of \$16,408. Also uses EQIP of \$55,576.

CWL-2-UB, Chad Okeson, Water & Sediment Control Basins. Total project cost \$72,701; eligible for 90% assistance of \$24,620. Also uses EQIP of \$40,811.

CWL-24-BR, Gary Rosentreter, Water & Sediment Control Basins. Total project cost \$38,881; eligible for 90% assistance of \$17,754. Also uses EQIP of \$17,239.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Beck) to approve payments for the Buffalo Red, Upper Buffalo River and Wild Rice CWL vouchers. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

State Cost-Share Vouchers for Payment

SCS-2016-7, Travis Schauer, Water & Sediment Control Basins, Grassed Waterway. Total project cost \$33,778; eligible for 75% assistance of \$3,129.20. Also uses EQIP of \$21,313 and Cormorant Lakes Watershed District.

SCS-2017-1, Travis Schauer, Water & Sediment Control Basins, Grassed Waterway. Total project cost \$33,778; eligible for 75% assistance of \$892. Also uses EQIP of \$21,313 and Cormorant Lakes Watershed District.

Motion (Beck, Stenger) to approve payment on the above 2016 and 2017 State Cost-Share vouchers. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2018 Supervisor's Retreat and Planning Session

Date and Location – Monday, January 22nd or possibly Tuesday, January 23rd and we hope to hold it at the USFWS conference room.

We will have a review of all programs with 2017 results and discuss our plans for 2018.

Pulled Consent Agenda Items

None noted.

Adjourn

Chairman Pavelko adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Approved: Eugene Pavelko, Becker SWCD Secretary

Date: January 17, 2018