



Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 in the Conference Room of the USDA Ag Center Building located at 809 8th Street SE, Detroit Lakes, MN.

Those present were Chairman Tony Beck, Jerome Flottesch, Eugene Pavelko, Travis Schauer and Kathy Stenger. Staff members include District Administrator Peter Mead, Office Manager Jen Wentz and NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz. Newest employees Max Rykhus and Nicole Wallace gave an introduction. Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson was also in attendance.

Call to Order

Chairman Beck called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda Items

(March 14, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes; Employee Program Reports)

Motion (Pavelko, Schauer) to approve the March minutes as well as the agenda and consent agenda. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Financials

Treasurers Report and Bills for Approval were reviewed by Wentz. Questions arose regarding insurances.

Motion (Schauer, Flottesch) to approve the March Treasurer's Report and list of bills for April. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Open Forum

Barry Nelson addressed the board regarding the Strata gravel pit expansion project along the north portion of Long Lake.

Jerome Flottesch addressed the board regarding the 1W1P for the Buffalo Red River Watershed. The approval last month is strictly for the planning process. He and Barry Nelson are members of the Policy Committee, the governing portion. Flottesch is hoping to add an alternate for his position. The Steering Committee (organization/working portion) meets today and includes Mead. The Advisory Committee includes 2 members each representing landowners and agencies. Flottesch notes that overall policy should include protection of our lakes and streams in addition to the Buffalo-Red Watershed District and its surrounding watersheds.

Motion (Stenger, Pavelko) to approve Travis Schauer as an alternate for Jerome Flottesch on the Policy Committee of the 1W1P process. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Currently serving on the Advisory Committee, Flottesch would like to appoint another board member to his position of the 1W1P to serve as a landowner/citizen participant. This will be decided by the Steering Committee.

BWSR Updates

Brett Arne, Board Conservationist reported on the following:

The latest buffer enforcement option was reviewed negatively by farm groups, the Legislature and Governor. There was a significant breakdown in communication with the Governor and the Legislature was not informed of this. Public comment was addressed but lack of communication was the downfall. BWSR & SWCDs were prohibited from any rule-making ability. There were proposed amendments to the APO that counties could adopt; however, communication of this option was not completed. Buffer Law is seen by many as the taking of land rights from producers. Future correspondence will be communicated much more clearly. Strategy changes now exist.

There is a 1W1P meeting with the Steering Committee this afternoon. They will discuss budget and workplan details.

Flottesch noted that many counties are relying on the watershed district to cover water drainage and sediment loss measures. We need to remember that a watershed district is at the same power level as a county or an SWCD.

Internet Security

Several supervisors have been involved in an email phishing scheme. We want everyone to be aware that no personal information should be shared via email. The best way to handle this is to delete the emails.

State Cost Share Contract for Approval

#CS18-4: Brent Gilbertson, Cover Crop. Estimated project costs \$1,151; eligible cost share covers 100% at \$1,151.

Motion (Schauer, Pavelko) to approve the 2018 State Cost-Share contract for cover crops. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Legacy Contracts for Approval

#CWL-4-UB: Becker County, Grade Stabilization. Estimated project costs \$19,888; eligible cost share covers 100% at 19,888.

#CWL-28-BR: Barry Nelson, Water and Sediment Control Basins. Estimated project costs \$11,969; EQIP funding of \$4,957 and eligible cost share covers 90% at \$5,713.14.

Motion (Flottesch, Stenger) to approve the Clean Water contracts for Upper Buffalo River Sediment Reduction Project and Buffalo Red Shallow Lakes and Mainstream Improvement Strategy. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Upcoming Events

"Zcience on Tap," April 23rd, Zorbaz, Detroit Lakes. Presentation by Summit Brewing re: Clean Water. Our office will be there representing Sammy Soil and various healthy soil related materials.

Area 1 South Senior Envirothon, May 2nd, PWLC, Fergus Falls.

Tree Pick Up Day, May 4th

5th Grade Conservation Tour, May 8th and 10th Ike Fischer Farm, Frazee

Adjourn

Chairman Beck adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m.

Approved: Eugene Pavelko, Becker SWCD Secretary

Date: May 16, 2018