



Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting – Wednesday, October 17, 2018

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, October 17, 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, Eugene Pavelko, Jerome Flottemesch, Travis Schauer and Kathy Stenger. Staff members include District Administrator Peter Mead, Office Manager Jen Wentz and NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz.

Call to Order

Chairman Beck called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda Items

(September 19, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes; Employee Program Reports)

Motion (Schauer, Flottemesch) to approve the September meeting minutes, updated agenda and employee reports. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Financials

Treasurers Report and Bills for Approval were reviewed by Wentz.

Motion (Pavelko, Schauer) to approve the September Treasurer's Report and October bills. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

District Reports

Administrator's Report

Our office attended Cormorant Days last month and presented the Soil Soakers station at the Cormorant Lake Sportsman's Club.

We had a booth at the DLHS Career Expo and Job Fair for 9th and 11th grade students. The event saw a total of 609 Freshman from area schools and 211 Juniors from Detroit Lakes High School. A soil infiltration demonstration and engineering practices were the focus of our time with the students.

TSA grant reconciliation was completed September 25th by Jeannette Austin from BWSR.

Attended a pre-planning meeting regarding the preliminary proposal for a RV Park/Campground near Toad Lake. COLA President Jen Thompson was invited to attend and participated in the discussion.

1W1P kick-off meeting was held in Barnesville at the Buffalo Red River Watershed office. Houston Engineering presented their outline for the plan. Committees were clarified. The Planning Committee will hold monthly meetings. Wild Rice Watershed District will hold their 1w1p kickoff meeting soon as well. We are in need of

landowners to serve on the Advisory Committee. Flottemesch urged Peter to keep District staff involved and observant on this issue.

Jen Wollenweber is the new Soils Scientist for NRCS Area 1 and has visited our office in the last month along with Brandon DeFoe.

Mead and Clem visited with Gabe Dretsch on the Hwy 87 shoulder widening project. This will have 115 different impacts. Corp of Engineers and MnDOT are working together on the project and should be completed in 2020.

WCA projects continue to filter into the office at a steady pace. A TEP meeting was held on October 11.

Mead assisted Marsha with her application for the 2019 MDA Noxious Weed Grant. This is ready for submittal.

He is steadily working on staff performance reviews, IDP Plant and JAA Updates.

He has completed work on the buffer compliance and assisted Phil with a letter to 160 landowners regarding MN Land Trust and their potential wetland and woodland easement project.

Rolling R Ranch has completed work under Ag Water Quality Certification. There will be a brief presentation with signage placing on Tuesday, October 23rd at 1:00 p.m.

Open Forum

Ed Musielewicz showcased the soil infiltration demonstration that was highlighted to area students at the Career Expo and Job Fair. The demonstration compares soybean cropped, tillable soils with no-till, cover crop soils. Nitrate test strips were used to evaluate the filtered water from each and as suspected, the no-till cover crop tested for fewer Nitrates.

Soil samples were taken at the following locations: 3 samples from B. Nelsons, 6 samples from D. Hendrickson and 2 samples from T. Schauer. Staff will continue to pull samples 3 times a year for infiltration, 1 time each year for Phospholipid Fatty Acid Analysis (PLFA) and that data will be evaluated.

Musielewicz has been visiting with producers since the beginning of October. Cover crops planted this year are looking very good. Full season cover crops that have been grazed for 10 days in the summer and again late fall. No-till practices in the area are yielding less but with better quality. It will be interesting to see how animals feed and produce in years to come.

Wentz attended the MASWCD Area 1 planning meeting and informed the group that Paul Krabbenhoft will step down as Director to pursue the position of Vice President for the MASWCD state board. Several board members in our area were mentioned as possible candidates for the open position especially Kathy Stenger. Buffer Implementation work load and funding was a large topic of discussion. A panel will be created to address issues from managers, BWSR and legislator perspectives.

Buffer Implementation

Compliance Status Update. Becker County had 45 landowners remaining with 20 of those now completed. Many have chosen alternative practices. Local control for alternative practices continues to prove a palatable approach more so than pushing county enforcement. There are 33,000 parcels in the county and over 12,000 are subject to the provisions of MN Buffer Law.

Compliance Review Plan Approval. Peter presented the options available from BWSR. We are required to submit a monitoring plan and post it to our website. It was submitted to Tom Gile and Darren Mayers. There are no specifics as to when compliance tracking is to be completed throughout the 3 year time frame. 25-50 random spot checks will be performed each year. Flottemesch remarked as to why plotted lots on lakes are subject to the requirements as they fall under other controls. Longevity of the practice is a concern.

Landowners will be required of 10 years with a contract and beyond that, permanent requirements under the buffer law. Complaints will be addressed with aerial photo review. Non-compliance will be discussed with alternative practices and complete disregard for the law will be addressed further by county officials and enforcement.

Motion (Stenger, Pavelko) to approve the Monitoring Plan for Buffer Compliance Tracking with noted revisions. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

MASWCD Convention

Attendance, Arrangements and Accommodations. The event is December 9, 10 and 11 at DoubleTree in Bloomington. Conservationist of the Year, Tim and Kristine Hendrickson will be joining us. Jen will send them information.

Committee Recommendations & Ballot Submittal. Board members will work together through the resolutions after today's board meeting. Wentz will submit the final ballot to MASWCD.

2017 Financial Audit

Review of the District's Financial Audit and Submittal to State.

Motion (Stenger, Schauer) to approve the draft audit and Peterson Company Ltd. submittal to the state. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2019 Tree Order

Review & Approve 2019 Species & Pricing. Apple trees for next spring are: Fireside, Sweet Sixteen and Prairie Red Spy for \$18 each. Quaking Aspen has increased in price. The board discussed the affects to our District. It was decided to remove that species from the order form and allow for special order purchase instead.

Motion (Stenger, Pavelko) to approve the 2019 Tree and Shrub Order with revisions. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Grants and Agreements

2019 MDA Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Species Assistance. There is no match obligation but we did pledge in-kind expenses for County Ag Inspector duties, trail enhancements and a variety of weed control projects.

Motion (Stenger, Flottesmesch) to approve submittal of the 2019 MDA Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Species Assistance grant. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

State Cost Share Contracts for Approval

#BA-9, Allen Langerud, Buffer Implementation. A total of 2.4 acres into filter strip for a flat rate of \$300 per acre and total of \$720 cost share.

Motion (Pavelko, Flottesmesch) to approve the Buffer Assistance contract for Langerud. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

State Cost Share Vouchers for Approval

#SCS-17-10, Paul Muckenhirn, Shoreline Stabilization. Total project costs \$4,946. 50% payment of \$2,473 with \$2,320 from 2017 State Cost-Share.

#SCS-18-6, Paul Muckenhirn, Shoreline Stabilization. Total project costs \$4,946. 50% payment of \$2,473 with \$153 from 2018 State Cost-Share.

Motion (Flottesmesch, Pavelko) to approve payment of both State Cost-Share vouchers for Muckenhirn. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Legacy Amendments for Approval

#CWL-2-GWP, Greg Price, Irrigation Water Management. Project scope has expanded and costs have increased to another \$4,158.

#CWL-42-LP, City of Detroit Lakes, Critical Area Planting. Increased project costs to \$19,033 which requires another \$631 in cost share to provide 75% funding.

Motion (Schauer, Stenger) to approve the above contract amendments. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Legacy Vouchers for Approval

#CWL-5-UB, Chad Okeson, Grade Stabilization, WASCBS & Waterway. This is a Joint Venture between brothers. Total project costs on this second and final phase \$398,419 with 90% cost share between EQIP and CWL funds. CWL cost share \$11,589.

#CWL-45-LP, Lake Eunice Township, Grade Stabilization. Total project costs \$5,225. 50% payment in the amount of \$2,612.50.

Motion (Pavelko, Schauer) to approve the above voucher payments from CWL funds. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Beck adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Approved: Eugene Pavelko, Becker SWCD Secretary

Date: November 21, 2018