



**Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, November 21, 2018**

Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, November 21, 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. County Commissioner Barry Nelson was also in attendance.

Call to Order

Chairman Beck called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda Items

(October 17, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes; Employee Program Reports)

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

Financial

Treasurers Report Bills for Approval were reviewed.

Motion (Schauer, Flottemesch) to approve the October Treasurer's Report and pay the list of bills for November. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Sponsorship Request. The Festival of Birds, an event held each spring in our community, has approached us regarding sponsorship opportunities. Sponsorship levels vary from \$100 to \$1,000 or more. The \$500 level offers us a sponsor poster for display at our office, business name and logo listed as sponsor on festival display, exhibitor booth space and the opportunity to provide a flyer/coupon/item in the welcome packet for attendees.

This is a three day event mostly for bird watching with the final day scheduled as a social gathering. Having a booth at the show highlighting CAI work will get us more exposure for noxious weed education and identification efforts.

Motion (Stenger, Schauer) to approve a \$500 payment in sponsorship to the Festival of Birds event. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

A Conservation Corps funding request came to us as well. Peter spoke with several board members. Labor Crew application is on the agenda but the Apprentice program has lost its funding from the Clean Water Legacy. We contributed \$250 to this cause.

Human Resources

Review & Approve Personnel Committee Recommendations.

Claire Olson was approached by M State in Detroit Lakes to adjunct teach Design and drafting classes beginning in January. She has decided to take this position and leaves behind her current role as Shoreland Specialist. Logan Riedel has been on board with us as a part-time Technician since November 2017. With recent changes under the federal system, he will soon lose his ¾ time role with Ultima. Drafting is still needed and we intend to utilize Nicole Wallace for more of that who has been working diligently with Wes Drake. Our hope is to transfer Riedel from part-time to full-time as a Resource Technician. He will work alongside Brandon Dahring on the Shoreland Program.

With additional training and another computer purchase, the difference of the changes is very minimal if any. Olson will be hired by the District, as needed, for graphic design work and some drafting.

Employment law may be a concern with this internal posting. Peter will reach out to MCIT to confirm we are working within state guidelines.

Motion (Flottemesch, Stenger) to eliminate the Shoreland Specialist position and follow administration's recommendation to post a new Resource Technician internally and offer that vacancy to Logan Riedel.

Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Open Forum

Alan Lepp, NRCS Area Conservationist for Field Operations started his new position in August in Detroit Lakes. Formerly, he was a District Conservationist in Perham. He spoke of the new Customer Service Teams and proposed organizational chart for Minnesota NRCS. An additional nine people will be moved to the Detroit Lakes CST and Area Field Office. Layout of where everyone will be located has not been developed yet. FSA and RDs current layout will change drastically with the 150 square foot all-in workstation requirements. Our lease and current space will not be affected.

Ed Musielewicz, District Conservationist gave the following report:

- EQIP Application cutoff is 1/19/19.
- NW area received 3.1 million dollars. It will be different this year.
- Recently attended an Engineers meeting; we have 14 producers with 16 projects.
- With lack of funding, NRCS may rely more on state dollars through Clean Water Legacy grants.

Barry Nelson noted there will be a resignation on the Wild Rice Watershed board. Duane Erickson is resigning his position as soon as a replacement can be found. Erickson's primary reason for departure is opposition to the spending associated with co-locating offices with the Red River Watershed Mgmt. board. This position is appointed by Clay County at the recommendation of the Becker County Commissioners. Nelson asked the SWCD board members to think of a possible replacement.

Mead has recently visited with Sally Hauskins from Sucker Creek Preserve. She is concerned over the city's management of the preserve, and asked if the SWCD would serve as a technical resource for to ensure the Preserve's management plan is upheld.

Chairman Beck recessed the regular board meeting and opened the public hearing at 9:30 a.m.

Public Hearing – Wetland Conservation Act

Laker Island Storage Unit Development Wetland Replacement Plan

Date of Application: 9/25/2018 Application Number: 18-9

Introduction: This project is located on an island with existing trail/crossing to the island but would propose improvements to the existing access including wetland impacts. The planned access road would parallel Paul Davis Restoration's existing driveway on the corner of intersection State Hwy 59 and Co Rd 6. The City of Detroit Lakes looked at various options to minimize impacts including properly collecting and treating storm water and a reduction in slope on road banks. Apex worked with city officials to approve a one-way crossing that will restrict outgoing traffic with a required yield on the narrow crossing. The roadway will remain private. The finished project will result in the filling of 6,117 square feet of wetland which is to be replaced with a 2:1 ratio of credits from the MN wetland banking program.

Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) has reviewed the application. The panel consisted of: Ed Clem (SWCD), Peter Mead (LGU), Roger Hemphill (DNR), Steve Hofstad (BWSR), and Evan Ingebrigtsen (ACOE)

TEP Findings and Recommendation: Purpose and Need of the storage unit project is reasonable and prudent. Avoidance and minimization standards have been met. Proposed purchase of wetland credits is suitable replacement for this impact. Special considerations such as threatened and endangered species will not be significantly impacted. TEP recommends approval of the wetland replacement plan.

Chairman Beck asked for comments in favor or against the application. Seeing none, the public hearing was closed and the regular board meeting was reopened.

The SWCD Board, serving as WCA LGU in Becker County concurred with the TEP recommendations and findings, motion (Stenger, Schauer) to approve the Laker Island Storage Unit Development Wetland Replacement Plan. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Grants Update

2018 Grant Close-outs. The following grants will close or will be ready to process a close-out as of Dec 31, 2018:

- FY15 Buffalo Red Shallow Lakes
- FY17 Buffer Law
- FY16 Targeted Phosphorus Reduction and Lake Protection
- 2016 CWMA
- Single Site Multi-Agency Permitting
- FY17 State Cost-Share

Existing Grants & Agreements. The following grants are currently on the books:

- FY15 South Branch Wild Rice Sediment Reduction (extended)
- 2018 CWMA
- FY18 Buffer Law & Buffer Cost-Share
- FY18 Buffalo Red Shallow Lakes
- FY18 Targeted Phosphorus Reduction and Lake Protection
- 2017 Local Capacity
- 2018 Local Capacity
- FY17 Upper Buffalo River Sediment Reduction
- FY16 Groundwater Protection
- 2019 MDA Noxious & Invasive Weed
- FY18 State Cost-Share
- FY19 State Cost-Share

Pending Agreements & Applications. MPCA water quality testing. Unsure of the future with this grant.
Top-Down Buffalo River CWL Application. BWSR board will be voting in November.

Local Water Planning

1W1P Updates – Buffalo-Red, Wild Rice, Red-Eye, & Mississippi Headwaters

Buffalo Red has been selected as the management authority for the 1W1P process. County boards will retain legal authority.

The plan identifies the group's goals and the funding required to complete them. The legislature will then evaluate those projects and the measurable outcomes and make future decisions of funding based on those findings.

Committee Membership(s). Commissioners and SWCD Supervisors serve on the Policy committee in each 1W1P. Flottesch is serving for the Buffalo Red, with Board member Schauer as an alternate. Chairman Beck will serve as policy committee member on Red-Eye. Appointments will need to be made for Wild Rivce as the process moves forward.

Planning funds are not delivered to Becker SWCD for our part in this process. LWM dollars are intended for its use but most if not all of those are spent through Ed Clem's time for existing Local Water Management activities.

Native Plant Materials

Review & Approve 2019 Kits & Pricing. We will offer the same three native plant kits with flexibility of species based on what the nurseries can supply. We don't foresee a need to increase prices.

Five native seed packets will also be offered with no increase to price.

Motion (Stenger, Pavelko) to approve the native plant kits, native seed packets and keep the 2018 pricing. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Grants and Agreements

South Branch Wild Rice Sediment Reduction Project Extension. Signed and sent back to the state. We have an additional 6 months to spend the funds. Remaining projects will be completed at the start of the 2019 construction season.

MDH / Otter Tail / Becker Private Well Testing. Department of Health has reached out to us to partner on this with East and West Otter Tail SWCDs and Otter Tail & Becker County. This is strictly drinking water testing within these two counties. Agreement to participate and/or serve as fiscal agent.

2019 MN Conservation Corps Labor Crew Application. We will try for eight days with a five-person labor crew.

Motion (Pavelko, Schauer) to approve the above grant agreements and participations. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

State Cost Share Contract Cancellations

#SCS-17-7, Terry Kohler, Water & Sediment Control Basins. EQIP has paid over 100% and we are not able to supply funding. A reallocation has already taken place.

Motion (Flottemesch, Schauer) to approve cancellation of the above listed contract based on 100% EQIP payout. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

State Cost Share Contracts for Approval

#BA-10, Sharon Seykora, Buffer Implementation. 2.8 acres at \$300 flat rate per acre. Total cost share \$840.

Motion (Schauer, Pavelko) to approve the 2017 Buffer Implementation contract for Seykora. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

State Cost Share Vouchers for Approval

#SCS-17-8, Dwight Hanson, Water & Sediment Control Basins. Total project costs \$3,992 with a 75% cost share payment of \$2,944.

Motion (Schauer, Flottemesch) to approve the above voucher for payment from 2017 State Cost-Share funds. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Clean Water Legacy Vouchers for Approval

#CWL-26-BR, Mary Poling, Critical Area Planting Implementation. Total projects costs \$1,710 with 50% cost share payment of \$855.

#CWL-30-LP, Mike & Rhonda Montgomery, Shoreline Stabilization. Total projects costs \$8,393 with 50% cost share payment of \$4,196.

#CWL-42-LP, City of Detroit Lakes, Critical Area Planting. Total projects costs \$19,033 with 75% cost share payment of \$14,275.

Motion (Flottemesch, Pavelko) to approve the above listed vouchers for payment from Clean Water Legacy FY15 Buffalo Red Shallow Lakes and FY16 Targeted Phosphorus Reduction and Lake Protection grants. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

2019 Board of Supervisors Annual Planning Retreat

We will hold our annual planning retreat on Tuesday, January 8th (first choice) or Monday the 7th as alternative. We will try for the Discovery Center at Tamarac Wildlife Refuge. The wetlands office is an option, as well as Cormorant Sportsman's Club.

Upcoming Events: NOV 29th 1W1P Planning Committee
 DEC 9-11 MASWCD Annual Convention, Bloomington

Adjourn

Chairman Beck adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

Approved: Eugene Pavelko, Becker SWCD Secretary

Date: December 19, 2018