



Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Wednesday October 16, 2019

### **Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday October 16, 2019 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 Flottemesch, Kathleen Stenger, Travis Schauer and Eugene Pavelko. Staff members include District Administrator Peter Mead, Office Manager Deana Westberg, BWSR Board Conservationist Brett Arne and Becker County Commissioner Barry Nelson.

**Call to Order** Chairman Beck called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

#### **Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda Items**

(September 18, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes; Employee Program Reports)

Motion (Stenger, Schauer) to approve the amended agenda adding 2 more Clean Water Legacy Vouchers and one contract for Approval. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Motion (Flottemesch, Schauer) to approve the September Meeting Minutes and Employee Reports. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

#### **Financial Reports**

Treasurers Report and Bills for Approval were reviewed by Mead.

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

Mead and Westberg presented the draft of the December 2018 Audited Financial Statements from Peterson Company LTD

Motion (Flottemesch, Pavelko) to approve the BSWCD draft of the December 2018 Audited Financial Statements from Peterson Company LTD. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

#### **District Reports**

Administrator's Report was given by Peter Mead.

September 19<sup>th</sup> Mead and Koenig staffed a booth at the 9<sup>th</sup> grade DHL Career fair where they demonstrated differing soil samples, conducted rainfall simulations, and tested drinking water samples from all corners of Becker County. Nearly 450 area freshmen were in attendance.

September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> staff manned the soil soaker station during the annual 4<sup>th</sup> grade Conservation days at the Cormorant Sportsman's club walking students through experiments on soil infiltration.

September 24<sup>th</sup> Area and State office NRCS staff visited the RIM/WRP Brink Lake restoration to evaluate current conditions and discuss where rock work and changes to the structure are needed to address high water caused by beavers and floating vegetation.

September 25<sup>th</sup> Buffalo Red 1W1P planning team met to evaluate established and proposed goals throughout each planning region of the watershed.

September 26<sup>th</sup> Mead and Musielewicz appeared on KDLM Radio's Hodge Podge program, where they discussed this year's efforts on soil health, various conservation tours, AIS inspections, program enrollment, pollinators and this year's construction season.

October 1<sup>st</sup> Mead attended the Wild Rice 1W1P steering committee meeting in Ada, continuing progress on establishing measurable goals. Becker SWCD is the lead on goals for soil health, riparian stabilization and grassland management.

October 3<sup>rd</sup> Clem and Mead met with Bruce Albright and Wade Opshal at the Branden property in Section 22 of Audubon township to investigate a blocked riser and washout at the site of the old Amer Froyland dam on Ditch 15, as well as discuss adjacent field road ditch erosion and the outlet of Audubon Lake. The Watershed district will be repairing each in the coming construction season.

October 7<sup>th</sup> Buffalo Red Steering planning team conference call, goal revisions for Soil Health, projects and practices and allocation of BWSR approved Watershed based funding to plan categories.

October 8<sup>th</sup> Wetland Conservation Act TEP meeting – Mead and Clem met with BWSR, DNR & The corps of Engineers to review a recent wetland delineation performed near Height of Land Lake, where a landowner is seeking to gain access to a land locked parcel for development. We anticipate an application for a wetland replacement plan will be forthcoming.

October 9<sup>th</sup> PTMAPP implementation meeting with East Otter Tail, West Otter Tail, BWSR and the International Waters Institute to discuss training development and the exploration of "real-life" implementation scenario planning.

October 10<sup>th</sup> Mead met with County Administrator Mike Brethorst and the county's new Financial Supervisor Maureen Kent to discuss state grants, fund codes, budget allocations and mechanisms for moving funds between both entities. Darin Halvorson is no longer with the county and Mike and Maureen are in the process of deciphering each departments revenue and expense streams.

### **Open Forum**

County Commissioner Barry Nelson mentioned discussions underway with Clay County and the Wild Rice Watershed District regarding manager appointment authority, and provided I Mead and Arne with a copy of a proposed joint resolution between Becker and Clay that would give Becker County commissioners the authority to appoint one manager to the Wild Rice Board. Currently Clay County has two appointees and Becker county does not have the authority to appoint representation.

Board Supervisor Jerome Flottesch reviewed his time on the Buffalo Red Watershed District Fall Tour which included a tour of current and proposed public ditch retrofits which he found to be very interesting.

## **BWSR Updates**

Brett Arne – MN Board of Water and Soil Resources Board Conservationist reported on BWSR updates as follows:

Arne provided a state of Minnesota map broke out by the 8 TSA Areas and 1W1P Planning areas and discussed the amount of Watershed Based funding approved by the BWSR board for FY20/21. This windfall of implementation dollars will likely equate to a large uptick in workload for our TSA engineering staff.

Arne also handed out and explained a FY2020 SWCD Local Capacity Matching Grants Allocation Table broke down by the SWCD. The FY 2020 Base Grant will be the same amount for all SWCD's plus their 3 year average county match from 2017-2019 and Land & Water Allocation equals their Total FY20 Allocation. Becker SWCD will receive a total of \$131,762 for FY20.

Brett also discussed some of the new Grants which will be awarded in January 2020, including a Clean Water Grant, Accelerated Implementation Grant and Cover Crop RFP which are taking applications now.

The status of Pelican River Watershed District's Revised Management Plan and their Rice Lake Project were also explained and led to lengthy discussion. This project is behind schedule and funds are soon to expire. Given the nature of the legislative appropriation that funded this and other targeted watershed demonstration projects, BWSR has limited options for extending the grant or keeping the funds available. BWSR's preference is for PRWD & the SWCD to enter an agreement where BWSR will release all project funds to be turned over to the SWCD for project implementation and completion. BWSR will set up a meeting between watershed and SWCD supervisors in the near future.

## **MASWCD 2019 Annual Convention**

2019 Pre-Convention Ballots were filled out by the board supervisors.

Accommodations have been made for the board Supervisors, Administrator Mead, Office Manager Westberg, Technician Dahring and our Outstanding Conservationist(s) Todd and Michelle Andresen at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in Bloomington – Minneapolis South for the Annual Convention on December 8, 9 and 10, 2019.

## **Local Water Management**

Mead discussed 1W1P updates on Buffalo Red, Wild Rice & Red Eye River Watersheds. A monthly update project sheet was broke out by Plan Timeline, Accomplishments, Measurable Goals, Project Partners and Project current progress.

## **Clean Water Legacy Contract Amendments**

#CWL-6-TD, Todd Andresen, amount. Additional funding: \$1414

#CWL-7-TD, Todd Andresen, amount. Additional funding: \$1023

Both projects did not receive federal funding, requiring additional grant funds to meet the 75% and 50% cost share thresholds.

Motion (Flottesmesch,Pavelko) to approve the Clean Water Legacy Contract Amendments as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

## **Clean Water Legacy Applications for Approval**

#CWL-54-LP, Jim Snyder, Critical Area Planting-Total Project Cost: \$4,514 Cost Share:\$3,386

Motion (Stenger,Pavelko) to approve the Clean Water Legacy Application as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Clean Water Legacy Vouchers for Approval**

#CWL-58-LP, Bill Ufkin, Shoreline Stabilization – Total Project Cost: \$5,950 Cost Share: \$4,463  
#CWL-6-TD, Todd Andresen, Fence / Use Exclusion– Total Project Cost: \$8,595 Cost Share: \$6,446  
#CWL-6-TD, Todd Andresen, Fence / Use Exclusion– Total Project Cost: \$6,327 Cost Share: \$3,164  
#CWL-10-TD, Jake Nelson, Cover Crop– Total Project Cost: \$2,640  
#CWL-8-UB, Bill Steffl, WSCB - Total Project Cost: \$449  
#CWL-8-TD, Bill Steffl, WSCB - Total Project Cost: \$57,360  
#CWL-52-LP, Angie Sonstegard, Critical Area Planting- Total Project Cost: \$2,848 Cost Share: \$1,424

Motion (Flottemesch, Pavelko) to approve the Clean Water Legacy Vouchers as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**State Cost Share Vouchers for Approval**

#SCS-18-12, Tim Lehrke, Cover Crop– Total Project Cost: \$ 328  
#SCS-19-2, Chuck & Diane Becker, Critical Area Planting– Total Project Cost: \$2,808 Cost Share: \$1,404

Motion (Pavelko, Stenger) to approve the State Cost Share Vouchers as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Adjourn**

Seeing no further business, Chairman Beck adjourned the meeting at 10:40 am.

**Approved: Eugene Pavelko, Becker SWCD Secretary**

**Date: November 20, 2019**