



**Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday August 18, 2021**

The meeting of the Becker Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday August 18, 2021 at Becker SWCD Shop 1366 Mallard Street, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501.

Present were Supervisors Travis Schauer, Tony Beck, Eugene Pavelko, Michelle Andresen and Curt Ballard. Staff members District Administrator Bryan Malone, Office Manager Deana Westberg, NRCS District Conservationist Ed Musielewicz, NRCS Pathways Intern Justin Lester, Board Conservationist Darren Mayers, County Commissioner Barry Nelson and Landowner David Geray.

**Call to Order**

Chairman Schauer called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

**Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda Items**

July 21, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes; Employee Program Reports

Motion (Beck, Ballard) to approve the July Regular Meeting Minutes. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

Motion (Beck, Ballard) to approve the revised agenda. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**Intern Report**

NRCS Pathways Summer Intern Justin Lester thanked the NRCS and SWCD staff for the really good Ag Engineer experience. Justin will be a Junior at NDSU and his focus is on Design work.

**Financial Reports**

*Treasurers Report and Bills for Approval*

Malone reviewed the July Treasurers Report and the August Bills for Approval.

Motion (Andresen, Pavelko) to approve the Treasurers Report and Bills for payment. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

**District Reports**

District Administrator Bryan Malone reported:

- Budget – Much time spent on preparing the 2022 Budget
- 1W1P-Most activity is with the Otter Tail planning now as we look for projects to implement in the other 3 completed plans. The public input is in progress now until the end of September and there will be kick off meetings September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.The Redeye staff met to discuss projects and processes.
- TSA-Board meeting will be August 25<sup>th</sup> in Mahanomen. Working on the grant application for a BWSR PRAP for a strategic workload analysis. Developed a new timesheet to track jobs.
- Projects-Construction continues and more ramping up as crops come off. Prepared interim elink report for Top-Down grant.
- Apprentice – Hailey finished up her time with us on August 13<sup>th</sup>. She was appreciative of having the opportunity to work for the SWCD and gain so much experience in her learning. Very complimentary of our office team and grateful to be part of it.
- Meetings – Training session regarding the software and new imagery the county received. Otter Tail Policy Committee meeting. Site visit on shoreline project. Budget committee meeting. Redeye TAC and Otter Tail Steering Committee.

- AgBMP-Worked with another applicant for SSTS replacement. One was processed in the last month. Available funds are at \$90,000 but there has been interest in \$73,000 of that, leaving \$16,000 available.
- Program Technician-Reviewed applications and interviewed 5 candidates for the position.
- Vehicles-Contacted and visited with several dealerships in the area regarding a state bid pickup and SUV.
- Clean Water Fund-Made and filed an application for a Projects and Practices grant.

### **2022 Operational Budget**

Review of 2022 Budget Draft:

- Proposed Revenue Budget increases to some County, State and Local Grant Programs. New funding dollars for Local Watershed Programs.
- Proposed Revenue Budget decreases to Grants expiring in 2021 & 2022
- Decrease to Interest Revenue (due to low rates).
- Increase to Supervisor Compensation due to a Legislative per diem increase.
- Decrease to Employee Salaries and Benefits due to less and new employees.
- Decrease to State project expenses due to Grants expiring in 2021 & 2022
- Increase to Local project expenses for new Watershed Programs.
- Increase to County project expenses to complete the SSTS Upgrade Grant Project.

Motion (Ballard, Beck) to approve the 2022 Tentative Operational Budget. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

### **Open Forum**

No discussion

### **BWSR Reports**

Board Conservationist Darren Mayers reported:

- Handed out a 2021 Legislative Session Summary and explained that the FY22-23 existing General Fund grant appropriation dollars remained the same as FY20-21. New General Fund appropriations include septic system improvements grants, water storage and treatment and soil health and cover crop grants.
- Clean Water Fund for FY 22-23 has approximately \$256 million available and BWSR will receive over \$141 million for conservation implementation. The new CWF programs are Wetland Restoration Easements, Working Lands Floodplain Easements, Enhancing Adoption of Cover Crops and Watershed Partners Legacy Grants Program.
- Outdoor Heritage Fund- BWSR will receive funding for nine projects recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.
- Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund (Lottery proceeds) - \$750,000 for Pollinator and Beneficial Insect Strategic Habitat Program, \$993,000 for Lawns to Legumes Phase II and \$998,000 additional resources appropriated from the legislature for Lawns to Legumes.
- SWCD Board Supervisors daily compensation increased from \$75 to \$125.

### **Local Water Management**

Otter Tail Watershed 1W1P-Citizen Advisory Committee recommendation

- Each LGU recommends 1 or 2 local citizens for the committee
- The Citizen Advisory Committee meets 1 or 2 times a year

Discussion and suggestions were made by those present. Further thought and calls will be made to come up with a list of recommendations to give the Otter Tail 1W1P Steering Committee.

### **Human Resources**

Adam Mortenson has accepted the Program Technician position. Start date is September 6<sup>th</sup>. Salary set at GSA 9 Step 1.

Motion (Beck, Ballard) to approve Adam Mortenson and starting wage for the Program technician selection. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried.

### **Outstanding Conservationist**

Jason Teiken was selected as the 2021 Becker SWCD Outstanding Conservationist and graciously accepted. The MASWCD nominee paperwork will be submitted by September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Motion (Pavelko, Ballard) to approve the Outstanding Conservationist nomination as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried

### **RIM Easements**

Landowner David Geray was present and is requesting to remove an acre or two of land from his Wild Rice RIM Easement. The SWCD Board determines if a request to alter a RIM easement is warranted, then the request can be forwarded to the BWSR Board for a formal decision to allow or deny.

Questions and discussion regarding this RIM easement including: What is the proper way to handle this now and in the future? What are the costs to the SWCD and the landowner involved in doing this and any penalties? The board agrees that this is a valid request but would like more information presented next month before formally deciding, including maps of the easement property and the acreage proposed to be removed, marked accordingly.

Motion (Beck, Andresen) to table the RIM easement alteration request pending further information. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried

### **Fees for Service**

Discussion on whether to update and order new Plat Books. Currently have 150 left. Decision to wait until after hunting season and see how many are left then decide in December.

### **Capital Outlay**

Vehicle purchase options were discussed, and two quotes were reviewed. The Board requested more quotes and a detailed plan of vehicle rotation and information next month.

### **Clean Water Legacy Contract Amendments**

CWL-21-TD Todd Andresen, Perimeter Fence-Increase Total Project Cost to \$13,562.91

CWL-25-TD Scott McCaslin, Grassed Waterway- Increase 90% Cost Share to \$14,633.24

Motion (Pavelko, Ballard) to approve the Clean Water Legacy Contract Amendments as presented. Affirmative: Andresen abstained from voting. Carried

### **Clean Water Legacy Contracts for Approval**

CWL-30-TD Luke Langerud, Water & Sediment Control Basin - Total Project Cost \$10,797: 90% Cost Share \$4,858 & \$4,858 BR319

CWL-33-TD 3 Sisters Ogema LLC, Water & Sediment Control Basin - Total Project Cost \$19,965: 90% Cost Share \$8,984 & \$8,984 BR319

Motion (Beck, Andresen) to approve Clean Water Legacy Contracts as presented. Affirmative: Unanimous. Carried

**Clean Water Legacy Vouchers for Approval**

CWL-18-TD David Rousu, Grade Stabilization - Total Project Cost \$44,450: 100% cost-share \$15,557.50, EQIP \$27,894 & \$998.50 BR319

CWL-20-TD Todd Andresen, Cover Crop- Total Project Cost \$3,451 Flat Rate

CWL-21-TD Todd Andresen, Perimeter Fence - Total Project Cost \$13,562.91: 75% Cost Share \$10,154.43

CWL-25-TD Scott McCaslin, Grassed Waterway - Total Project Cost \$27,541.27: 90% Cost Share \$14,633.24 & EQIP \$10,234.60

Motion (Pavelko, Beck) to approve Clean Water Legacy Contract as presented. Affirmative: Andresen abstained from voting. Carried

CWL-67-LP Janice Aiken, Conservation Cover - Total Project Cost \$4,732.87: 75% Cost Share \$3,549.65

CWL-79-LP Mason Persons, Conservation Cover - Total Project Cost \$1,277.78: 75% Cost Share \$958.34

CWL-70-LP Linda & Terry Beilke, Shoreline Stabilization - Total Project Cost \$2,224.75: 50% Cost Share \$1,112.38

CWL-75-LP Brad & Deb Wimmer, Conservation Cover - Total Project Cost \$5,673.70: 75% Cost Share \$4,255.28

SCS-20-8 Rhanda Shaw, Conservation Cover - Total Project Cost \$1,694.15: 50% Cost Share \$847.08

CWL-69-LP Little Cormorant LLC, Conservation Cover - Total Project Cost \$6,731.94: 50% Cost Share \$3,365.97

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

**Adjourn**

Seeing no further business, Chairman Schauer adjourned the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

**Signed: Becker SWCD Secretary, Michelle Andresen**

**Date: September 15, 2021**