

Becker County COLA Meeting Minutes

Holiday Inn Detroit Lakes, Thursday, August 17, 2023, 5:00 PM CST

Attendees:

Tim Krieg – Big Cormorant	Eric Lundmark - Long
Jenni Baar - Big Cormorant	Sue Livermore – Maud Lake
Chuck Becker – Big Sugarbush	Marsha Johansen – Melissa-Sallie
Diane Becker – Big Sugarbush	Brian Johansen – Melissa-Sallie
Jan Lee – Buffalo-Rice-Rock	Sue Borstad – Pickerel Lake
Dick Lee – Detroit	David Oberlander - Stakkere
Brad Wimmer - Detroit	Danny Pinske – Tulaby
Jeanne Kauffman - Eunice	Logan Reidel – Becker SWCD
Stephen Corbin – Fox Lake	Karl Koenig – Becker SWCD
Marietta Keenan – Island Lake	Colton Utecht – Becker SWCD

5:00 p.m. New Business:

David Suby has resigned his position as Vice President. There were no volunteers or nominations from the floor

Old Business:

Motion was made by Sue Borstad and seconded by Brad Wimmer to approve the Minutes of the July 20, 2023 meeting. They were approved unanimously.

Introductions:

Oberlander introduced Becker County Soil & Water staff:

Logan Riedel, Resource Technician; Karl Koenig, AIS Coordinator; Colton Utecht their newest Resource Technician.

5:30 pm Program presentation by Logan Riedel

Slope to water should be at least 3/1. Native plantings with strong root structures and coir logs are used on the lakeshore. They reduce erosion and slow runoff to improve water quality. Becker SWCD started the Shoreland Project in 2013 with 3to4 projects each year. Since 2019 projects have increased to 15to20 a year. 90% are on private land. There is a 50% cost share, provided the plantings are maintained for at least 10 years. Ottertail County has a One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) grant. On highly developed lakes they offer a 75% match. SWCD also administers the Clean Water Legacy Grant Program. Grants are available for groundwater protection and phosphorus and sediment reduction in lakes.

Some of the project locations are:

- Frazee Public Beach - Shoreland Restoration
- Little Cormorant – Reed Canary Grass removal and Shoreland Restoration
- Valhalla Resort, Island Lake - Restoration at a resort with lots of boat traffic to protect against wave action

Shoreline restoration can be done on just a portion of the lot and vegetation can even be added to rip rap. Rip rap harms the lake. It increases runoff of pollutants and phosphorus into the lake and increases the water temperature. On plantings the goal is 20-25 different species. Additional benefits of shoreline restoration:

- Increased pollinator and wildlife habitat.
- Valuable natural resource work experience for the Conservation Corp.
- Living privacy fence.
- Natural aesthetic views.

We can reach out to the community by bringing this information back to our lake association and addressing Realtors to let them know how natural shores can increase land values. Becker County Zoning does have a list of Shoreline Certified Contractors that are recommended.

7:11 the meeting was adjourned by David Oberlander, President.

Two pontoons courtesy of Lake Detroiters were boarded. SWCD gave us a tour of some of the restoration projects on Big and Little Detroit Lake. Our next general membership meeting will be held at 5:00 pm on September 21st. It will be followed by a presentation by Karl Koenig. We will proceed to Detroit Lake to throw a rake and identify the aquatic plants.