

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on July 13, 2022. Held at the Mower SWCD office and remotely via Zoom video.

Meeting was called to order by Randy Smith, Board Chairman.

Supervisors Present: Randy Smith                      Jon Erichson  
                                 Micah Peterson                      Jim Kellogg  
                                 Rod Moe

Staff Present:                      Cody Fox, District Manager  
                                 Jeanne Crump, Administrative Assistant

Others Present:                      Jessica Beske, NRCS  
                                 Polly Glynn, Mower County Commissioner

Agenda:

Peterson made a motion to approve the July agenda. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

Secretary Report:

Kellogg made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2022, board meeting.

Peterson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

Treasurer Report:

Budget Report & Checks Payable:

The June budget report, program summary and the July payables report were reviewed with the board. Erichson made a motion to approve budget and payables reports, July payroll, and to transfer money as needed. Kellogg second the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Glynn updated the board on the county, to include: the budget process, SWCD meeting with the county, ARPA funding, the finance director position, along with road work being done.

Action Items:

2023 Preliminary Budget:

The board held discussions on the 2023 preliminary budget. Kellogg made a motion to approve the 2023 preliminary budget with the addition of ARPA funding. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

Outstanding Conservationist/Wildlife Conservationist:

The board discussed the suggestions for Outstanding Conservationist and Wildlife Conservationist. Peterson made a motion to nominate Al and Ron Akkerman for 2022 Outstanding Conservationists. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

Erichson made a motion to nominate Arlen Schamber for 2022 Outstanding Wildlife Conservationist. Peterson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

Cost Share:

NRBG Well Sealing:

The following are requesting cost share/payments for their well sealing projects.

Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate	Years	Total Estimate/ Cost	Total Cost Share Payment	Date	Other Funding	L/O Cost
NRBG	PAYMENT	Jim Churchill	Clayton 3	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1000		\$2,782.50	\$1,000.00	7/13/2022		\$1,782.50
NRBG	PAYMENT	Morris Klouse	Lansing 8	Well Sealing	50%	2 wells	\$2,507.50	\$1,253.75	7/13/2022		\$1,253.75

Kellogg made a motion to approve the NRBG well sealing cost share payments for Jim Churchill and Morris Klouse at 50%, not to exceed \$1000. Peterson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate	Years	Total Estimate/ Cost	Total Cost Share Payment	Date	Other Funding	L/O Cost
NRBG	CONTRACT	Galen Hemann	Windom 1	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1000		\$2,200.00	\$1,000.00	7/13/2022		\$1,200.00
NRBG	CONTRACT	Mark Hansen	Lyle 3	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1000		\$1,700.00	\$850.00	7/13/2022		\$850.00

Peterson made a motion to approve the NRBG well sealing cost share contract for Galen Hemann at 50%, not to exceed \$1000. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

Kellogg made a motion to approve the NRBG well sealing cost share contract for Mark Hansen at 50%, not to exceed \$1000. Peterson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

Root River IWIP cost share:

The following is requesting approval for his waterway projects.

Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate	Years	Total Estimate/ Cost	Total Cost Share Payment	Date	Other Funding	L/O Cost
Root River IWIP	CONTRACT	Mark Carman	Bennington 5	Waterway	75%		\$9,383.00	\$7,037.25	7/13/2022		\$2,345.75

Peterson made a motion to approve the waterway contract for Mark Carman at \$7,037.25. The total cost share is 75% of the total cost estimate

of \$9,383.00. Funding for the project will come from the Root River 1W1P grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.  
 Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe  
 Opposed: None

**State Cost Share:**

The following is requesting state cost share assistance for her waterway project.

Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Estimate/ Cost	Total Cost Share Payment	Date	Other Funding	L/O Cost
State Cost Share	CONTRACT	Cheryl Haack	Racine 12	Waterway	\$15,753.00	\$4,522.75	7/13/2022	\$7,292.00	\$3,938.25

Peterson made a motion to approve the waterway contract for Cheryl Haack at \$4,522.75. The total cost share, including other funding, is 75% of the total cost estimate of \$15,753.00. Funding for the \$4,522.75 of this project will come from the FY21 & FY22 state cost share grants. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe  
 Opposed: None

**Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P cost share:**

The following are requesting contract approval for their projects.

Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Estimate/ Cost	Total Cost Share Payment	Date	Other Funding	L/O Cost
Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Gene Tapp	Red Rock 13	Waterway	\$24,327.00	\$7,744.25	7/13/2022	\$10,866.00	\$5,716.75
Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Pat Donovan	Windom	Grade Stabilization	\$51,217.63	\$38,413.22	7/13/2022	\$12,804.41	

Moe made a motion to approve the waterway contract for Gene Tapp at \$7,744.25. The total cost share, including other funding, is 76.5% of the total cost estimate of \$24,327.00. Funding for the \$7,744.25 of this project will come from the Cedar Wapsipinicon 1W1P grant. Peterson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe  
 Opposed: None

Peterson made a motion to approve the grade stabilization contract for Pat Donovan at \$38,413.22. The total cost share, including other funding, is 100% of the total cost estimate of \$51,217.63. Funding for the \$38,413.22 of this project will come from the Cedar Wapsipinicon 1W1P grant.

Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe  
 Opposed: None

**Conservation Technician Position:**

Fox updated the board on the applications that were received for the open Technician position. After discussion, the board agreed to have Fox call a special board meeting to hire for the position.

MASWCD Leadership:

Kellogg made a motion to approve the applications for the MASWCD leadership for Randy Smith and Paul Hunter. Peterson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

Abstained: Smith

Conservation Agronomist Position:

Fox talked about the agronomist position and possible funding for it. This will be brought back to the board once funding becomes available for the position.

Vehicle Purchase:

Fox talked about the search for a replacement vehicle for the impala. With the state bid contract, not a lot of car lots are interested. There is a vehicle available in Hibbing, where we have bought from before. Erichson made a motion to authorize Fox to purchase a vehicle with the total cost of up to \$40,000. Peterson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

Discussion Items:

Area Resolution Recap:

Smith and Fox informed the board on the area resolution meeting.

Administration Updates:

Crump talked about the admin training session that she attended.

NRCS Report, Jessica Beske:

Beske updated the board on NRCS, to include: staffing in the area, CSP and CRP. She also informed the board that Luke Bowe will be back in the office in January after his national guard assignment.

Staff Report (See Attached):

The Staff Report and all programs were reviewed.

Supervisor Reports:

No additional.

Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be held Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at 8:00 a.m.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_