

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on September 14, 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
 Jim Kellogg Rod Moe

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

Others Present: Jessica Beske, NRCS
 Dave Copeland, BWSR
 Polly Glynn, Mower County Commissioner-Zoom

Agenda:

Moe made a motion to approve the September agenda. Kellogg seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe
Opposed: None

Secretary Report:

Kellogg made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2022, board meeting.
Moe seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe
Opposed: None

Treasurer Report:

Budget Report & Checks Payable:

The budget report, program summary and the September payables report were reviewed with the board. Kellogg made a motion to approve the budget and payables reports, September payroll, and to transfer money as needed. Erichson second the motion.
Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe
Opposed: None

Meet New Employee:

Jessica Geissbuhler, the new conservation technician in the office, introduced herself to the board.

NRCS Report, Jessica Beske:

Beske updated the board on NRCS, to include: the end of the fiscal year, CSP, staffing and EQIP.

BWSR Report, Dave Copeland:

Copeland updated the board on BWSR, to include: BWSR Academy and the competitive grant funding.

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Glynn updated the board on the county, to include: the 2023 preliminary levy, the abatement for the city of Taopi due to the tornado damage and ARPA funding.

Action Items:

Austin Leadership:

The board discussed the leadership program that is put on by the city of Austin. They agreed that Fox should apply for the program in 2023.

Cost Share:

Nutrient Management Initiative-NMI:

The following are requesting incentives for their cover crop fields.

Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	1st Year Implementation Pmt.	Years	Total L/O incentive per year	Total L/O Incentive Payment	Date	Additional Agronomist Pmt./3 yrs.	Total Grant Cost
Nutrient Mgmt. Init.- NMI	CONTRACT	Dan Warner	Steele Cty-Owatonna 33	Cover Crop	\$500.00	3	\$1,000.00	\$3,500.00	9/14/2022	\$1,500.00	\$5,000.00
Nutrient Mgmt. Init.- NMI	CONTRACT	Tom Finnegan	Red Rock 21	Cover Crop	\$500.00	3	\$1,000.00	\$3,500.00	9/14/2022	\$1,500.00	\$5,000.00

Kellogg made a motion to approve the cover crop contract for Dan Warner. This contract includes, for the landowner, a 3-year incentive of \$1000/year and a \$500 incentive for the first year for cover crop implementation, a total of \$3500. Along with an agronomist payment (if needed) of \$500/year. Funding will come from the NMI grant. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe

Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve the cover crop contract for Tom Finnegan. This contract includes, for the landowner, a 3-year incentive of \$1000/year and a \$500 incentive for the first year for cover crop implementation, a total of \$3500. Along with an agronomist payment (if needed) of \$500/year. Funding will come from the NMI grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe

Opposed: None

ARPA Funding:

The following are requesting cost share assistance for their well sealing protects.

Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate	Total Estimate	Total Cost Share Payment	Date	L/O Cost
ARPA Funding	CONTRACT	Dan Vermilyea	Pleasant Valley 23	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$2,325.00	\$1,000.00	9/14/2022	\$1,325.00
ARPA Funding	CONTRACT	Larry Thomas	Lansing 23	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$1,800.00	\$900.00	9/14/2022	\$900.00

Moe made a motion to approve the ARPA funding well sealing cost share contract for Dan Vermilyea at 50%, not to exceed \$1000. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe

Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve the ARPA funding well sealing cost share contract for Larry Thomas at 50%, not to exceed \$1000. Kellogg seconded the motion.
 Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe
 Opposed: None

Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P cost share:

The following is requesting cost share assistance for his WASCOD project.

Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate	Total Estimate	Total Cost Share Payment	Date	L/O Cost
Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Jerald Sprau	Clayton 30	WASCOD	75%	\$17,944.00	\$13,458.00	9/14/2022	\$4,486.00

Kellogg made a motion to approve the WASCOD contract for Jerald Sprau at \$13,458.00. The total cost share is 75% of the total cost estimate of \$17,944.00. Funding for the project will come from the Cedar Wapsipinicon 1W1P grant. Moe seconded the motion.
 Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe
 Opposed: None

Discussion Items:

Gebhardt to Convention:

The board discussed the MASWCD state convention and the option to send former board members. The board decided not to make it an option at this time.

Drone Footage:

Hunter showed the board some of the footage that he has taken with the drone, to include the fall training field day.

Staff Report (See Attached):

The Staff Report and all programs were reviewed.

Supervisor Reports:

Smith talked about the upcoming fall area supervisor/staff meeting on September 27 in Hokah, MN.

Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be held Wednesday, October 12, 2022, at 8:00 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____