

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on December 21, 2022.
Held at the Mower SWCD office.

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

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

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

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

Agenda:

Moe made a motion to approve the December agenda. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

Secretary Report:

Kellogg made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2022, board meeting.
Peterson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

Treasurer Report:

Budget Report & Checks Payable:

The budget report, program summary and the December payables report were reviewed with the board. Peterson made a motion to approve the budget and payables reports, December payroll, to transfer money as needed and to pay all additional bills for 2022 by the end of December. Kellogg second the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

NRCS Report, Jessica Beske:

Fox explained that Beske is on detail for 3 months and will not be attending board meetings.

BWSR Report, Dave Copeland:

Copeland talked about the MASWCD convention, which took place December 12-14.
Discussion was held on different items that were covered at the convention.

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Glynn updated the board on Mower County, to include, the finalized budget and levy.

Action Items:

Cost Share:

State Cost Share:

The following is requesting payment for his State Cost shared cover crop incentive.

Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share Payment	Date
State Cost Share	PAYMENT	Aaron Wagner	Windom 34	Cover Crops	40 ac @ \$28	\$1,120.00	\$2,240.00	12/21/2022

Peterson made a motion to approve the year 2 & 3 cover crop payment for Aaron Wagner through state cost share for \$2,240.00. Funding will come from FY21. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

Root River 1W1P:

The following are requesting prairie strip incentives through the Root River 1W1P grant.

Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share Payment	Date
Root River 1W1P	CONT/PMT	David Geerdes Credit Tru	Racine 34	Prairie Strip Incentive	6.17 ac @80	\$493.60	\$7,404.00	12/21/2022
Root River 1W1P	CONT/PMT	David Geerdes Credit Tru	Racine 33	Prairie Strip Incentive	.91 ac @80	\$72.80	\$1,092.00	12/21/2022
Root River 1W1P	CONT/PMT	David Geerdes Credit Tru	Racine 33	Prairie Strip Incentive	9.64 ac @80	\$771.20	\$11,568.00	12/21/2022
Root River 1W1P	CONT/PMT	David Goodsell	Frankford 23	Prairie Strip Incentive	1.55 ac @80	\$124.00	\$1,240.00	12/21/2022
Root River 1W1P	CONT/PMT	Jacob Freese	Frankford 4	Prairie Strip Incentive	9.63 ac @80	\$770.40	\$7,704.00	12/21/2022
Root River 1W1P	CONT/PMT	Patricia Geerdes	Racine 33	Prairie Strip Incentive	7.58 ac @80	\$606.40	\$9,096.00	12/21/2022

Kellogg made a motion to approve the prairie strip incentive contracts for the above 6 contracts. Peterson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

Peterson made a motion to approve the above payments for prairie strip incentives. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P cost share:

The following is requesting prairie strip incentives through the Cedar Wapsipinicon 1W1P grant.

Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share Payment	Date
Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONT/PMT	Steven Houzenga	Udolpho 4	Prairie Strip Incentive	.33 ac @50	\$16.50	\$165.00	12/21/2022

Moe made a motion to approve the prairie strip incentive contract for Steven Houzenga. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

Peterson made a motion to approve the prairie strip incentive payment for Steven Houzenga. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

ARPA Funding:

Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share Payment	Date	L/O Cost
ARPA Funding	PAYMENT	Dan Vermilyea	Pleasant Valley 29	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$1,517.50	\$758.75	12/21/2022	\$758.75
ARPA Funding	CONTRACT	Mike Felten	Bennington 26	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	12/21/2022	\$1,000.00

Peterson made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share payment of \$758.75 for Dan Vermilyea, 50% of the total cost of \$1,517.50. Funding for this well sealing project is through the ARPA grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

Kellogg made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share contract for Mike Felten at 50% not to exceed \$1,000.00. Funding for this well sealing project is through the ARPA grant. Peterson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

State Cost Share Amendments:

The following are requesting amendments to their state cost share contracts.

Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate	Installed by Date	AMENDED COST/TYPE	NEW INSTALL BY DATE
State Cost Share	AMENDMENT	Glenn Hahn	Sargeant 4	Waterway	75%	12/31/2022	DUE DATE AMENDED	12/31/2023
State Cost Share	AMENDMENT	Esther Sparks	Sargeant 9	Waterway		12/31/2022	DUE DATE AMENDED	12/31/2023
State Cost Share	AMENDMENT	Larry Larson	Sargeant 9	Waterway	75%	12/31/2022	DUE DATE AMENDED	12/31/2023

Peterson made a motion to approve the above 3 waterway state cost share contract install by date amendments. Original date- 12/31/22, Amended date- 12/31/23. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

2023 Wages:

The board held discussion on the 2023 Wage Scale (see summary right), which includes a 2.5% cost of living, along with a step on employee's anniversary date.

Erichson made a motion to approve the 2023 wage scale as of January 1, 2023. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg,
Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

2023 Wages	Wage Jan. 1	Wage on Anniv.
District Manager	\$48.06	\$49.59
Office Manager	\$33.35	\$34.45
Resource Specialist	\$43.25	
Watershed Tech	\$36.07	\$37.26
Outreach Coord/Water Planner	\$36.07	\$37.26
Watershed Conservationist	\$31.00	\$32.07
District Tech	\$27.85	\$28.81
Conservation Tech	\$25.70	\$26.76

2023 Final Budget:

The final 2023 budget was presented to the board. The board held discussion on changes that were made from the proposed. Peterson made a motion to approve

the final budget with additional capital outlay change from \$31,200 to \$45,000.
Erichson seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe
Opposed: None

2023 Cedar River WD Agreement:

Fox talked about changes made to the agreement. The board held discussion.
Peterson made a motion to approve the 2023 agreement with CRWD. Moe seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe
Opposed: None

Discussion Items:

Outreach:

Ruzek entered the board meeting to talk to the board on the Cedar River canoe access that is being proposed on hwy. 105. He talked about the funding available between the DNR, ARPA funding and the Hormel Foundation. Mower SWCD would be the fiscal agent for all the funding sources.

Staff Report (See Attached):

The Staff Report and all programs were reviewed.

Supervisor Reports:

Smith talked about the MASWCD convention, along with changes in the MASWCD association members.

Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be held Wednesday, January 18, 2023, which will be a joint meeting with CRWD.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____