

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on March 13, 2023. 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 Micah Peterson
 Rod Moe

Staff Present: Cody Fox, District Manager
 Jeanne Crump, Office Manager

Others Present: Polly Glynn, Mower County Commissioner
 Leanna Schneider, NRCS

Agenda:

Equipment was added to the Action Items on the agenda. Erichson made a motion to approve the March agenda with addition. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Secretary Report:

Erichson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2023, board meeting. Peterson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Treasurer Report:

Budget Reports/Checks Payable:

The year end report, February report and payables report were reviewed with the board. Kellogg made a motion to approve the financial reports, payables report, March payroll, and to transfer money as needed. Peterson second the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

BWSR Report, Dave Copeland:

No report.

NRCS Report, Leanna Schneider:

Schneider gave a report on NRCS programs, to include: the IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) and EQIP.

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Glynn gave an update on county programs, to include; the commissioner's new meeting schedule, road construction, wind energy and ARPA funding.

Moe entered the board meeting.

Action Items:

2022 Designated Fund Balance/set aside:

The board discussed the 2022 year-end fund balance and the designation of those funds. Peterson made a motion to table action until the April board meeting.

Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

Cost Share:

The following are requesting cost share for their windbreak projects:

Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Estimate	Total Cost Share	Date	L/O Cost
SWCD	CONTRACT	John Scott	Sargeant 5	Windbreak	\$2,292.56	\$500.00	3/13/2023	\$775.00
SWCD	CONTRACT	Tom Baker	Sargeant 28	Windbreak	\$253.29	\$126.65	3/13/2023	\$1,600.00
SWCD	CONTRACT	Brendon Emberson	Udolpho 12	Windbreak	\$1,240.56	\$500.00	3/13/2023	\$136.00
SWCD	CONTRACT	Jim Bruggeman	Udolpho 27	Windbreak	\$3,292.35	\$500.00	3/13/2023	\$1,552.25
SWCD	CONTRACT	John Ryther	Lansing 22	Windbreak	\$316.07	\$158.07	3/13/2023	\$473.75

Peterson made a motion to approve the 5 SWCD funded windbreak contracts at 50% not to exceed \$500. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

The following is requesting cost share for his well sealing project:

Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Estimate	Total Cost Share	Date	L/O Cost
ARPA Funding	CONTRACT	Corey Hansen	Nevada 9	Well Sealing	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	3/13/2023	\$775.00

Peterson made a motion to approve the well sealing contract for Corey Hansen at \$1,000.00, 50% of the total cost estimate of \$2,000.00 not to exceed \$1,000.00.

Funding for this project will come from the ARPA grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

2022 Audit Bid:

Kellogg made a motion to approve the 2022 Audit Bid for \$3,750 from Peterson Company. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

Cedar River Whitewater Project:

This item was moved to later in the minutes.

Summer Intern:

Kellogg made a motion to approve hiring a summer intern. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

Equipment:

Fox talked about ordering the Ford Explorer to replace the Impala. He also talked about adding additional field equipment. This will be discussed further at the April board meeting.

Discussion Items:

Cover Crop Policy:

Fox talked about the Cover Crop Policy that he is working on. He will have it ready in the next couple of months for approval.

Drainage Registry Bill:

The board talked about the drainage registry bill at the capitol.

Delta Dental:

Fox informed the board that he will be looking into the Delta Dental plan that is held by staff and making a possible change.

SWCD Day at the Capitol:

The board discussed the legislative day at the capitol.

CREP Rates Update:

Fett updated the board on new CREP/RIM rates.

Cedar River Whitewater Project (moved from above):

Ruzek talked about the proposed Cedar River Whitewater Project and the feasibility study that is needed to see if this project is possible. The total cost of the study will be approximately \$50,000 and Ruzek informed the board of the funding sources available. He has requested approval from Mower County to utilize \$25,000 of the ARPA funding. There would also be \$5000 from the Cedar Wapsi 1W1P grant to add to funding the study. Discussion was held. Peterson made a motion to approve \$25,000 of ARPA funding, along with \$5,000 from the Cedar Wapsi 1W1P grant to help fund the Cedar River Whitewater Project feasibility study. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

Staff Report (See Attached):

The Staff Report and all programs were reviewed.

Supervisor Reports:

Nothing new.

Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be held Monday, April 12, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____