

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on September 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
 Rod Moe

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

Others Present: Polly Glynn, Mower County Commissioner (Zoom)
 Jay Soltau, District 2 Candidate

Agenda:

Moe made a motion to approve the September agenda. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Moe

Opposed: None

Secretary Report:

Erichson made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2023, board meeting.

Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Moe

Opposed: None

Treasurer Report:

Budget Reports/Checks Payable:

The budget report and payables report were reviewed with the board. Erichson made a motion to approve the financial reports, payables report, September payroll, and to transfer money as needed. Moe second the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Moe

Opposed: None

BWSR Report, Dave Copeland:

Not in attendance.

NRCS Report, Leanna Smeby:

Not in attendance.

Action Items:

SWCD Board Appointment:

The board held discussion on the open District 2 board position. Jay Soltau attended the board meeting as a candidate for the position. Soltau introduced himself, along with the board. Erichson made a motion to appoint Jay Soltau to the District 2 board position through December 31, 2024. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Moe

Opposed: None

Non-structural Policy:

Fox explained the non-structural policy. Erichson made a motion to approve the non-structural policy for 2023. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Moe

Opposed: None

ARPA Soil Health Policy:

Fox talked about the ARPA grant and the policy created. Erichson made a motion to approve the ARPA soil health policy for 2023. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Moe

Opposed: None

Cost Share:

ARPA Funding:

The following are requesting cost share and incentive payments through the ARPA funding:

Contract #	Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Seeding	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share/ Incentive Payment	Date	L/O Cost
ARPA-22-02	ARPA Funding	PAYMENT	Mike Felten	Bennington 26	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$1,975.00	\$987.50	9/13/2023	\$987.50
ARPA-23-05	ARPA Funding	CONTRACT	Roger Bhend	LeRoy 29	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	9/13/2023	\$1,000.00
ARPA-23-06	ARPA Funding	CONTRACT	Terry Jones	Frankford 19	Cover Crops	125 ac @40/ac	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00	9/13/2023	
ARPA-23-07	ARPA Funding	CONTRACT	Donald Flatness	Sargeant 13	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$2,475.00	\$1,000.00	9/13/2023	\$1,475.00

Moe made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share payment for Mike Felten at \$987.50, 50% of the total cost of \$1975.00. Funding for this project will come from the ARPA grant. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Moe

Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share contract for Roger Bhend at \$1000, 50% of the total cost estimate of \$2000 not to exceed \$1,000.00. Funding for this project will come from the ARPA grant. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Moe

Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve cover crop contract #ARPA-23-06 for Terry Jones. This contract includes an incentive payment of \$5000/year (125 acres at \$40/acre/year) for a total of \$15,000.00 for 3 years of cover crops. Funding will come from the ARPA grant. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Moe

Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share contract for Donald Flatness at \$1000, 50% of the total cost estimate of \$2475.00 not to exceed \$1,000.00. Funding for this project will come from the ARPA grant. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Moe

Opposed: None

Cedar Wapsi 1W1P:

The following are requesting cost share incentives through the Cedar Wapsipinicon 1W1P Grant:

Contract #	Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Seeding	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share/ Incentive Payment	Date
CW20-23-15	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Diamond D LLC	Marshall & Dexter 25	Strip Till	250 ac @20/ac	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00	9/13/2023
CW22-23-01	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Brad Sheely	Dexter 32	Cover Crops	98 ac @40/ac	\$3,920.00	\$11,760.00	9/13/2023

Moe made a motion to approve the strip till contract #CW20-23-15 for Diamond D LLC. This contract includes an incentive payment of \$5000/year (250 acres at \$20/acre/year) for a total of \$15,000.00 for 3 years of strip till. Funding will come from the FY2021 Cedar Wapsipinicon 1W1P Grant. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Moe

Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve cover crop contract #CW22-23-01 for Brad Sheely. This contract includes an incentive payment of \$3920.00/year (98 acres at \$40/acre/year) for a total of \$11,760.00 for 3 years of cover crops. Funding will come from the FY22/23 Cedar Wapsipinicon 1W1P Grant. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Moe

Opposed: None

Root River 1W1P:

The following are requesting cost share incentives through the Root River 1W1P grant:

Contract #	Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Seeding	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share/ Incentive Payment	Date
RR22/23-23-01	Root River 1W1P	CONTRACT	Diamond D LLC	Clayton 22	Strip Till	250 ac @20/ac	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00	9/13/2023
RR22/23-23-02	Root River 1W1P	CONTRACT	Terry Jones	Frankford 14 & 15	Cover Crops	125 ac @40/ac	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00	9/13/2023

Moe made a motion to approve the strip till contract #RR22/23-23-01 for Diamond D LLC. This contract includes an incentive payment of \$5000/year (250 acres at \$20/acre/year) for a total of \$15,000.00 for 3 years of strip till. Funding will come from the FY22/23 Root River 1W1P Grant. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Moe

Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve cover crop contract # RR22/23-23-02 for Terry Jones. This contract includes an incentive payment of \$5000/year (125 acres at \$40/acre/year) for a total of \$15,000.00 for 3 years of cover crops. Funding will come from the FY22/23 Root River 1W1P Grant. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Moe

Opposed: None

Soil Health Cost Share:

The following is requesting cost share incentives through the 2023 Soil Health grant:

Contract #	Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Seeding	Year	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share/ Incentive Payment	Date
SH-23-01	Soil Health Cost Share	CONTRACT	Terry Jones	Frankford 35	Cover Crops	118 ac @40/ac	3	\$4,720.00	\$14,160.00	9/13/2023

Moe made a motion to approve cover crop contract # SH-23-01 for Terry Jones. This contract includes an incentive payment of \$5000/year (118 acres at \$40/acre/year) for a total of \$14,160.00 for 3 years of cover crops. Funding will come from the FY23 Soil Health Grant. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Moe

Opposed: None

State Cost Share:

Contract #	Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share/ Incentive Payment	Date	Other Funding	L/O Cost
SCS22-02	State Cost Share	PAYMENT	Esther Sparks	Sargeant 9	Waterway	\$20,500.00	\$6,290.00	9/13/2023	\$8,766.00	\$5,444.00

Esther Sparks is requesting payment on her State Cost Shared waterway. Moe made a motion to approve the cost share payment of \$6,290 for Esther Sparks. The total cost of the project was \$20,500 and the total cost share with other funding is 15,056.00. Funding will come from FY22 & FY23. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Moe

Opposed: None

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Glynn updated the board on County items, to include; setting the preliminary 2024 levy increase to 5.5%, staffing, septic and talked about the SWCD 2024 request.

Discussion Items:

New Staff Update:

Richard Rohrer, soil health coalition, entered the board meeting to introduce himself, and along with Micah Peterson, explained what is being done for soil health.

NACD Climate Grant:

Fox talked about the Climate-Smart grant through NACD. Discussion was held.

Whitewater Project:

Ruzek entered the meeting to give an update to the board on the whitewater project in Austin.

Staff Report (See Attached):

The Staff Report and all programs were reviewed.

Supervisor Reports:

Chairman Report:

Nothing new.

Meeting was adjourned. The next regular monthly board meeting will be held Wednesday, October 10, 2023, at 8:00 a.m., weather permitting.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____