

## Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on May 10, 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  
                                 James Fett, Watershed Technician

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

### Agenda:

Peterson made a motion to approve the May agenda. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

### Secretary Report:

Kellogg made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2023, board meeting.

Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

### Treasurer Report:

Budget Reports/Checks Payable:

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

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

### BWSR Report, Dave Copeland:

Copeland gave an update on BWSR programs, to include: MN Watersheds summer tour sponsored by SRRWD, CRWD & TCWD June meeting attendance, WBIF unused funding discussion among BWSR.

### NRCS Report, Leanna Schneider:

Schneider gave an update on NRCS programs, to include: contract obligations & CSP planning for 2024, along with Mower county obligated projects.

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Glynn gave an update on Mower County programs, to include: planning & zoning requirements for septic inspection & potential changes to the policy.

Action Items:

Cost Share:

Cedar Wapsi 1W1P:

The following are requesting cost share for their projects:

Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Seeding	Years	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share/ Incentive Payment	Date	Other Funding	L/O Cost
Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Lowell Johnson	Waltham 27	WASCOB	90%		\$21,555.00	\$13,918.44	5/10/2023	\$5,481.06	\$2,155.50
Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	MSJJ Bonanza Four	Marshall 6	Grade Stabilization	75% + \$3000 Cover		\$69,900.00	\$55,425.00	5/10/2023		\$17,475.00

Peterson made a motion to approve the WASCOB cost share contract for Lowell Johnson at \$13,918.44. The total cost share with other funding is 90% of the total cost of \$21,555. Funding for the SWCD portion, \$13,918.44, will come from the 2021 Cedar Wapsipinicon 1W1P grant. This contract will replace the contract that was approved for Lowell Johnson at the April board meeting. Erichson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe  
Opposed: None

Peterson made a motion to approve the Grade Stabilization Structure cost share contract for MSJJ Bonanza Four LLC at \$55,425. The total cost share is 75% of the total cost of \$69,900, plus an additional \$3000 for preconstruction cover. Funding for the SWCD portion, \$55,425, will come from the 2021 Cedar Wapsipinicon 1W1P grant. Kellogg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe  
Opposed: None

The following are requesting cost share for their well sealing projects:

Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Seeding	Years	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share/ Incentive Payment	Date	L/O Cost
Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Royce Brandvold	Austin 8	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1000		\$2,200.00	\$1,000.00	5/10/2023	\$1,200.00
Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Steve Reinartz	Adams 1	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1000		\$1,600.00	\$800.00	5/10/2023	\$800.00

Erichson made a motion to approve the well sealing contract for Royce Brandvold at \$1,000.00, 50% of the total cost estimate of \$2,200.00 not to exceed \$1,000.00. Funding for this project will come from the 2021 Cedar Wapsipinicon 1W1P grant. Peterson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe  
Opposed: None

Erichson made a motion to approve the well sealing contract for Steve Reinartz at \$800.00, 50% of the total cost estimate of \$1,600.00 not to exceed \$1,000.00. Funding for this project will come from the 2021 Cedar Wapsipinicon 1W1P grant. Peterson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe  
Opposed: None

SWCD Windbreak Cost Share:

The following is requesting cost share for his windbreak project:

Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Seeding	Years	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share/ Incentive Payment	Date	L/O Cost
SWCD	CONTRACT	Ed Smith	Adams 6	Windbreak			\$4,115.43	\$500.00	5/10/2023	\$3,615.43

Peterson made a motion to approve the SWCD funded windbreak contract for Ed Smith at 50% not to exceed \$500. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson, Moe

Opposed: None

Nutrient Management Initiative-NMI:

The contract payment for Dan Warner was tabled until June.

Discussion Items:

Nitrate Concerns in Winona County:

The board and Copeland discussed a news article about the nitrate concerns in Winona County that was in the Star Tribune. The board agreed to continue to highlight the positive things that our farmers are doing in Mower County.

Discovery Farms:

Fox explained the follow up conversations with Warren Formo regarding the potential for a paired study in Mower on water quality vs. cover crop/soil health implementation.

Solar Development:

Fox talked about the possibility of National Grid energy developing two solar sites in Mower County. He has been talking to Brian from Great Plains Institute, who is working with National Grid Energy, about the SWCD doing water monitor in the future for the solar farms.

Resolutions:

Fox talked about a potential resolution for BWSR to re-examine easements and maintenance. The board instructed Fox to draft a resolution for the June board meeting.

2023 Tree Report:

Fett and Fox talked with the board about the 2023 tree report.

Orchard Creek Access:

Fox talked about the Orchard Creek access draft agreement with the DNR that was given to the board for review. This agreement will be an Action Item at the June board meeting.

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 Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 7:30 a.m.

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