

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on April 16, 2024. Held at 1408 21st Ave NW, Austin, MN.

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

Supervisors Present: Randy Smith
Jon Erichson
Jim Kellogg
Rod Moe
Jay Soltau

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

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

Agenda:

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

Secretary Report:

Moe made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2024 board meeting. Soltau seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau
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, April payroll, and to transfer money as needed. Kellogg second the motion.
Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau
Opposed: None

BWSR Report, Dave Copeland:

Copeland updated the board on BWSR staffing, legislation, the Root River WBIF grant #4, and the Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant #3.

NRCS Report, Leanna Smeby:

Smeby updated the board on NRCS programs, to include; DC position in Austin FO, CSP, EQIP, Truterra agreement. The board held discussion.

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Glynn talked about the county board update that was given by Fox and Ruzek, she also updated the board on the newly hired county admin assistant, spring work, and the change in the septic ordinance.

Action Items:

Cost Share:

ARPA:

Contract #	Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Other	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share/ Incentive Payment	Date	L/O Cost
ARPA-24-03	ARPA Funding	CONTRACT	Chris Swenson	Lodi 6	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$3,500.00	\$1,000.00	4/16/2024	\$2,500.00

Soltau made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share contract for Chris Swenson at \$1,000.00, 50% of the total cost estimate of \$3,500.00 not to exceed \$1,000.00. Funding for this project will come from the ARPA grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Conservation Contracts:

Contract #	Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Other	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share/ Incentive Payment	Date	L/O Cost
CC24-06	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Mitch Meyer	Austin 28	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$2,112.19	\$1,000.00	4/16/2024	\$1,112.19
CC24-07	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Phil Oswald	Dexter 19	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$723.84	\$361.92	4/16/2024	\$361.92
CC24-08	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Pat Harty	Red Rock 11	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$790.72	\$395.36	4/16/2024	\$395.36
CC24-09	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	David Ruhler	Waltham 31	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$1,044.23	\$522.12	4/16/2024	\$522.12
CC24-10	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Jack Akkerman	Lansing 24	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$669.90	\$334.95	4/16/2024	\$334.95
CC24-11	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Branden Tapp	Red Rock 13	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$1,434.74	\$717.37	4/16/2024	\$717.37
CC24-12	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Adam Lee	Windom 25	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$300.97	\$150.49	4/16/2024	\$150.49
CC24-13	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Ethan Young	Lyle 28	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$284.79	\$142.40	4/16/2024	\$142.40
CC24-14	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Matt Smith	Nevada 14	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$433.66	\$216.83	4/16/2024	\$216.83

Kellogg made a motion to approve the above cost share contracts CC24-06 through 14 for windbreaks at 50% of the total cost estimate not to exceed \$1,000.00. Funding for these projects will come from the FY24 Conservation Contracts grant. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Fund Balance Designation:

The board discussed the updated fund balance designation worksheet. Erichson made a motion to approve the 2023 fund balance designation with splitting the 18,000 FB increase between Equipment Replacement and Health Insurance set aside. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

2023 FUND BALANCE DESIGNATION	
	2023
Fund Balance January 1	\$ 826,853
Increase/Decrease in Fund Balance as of December 31	\$ 18,194
Year End Fund Balance	\$ 845,047
Minus Assigned Funds	
-Compensated Absences December 31	\$ 81,563
-Equipment Replacement December 31	\$ 175,114
-Health Insurance Increase Set Aside- additional 9,000 added in 2023	\$ 29,000
Total Year End Assigned Funds	\$ 285,677
Total Year End Unassigned Fund Balance	\$ 559,370
7 Months Expenditures - based on year end district operations expenditures on the Budgetary Comparison Schedule (see year end financial statements)	\$ 547,138
Total Unassigned Fund Balance minus 6 mth. Expenditures	\$ 12,232

Opposed: None

Discussion Items:

CPL Stream Restoration:

Fox talked about the stream restoration project that was completed through a DNR grant received by the CRWD.

Capitol Recap:

The board discussed the outcome of the Day at the Capitol. Smith, Moe and Fox attended.

MASWCD Resolutions:

The board talked about possible resolutions.

CRP Grants:

Fox informed the board of the new CRP grants that were acquired.

Supervisor Reports:

Chairman Report:

Smith talked about the MASWCD state board meetings and how they are on the same date as the SWCD meetings. The board held discussion as to whether to change meeting dates so that Smith would be able to attend. Fox will send out a poll to the board to see what options will work for them.

Staff Report (See Attached):

The Staff Report and all programs were reviewed.

Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be May 8, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____