

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on December 9, 2020.

This meeting was held remotely via Zoom video. Hanson led the check-in.

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

Supervisors Present: Jim Gebhardt Jon Erichson
 Randy Smith Jim Kellogg
 Micah Peterson

Staff Present: Justin Hanson, District Manager
 Jeanne Crump, Administrative Assistant
 James Fett, Watershed Technician

Others Present: Polly Glynn, Mower County Commissioner
 Rod Moe, District #1 Elect
 Dave Copeland, BWSR
 Tessia Melvin, DDA Human Resources, Inc.

Agenda:

Erichson made a motion to approve the December agenda. Peterson seconded the motion.

Crump led a roll call of votes.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Secretary Report:

Kellogg made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2020 board meeting. Gebhardt seconded the motion.

Crump led a roll call of votes.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Treasurer Report:

Checks Payable:

The treasurers and payables reports were reviewed with the board. Peterson made a motion to approve the payables report, December payroll, the treasurer reports, to transfer money as needed and to pay all additional bills for 2020 by the end of December. Gebhardt second the motion.

Crump led a roll call of votes.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Wage Study Report, Tessia Melvin:

Tessia Melvin from DDA Human Resources, Inc., the business that was hired to do our new wage study, attended the board meeting to explain the final wage study report. The board held discussion.

NRCS Report:

The board went through the NRCS report that was provided by Gary Kurer.

Action Items:

2021 Final Budget:

The board held discussion on the Final 2021 Budget. The board further discussed the wage scale. The wage scale will be discussed more in January. Kellogg made a motion to approve the Final 2021 Budget as presented. Peterson seconded the motion.

Crump led a roll call of votes.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Well Sealing Contract Approvals:

The following are requesting cost share for their well sealing contracts.

LAST	FIRST	TWP/SECT	Cost Estimate	Estimated CS
Bernhard Farms		Grand Meadow 7	\$1,375.00	\$687.50
Nelson	Joel	Lyle 35	\$1,800.00	\$900.00

Peterson made a motion to approve the well sealing contract for Bernhard Farms at \$687.50, 50% of the cost estimate of \$1,375.00 not to exceed \$1,000. Gebhardt seconded the motion.

Crump led a roll call of votes.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Peterson made a motion to approve the well sealing contract for Joel Nelson at \$900.00, 50% of the cost estimate of \$1,800.00 not to exceed \$1,000. Gebhardt seconded the motion.

Crump led a roll call of votes.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Fett Job Approval Authority:

Peterson made a motion to approve James Fett's Job Approval Authority for eco services. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Crump led a roll call of votes.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Dougan Buffer Incentive:

Fett and Hanson explained the forage & biomass planting incentive project for Sue Dougan. The board held discussion. Peterson made a motion to approve the CWF Root River Headwaters contract for Sue Dougan for her forage & biomass planting incentive project. The total cost of the project will be \$30,000.00 (flat rate of \$300.00 per acre for 10 years for 10 acres). Kellogg seconded the motion.

Crump led a roll call of votes.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: Erichson

Erichson left the board meeting.

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Glynn gave an update on county programs to include: CARES funding, the passing of commissioner Gabrielson, special election to fill his position in February, truth and taxation meeting, and the 2021 levy.

Discussion Items:

2021 CRWD Services Contract:

Hanson talked with the board on the 2020 CRWD Services Contract. Hanson will go forward with the same numbers in the 2021 contract and bring it back to the January meeting for approval.

EI Extension for Cedar Partnership:

Hanson updated the board on the Cedar River Partnership grant.

2021: Think About Committees:

The board talked about the committees for 2021 and the appointments that will need to be changed.

Supervisor Reports:

Chairman Report:

Smith and Hanson talked about the Zoom meeting that they had with the new legislators, Senator Elect Gene Dornink and Representative Elect Patty Mueller.

Jim Gebhardt final Meeting:

Hanson and the board thanked Jim for his 30 years on the SWCD board. Hanson played a thank you video put together by staff.

Staff Report (See Attached):

The Staff Report and all programs were reviewed.

Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be held Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 8:00 a.m., via Zoom.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____