

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on February 21, 2024. Held at the JC Hormel Nature Center and remotely via Zoom video.

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
 James Fett Tim Ruzek
 Paul Hunter Jessica Bulman
 Micah Peterson

Others Present: Polly Glynn, Mower Cty Commish Val Sheedy, Mower Cty
 Dave Copeland, BWSR Leanna Smeby, NRCS
 Nancy Finley, Turtle Creek WD Dave Vanderploeg, Turtle Creek WD
 Jeff Ravenhorst, Turtle Creek WD Michelle Miller, Turtle Creek WD
 Dave Livingston, Dodge SWCD Mike Merten, Cedar River WD
 Jason Weis, Cedar River WD Steve Kraushaar, Cedar River WD
 Kevin Kiser, Cedar River WD

Agenda:

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

Introductions were made around the room. This meeting is held on a special night and time, in conjunction with the Cedar River Watershed District and the Turtle Creek Watershed District board meetings.

Secretary Report:

Erichson made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2024, board meeting. Kellogg seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau
Opposed: None

Treasurer Report:

Checks Payable:

The payables report was reviewed with the board. Erichson made a motion to approve the payables report, February payroll, and to transfer money as needed. Moe second the motion.
Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau
Opposed: None

NRCS Report, Leanna Smeby:

Smeby updated the board on EQIP and projects in the county.

BWSR Report, Dave Copeland:

Copeland talked about the RFP for a new soil health grant, along with the upcoming closeout of the first Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant.

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Glynn, along with Val Sheedy, Mower Cty., gave an update on septic systems in the county. Discussion was held around the room.

Action Items:

Cost Share:

Cedar Wapsi WBIF:

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
CW22-24-01	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	PAYMENT	WilliamMurphy Estate	Lyle 23	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1500	\$2,050.00	\$1,025.00	2/ 21/2024	\$1,025.00
CW22-24-02	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	George Winkels	Lodi 6	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1500	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	2/ 21/2024	\$1,000.00

Erichson made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share payment for William Murphy Estate at \$1,025.00, 50% of the total cost of \$2,050.00 not to exceed \$1,500.00. Funding for this project will come from the 2022 Cedar Wapsipinicon 1W1P grant. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Kellogg made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share contract for George Winkels at \$1,000.00, 50% of the total cost estimate of \$2,000.00 not to exceed \$1,500.00. Funding for this project will come from the 2022 Cedar Wapsipinicon 1W1P grant. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

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-24-02	ARPA Funding	CONTRACT	Tim & Lynda Koch	Lodi 34	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$2,375.00	\$1,000.00	2/ 21/2024	
ARPA-24-02	ARPA Funding	PAYMENT	Tim & Lynda Koch	Lodi 34	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$2,070.00	\$1,000.00	2/ 21/2024	\$1,070.00

Erichson made a motion to approve the well sealing contract for Tim & Lynda Koch at \$1,000.00, 50% of the total cost estimate of \$2,375.00 not to exceed \$1,000.00. Funding for this project will come from the ARPA grant. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Kellogg made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share payment of \$1,000.00, 50% of the total cost of \$2,070.00 not to exceed \$1,000.00. Funding for this project will come from the ARPA grant. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Orchard Creek Access:

Ruzek updated the board on the orchard creek access project and the bid that was received. A grant through the DNR will pay for design & engineering costs to rebuild the current access off from Hwy 105. Erichson made a motion to approve the bid for design and engineering costs. Kellogg seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau
Opposed: None

Office Lease:

The board discussed the new SWCD office lease agreement from Ron Carlsen. The 5-year agreement includes an increase from \$2438.12 to \$2,833.00 per month. Erichson made a motion to approve the 5-year lease agreement with Ron Carlsen. Soltau seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau
Opposed: None

Bid for 2023 Audit:

Erichson made a motion to approve the 2023 audit bid from Peterson Company in the amount of \$4500 plus an additional \$500 for 1W1P financials. Soltau seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau
Opposed: None

ARPA Soil Health:

Fox and Peterson updated the board on the ARPA Soil Health Policy. The board held discussion. Approval of the policy was tabled until the March board meeting.

Discussion Items:

No additional items.

Staff Report (See Attached)

Supervisor Reports:

No additional items.

Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be held Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____