

## Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on January 10, 2024. Held at 1408 21<sup>st</sup> Ave NW, Austin, MN.

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

Supervisors Present: Randy Smith  
Jon Erichson  
Jim Kellogg  
Jay Soltau

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

Others Present: Polly Glynn, Mower County Commissioner (Zoom)  
Dave Copeland, BWSR

### Election of Offices:

Fox led the election of offices, offices included: Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer/Secretary.

Kellogg nominated Smith for Chairman of the Board. Erichson made a motion that nominations cease and called for a unanimous vote to elect Smith as Chairman. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau  
Opposed: None

Kellogg nominated Moe for Vice Chairman. Erichson made a motion that nominations cease and called for a unanimous vote to elect Moe as Vice Chairman. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau  
Opposed: None

Kellogg nominated Erichson for Secretary/Treasurer. Smith made a motion that nominations cease and called for a unanimous vote to elect Erichson as Treasurer/Secretary. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau  
Opposed: None

The 2024 office holders are:

Chairman: Randy Smith  
Vice Chairman: Rod Moe  
Treasurer/Secretary: Jon Erichson

### Agenda:

Kellogg made a motion to approve the January agenda. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau  
Opposed: None

Secretary Report:

Erichson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2023 board meeting. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Treasurer Report:

Checks Payable:

The payables report was reviewed with the board. Erichson made a motion to approve the payables report, January payroll and to transfer money as needed.

Soltau second the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

BWSR Report, Dave Copeland:

Copeland updated the board on the closeout of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant.

NRCS Report, Leanna Smeby:

Not in attendance.

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

No report.

Action Items:

Legal Paper:

Erichson made a motion to keep the designation of the Austin Daily Herald as the official legal paper of the District in 2024. Soltau second the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Bank of Depository:

Erichson made a motion to continue with the current banks, US bank as the bank of depository for checking, First State Bank MN in LeRoy for the District savings, and United Farmers State Bank in Adams for CD's. Soltau second the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

SWCD Board Meeting Time/Place:

Erichson made a motion to keep the SWCD monthly board meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 8:00am. at the Mower SWCD building conference room. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

2024 Fees:

Fox talked about the proposed 2024 Fees, with no changes from last year.

Erichson made a motion to approve the 2024 Fee schedule as presented. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Policy Updates:

Windbreak Policy:

Due to the fact that the new BWSR grant Conservation Contracts (which is replacing State Cost Share) can fund windbreaks, the District will be using that for windbreak cost share. The current policy is 50% not to exceed \$500.00 and the proposed policy is 50% not to exceed \$1,000.00. Erichson made a motion to approve the proposed windbreak cost share policy of 50% not to exceed \$1,000.00. Kellogg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau  
Opposed: None

Well Sealing and ARPA Soil Health Policy Updates:

The board tabled these policies until the February board meeting.

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-24-01	ARPA Funding	CONTRACT	Donald Flatness	Sargeant 13	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$2,475.00	\$1,000.00	1/10/2024	\$1,475.00

Soltau made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share contract for Don Flatness at \$1,000.00, 50% of the total cost estimate of \$2,475.00 not to exceed \$1,000.00. Funding for this project will come from the ARPA grant. Kellogg seconded the motion. Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau  
Opposed: None

Cedar Wapsi:

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	CONTRACT	WilliamMurphy Estate	Lyle 23	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1500	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00	1/10/2024	\$1,500.00

Kellogg made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share contract for William Murphy Estate at \$1,500.00, 50% of the total cost estimate of \$3,000.00 not to exceed \$1,500.00. Funding for this project will come from the 2022 Cedar Wapsipinicon 1W1P grant. Soltau seconded the motion. Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau  
Opposed: None

2022 Audit Review/Approval:

Kellogg made a motion to approve the 2022 Audit completed by Peterson Company. Erichson seconded the motion. Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau  
Opposed: None

Manager Signature Authority:

Erichson made a motion to authorize the District Manager to sign finance reports and grant applications/agreements on behalf of the board. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Discussion Items:

Committee Appointments:

The board discussed the SWCD committees. Smith made the following appointments.

The 2024 Committee Appointments:

Personnel:	Randy Smith & Rod Moe
Finance:	Jon Erichson & Randy Smith
Water Planning:	Jon Erichson
Joint Powers:	Rod Moe, Randy Smith alternate
Legislative Committee:	Jon Erichson, Rod Moe alternate
Feedlot Committee:	Randy Smith, Jim Kellogg alternate
Watershed District Liaison:	Jon Erichson
Root River Policy Committee:	Jim Kellogg, Jay Soltau alternate
Cedar River Wtrshd. Policy Com:	Randy Smith, Rod Moe alternate

February Joint Meeting:

The board held discussion on the February joint board meeting with the Cedar River Watershed District. It will be held on Wednesday, February 21 beginning at 5:00 at the JC Hormel Nature Center.

Supervisor Reports:

Chairman Report:

Nothing new.

Staff Report (See Attached):

The Staff Report and all programs were reviewed.

Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be February 21, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

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