

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on July 14, 2021. Held at the JC Hormel Nature Center in Austin.

Luke Reese, Director, gave an introduction to the Nature Center.

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

Supervisors Present: Randy Smith
Jim Kellogg
Jon Erichson
Micah Peterson

Staff Present: Justin Hanson, District Manager
Jeanne Crump, Office Manager

Others Present: Gary Kurer, NRCS
Jessica Beske, NRCS
Dave Copeland, BWSR
Polly Glynn, Mower County Commissioner
Rich Biske, The Nature Conservancy

Agenda:

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

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Erichson, Peterson

Opposed: None

Secretary Report:

Erichson made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2021 board meeting.

Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Erichson, Peterson

Opposed: None

Treasurer Report:

Checks Payable:

The treasurers and payables reports were reviewed with the board. Erichson made a motion to approve the treasurers and payables reports, July payroll and to transfer money as needed. Kellogg second the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Erichson, Peterson

Opposed: None

The Nature Conservancy, Rich Biske:

Biske explained The Nature Conservancy and the partnership with the District.

NRCS Report, Gary Kurer-Introducing Jessica Beske:

Jessica Beske, Austin FO new DC, introduced herself to the board. Kurer and Beske updated the board on NRCS Programs, to include: new staffing in the Austin Field Office (Soil Conservationist and Ag Engineer), EQIP, CSP, CRP, CRP pilot study, earth team volunteer, and mentorship program.

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Glynn gave an update on County programs to include: road construction, change in hiring county recorder position due to Jill Cordes retirement, Mower County jail, and misc. county.

BWSR Update, Dave Copeland:

Copeland gave an update on BWSR to include: BWSR tour on August 25, and the Conservation Planner workplan adjustment for engineering time.

Erichson stepped out of the board meeting.

Action Items:

Field to Stream Agreement:

Kellogg made a motion to approve the Field to Stream partnership monitoring agreement with Fillmore SWCD. This agreement is affective from July 1, 2021- June 30, 2023. Peterson econded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Well Sealing Cost Share:

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

Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Rate	Total Estimate/ Cost	Cost Share Payment
Drinking Water Protection	CONTRACT	Delvin Drinkall	Bennington 36	Well Sealing	50%	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00
Drinking Water Protection	CONTRACT	Jim Thorson	Grand Meadow 24	Well Sealing	50%	\$1,925.00	\$962.50
County NRBG Funds	CONTRACT	Marcia Krebsbach	Grand Meadow 24	Well Sealing	50%	\$1,975.00	\$987.50
County NRBG Funds	PAYMENT	Samuel James	LeRoy 34	Well Sealing	50%	\$1,430.00	\$715.00
Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	PAYMENT	Dean Sayles	Austin 25	Well Sealing	50%	\$2,732.50	\$1,000.00
Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Shay Spear	Austin 11	Well Sealing	50%	\$1,600.00	\$800.00

Delvin Drinkall is requesting cost share for his well sealing project. Peterson made a motion to approve the well sealing contract for Delvin Drinkall at \$1,000.00, 50% of the cost estimate of \$2,000.00 not to exceed \$1,000. Funding for this project will come from the Drinking Water Protection Grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Jim Thorson is requesting cost share for his well sealing project. Peterson made a motion to approve the well sealing contract for Jim Thorson at \$962.50, 50% of the cost estimate of \$1,925.00 not to exceed \$1,000. Funding for this project will come from the Drinking Water Protection Grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Marcia Krebsbach is requesting cost share for her well sealing project. Kellogg made a motion to approve the well sealing contract for Marcia Krebsback at \$987.50, 50% of the cost estimate of \$1,975.00 not to exceed \$1,000. Funding for this project will come from Mower County NRBG matching funds. Peterson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Samuel James is requesting payment for his cost shared well sealing project. Kellogg made a motion to approve the well sealing payment for Samuel James at \$715.00, 50% of the total cost of \$1,430.00. Funding for this project will come from Mower County NRBG matching funds. Peterson seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Peterson
Opposed: None

Dean Sayles is requesting payment for his cost shared well sealing project. Peterson made a motion to approve the well sealing payment for Dean Sayles at \$1,000.00, 50% of the total cost of \$2,732.50 not to exceed \$1,000.00. Funding for this project will come from the Cedar-Wapsipinicon 1W1P grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Peterson
Opposed: None

Shay Spear is requesting cost share for his well sealing project. Peterson made a motion to approve the well sealing contract for Shay Spear at \$800.00, 50% of the cost estimate of \$1,600.00 not to exceed \$1,000. Funding for this project will come from the Cedar-Wapsipinicon 1W1P grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Peterson
Opposed: None

Root River 1W1P Cost Share:

The following are requesting Cost Share for their waterway projects.

Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Rate	Total Estimate/ Cost	Cost Share Payment
Root River 1W1P	PAYMENT	Merz Farms Family	Grand Meadow 6	Waterway	90%	\$7,539.50	\$6,785.55
State Cost Share	PAYMENT	Ray Tucker	Dexter 27	Waterway	75%	\$4,733.00	\$3,549.75
State Cost Share	CONTRACT	Mark Carman	Frankford 23	Waterway	75%	\$7,553.00	\$5,664.75

Kellogg made a motion to approve payment to Merz Farms Family for their Root River 1W1P cost shared waterway in the amount of \$6,785.55, 90% of the total cost of \$7,539.50. Peterson seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Peterson
Opposed: None

Peterson made a motion to approve the state cost share waterway **payment** to Ray Tucker for \$3,549.75, 75% of the total cost of \$4,733.00. Funding for this project will come from the FY18 State Cost Share. Kellogg seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Peterson
Opposed: None

Peterson made a motion to approve the state cost share waterway contract for Mark Carman for \$5,664.75, 75% of the total cost estimate of \$7,553.00. Funding for this project will come from FY18-FY19 State Cost Share. Kellogg seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Peterson
Opposed: None

Erichson returned to the meeting.

Conservation Cooperator Recognition:

Staff recommends Al & Ron Akkerman, along with Northern Country Coop. The board held discussion. Erichson made a motion to nominate Northern Country Coop as the 2021 Mower County Outstanding Conservationists. Peterson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Peterson

Opposed: None

Abstained: Kellogg

Wildlife Cooperator Recognition:

Staff recommends Wade Bishop family, along with Jamie Surdy for 2021 Wildlife Cooperator. The board held discussion. Kellogg made a motion to nominate Bishop Family as the 2021 Wildlife Cooperator. Peterson second the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Erichson, Peterson

Opposed: None

Kellogg left the board meeting.

Discussion Items:

2022 Budget:

Hanson went through the budget with the board. The board held discussion on the proposed 2022 Budget that will be taken to the Mower County Finance Committee meeting.

Supervisor Reports:

Chairman Report:

No additional information.

Staff Report (See Attached):

The Staff Report and all programs were reviewed.

Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be August 5, 2021, at 1:00pm at the Mower County Government Center.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____