

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on June 10, 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
Cody Fox, Project Manager
Steve Lawler, Resource Specialist

Others Present: Polly Glynn, Mower County Commissioner
Dave Copeland, BWSR
Gary Kurer, NRCS
Jeff King, NRCS

Agenda:

Gebhardt made a motion to approve the June agenda. Erichson seconded the motion.
Crump led a roll call of votes.
Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Peterson
Opposed: None

Kellogg entered the board meeting.

Secretary Report:

Erichson made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2020 board meeting.
Peterson 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. Erichson made a motion to approve the treasurers and payables reports, June payroll and to transfer money as needed. Kellogg second the motion.
Crump led a roll call of votes.
Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson
Opposed: None

Local Work Group Meeting, Led by NRCS

Kurer led the workgroup meeting. Staff and board ranked the resource concerns for cropland, farmstead, forest and pasture. Discussion was held.

Action Items:

Truck Order:

Hanson explained the bid that was received for from Ranger Chevrolet for a 2020 GMC Sierra 1500 truck at \$31,996.40. The board held discussion. Erichson made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2020 GMC Sierra 1500 truck. Peterson seconded the motion.

Crump led a roll call of votes.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Windbreak Cost Share:

Carl Nielsen is requesting District cost share assistance for his windbreak. The total cost estimate for the windbreak is \$309.00 with a 50% cost share of \$154.50. Peterson made a motion to approve the District cost shared windbreak contract for Carl Nielsen. 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 payment of \$154.50 for Carl Nielsen's District cost shared windbreak, 50% of the total cost of \$309.00. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Crump led a roll call of votes.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Root River Headwaters Cost Share:

The following are requesting cost share for their grassed waterways.

NAME	TOWNSHIP	SECTION	PROJECT	ESTIMATE	COST SHARE
Bart Brincks	Bennington	17	Waterway	\$ 10,700.00	\$ 9,630.00
Matt Carpenter	Bennington	17	Waterway	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 4,320.00

Kellogg made a motion to approve the Root River Headwaters cost shared waterway contract for Bart Brincks for \$9,630.00, 90% of the total cost estimate of \$10,700.00. Gebhardt seconded the motion.

Crump led a roll call of votes.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Kellogg made a motion to approve the Root River Headwaters cost shared waterway contract for Matt Carpenter for \$4,320.00, 90% of the total cost estimate of \$4,800.00. Peterson seconded the motion.

Crump led a roll call of votes.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Root River 1W1P Cost Share:

The following are requesting cost share for their waterways.

NAME	TOWNSHIP	SECTION	PROJECT	ESTIMATE	COST SHARE
Jerry Sprau	Clayton	20	Waterway	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 4,230.00
Matt Carpenter	Grand Meadow	28	Waterway	\$ 50,500.00	\$ 45,450.00
Dominic Stier	Clayton	10	Waterway	\$ 6,050.00	\$ 5,445.00
Wayne Gehling	Clayton	10	Waterway	\$ 13,550.00	\$ 12,195.00

Kellogg made a motion to approve the Root River 1W1P cost shared waterway contract for Jerry Sprau for \$4,230.00, 90% of the total cost estimate of \$4,700.00. Peterson 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 Root River 1W1P cost shared waterway contract for Matt Carpenter for \$45,450.00, 90% of the total cost estimate of \$50,500.00. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Crump led a roll call of votes.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Kellogg made a motion to approve the Root River 1W1P cost shared waterway contract for Dominic Stier for \$5,445.00, 90% of the total cost estimate of \$6,050.00. Gebhardt seconded the motion.

Crump led a roll call of votes.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Kellogg made a motion to approve the Root River 1W1P cost shared waterway contract for Wayne Gehling for \$12,195.00, 90% of the total cost estimate of \$13,550.00. Gebhardt seconded the motion.

Crump led a roll call of votes.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Feedlot 319 Cost Share:

NAME	TOWNSHIP	SECTION	PROJECT	ESTIMATE	COST SHARE
Steve Ivers	Lansing	3	Feedlot Fix	\$ 34,100.00	\$ 15,000.00

Peterson made a motion to approve the cost share contract for Steve Ivers for his small feedlot fix project at \$15,000 through the regional feedlot grant. Erichson seconded the motion.

Crump led a roll call of votes.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

U of M Sustainable Answer Acre (SAA) Contract:

Lawler explained the letter of understanding with the University of Minnesota for work on the SAA. Peterson made a motion to approve the letter of understanding

with the U of M in the amount of \$22,594 for work with the SAA. Kellogg seconded the motion.
Crump led a roll call of votes.
Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson
Opposed: None

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Glynn gave an update on county programs to include: upcoming meeting on county taxes, road construction, Mower county fair, government center soft opening, 2020 elections, State of Emergency for Civil Unrest until September 4.

Discussion Items:

Pay Equity and Wage Study:

Hanson explained the pay equity non-compliance letter that was received. He informed the board that he has been talking to the consultant, David Drown Associates Company, that the county used to conduct their wage study on possible solutions to get the district in compliance with pay equity. The board held discussion. Hanson will have more information at the July board meeting.

Kruegal Pond Project:

Hanson talked about the Kruegel bioreactor/pond project that was done through The Nature Conservancy. Fox explained the maintenance that is needed for the project and asked the board about future involvement with the project. The board held discussion. Peterson made a motion that the District pay the current maintenance invoice and to hold discussion about further maintenance at a later board meeting. Erichson seconded the motion.

Crump led a roll call of votes.

Affirmative: Gebhardt, Erichson, Smith, Peterson

Opposed: None

Abstained: Kellogg

Covid Update:

Hanson gave an update on current office practices during the Covid 19 pandemic.

2020 Elections:

Peterson's and Gebhardt's Districts are up for election this year. Peterson filed for reelection. Gebhardt opted not to file for another term, opening it up for a new face on the board. Two filed for his District, Pete Mattson and Rod Moe. The board and staff thanked Gebhardt for his 30 years on the board.

Supervisor Reports:

Resolution Meeting:

Gebhardt and Hanson talked about the area 7 resolution meeting that is scheduled for July 21 via zoom.

July Board Meeting:

The board discussed as to whether to have the July board meeting in the office or via Zoom. Hanson and Smith will discuss this further as the meeting gets closer.

Staff Report (See Attached):

The Staff Report and all programs were reviewed.

Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be held July 8, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____