

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on March 12, 2024. Held at 1408 21st Ave NW, Austin, MN.

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

Supervisors Present: Randy Smith
Jim Kellogg
Rod Moe
Jay Soltau

Staff Present: Cody Fox, District Manager
Jeanne Crump, Office Manager
Micah Peterson, District Technician

Others Present: Dave Copeland, BWSR (Zoom)

Agenda:

Kellogg made a motion to approve the March agenda. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Secretary Report:

Moe made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2024 board meeting.

Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Treasurer Report:

Budget Reports/Checks Payable:

The January-February budget report and March payables report were reviewed with the board. Soltau made a motion to approve the financial reports, payables report, March payroll, and to transfer money as needed. Kellogg second the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

BWSR Report, Dave Copeland:

Copeland updated the board on the BWSR e-newsletter article on prairie strip success in the area, the 3rd Cedar Wapsi grant application that he has been assisting Fox with, BWSR training, and the soil health staffing grant.

NRCS Report, Leanna Smeby:

Not in attendance.

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Not in attendance.

Action Items:

Cost Share:

Conservation Contracts:

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
CC24-01	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Randy Strith	Adams 30	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$1,203.89	\$601.95	3/12/2024	\$601.95
CC24-02	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Jarred Ellis	Red Rock 29	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$489.75	\$244.88	3/12/2024	\$244.88
CC24-03	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Mike Arndorfer	Clayton 26	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$660.20	\$330.10	3/12/2024	\$330.10
CC24-04	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Cindy Ziegler	Lyle 26	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$1,536.14	\$768.07	3/12/2024	\$768.07
CC24-05	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Chris Prescott	Neveda 13	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$1,118.66	\$559.33	3/12/2024	\$559.33

Kellogg made a motion to approve the above cost share contracts CC24-02 through 05 for windbreaks at 50% of the total cost estimate not to exceed \$1,000.00. Funding for these projects will come from the FY24 Conservation Contracts grant. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Kellogg made a motion to approve the above cost share contract CC24-01 for a windbreak at 50% of the total cost estimate not to exceed \$1,000.00. Funding for this project will come from the FY24 Conservation Contracts grant. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Abstained: Smith

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	Other Funding	L/O Cost
CW 22-24-03	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Zach Nelson	Red Rock 13	WASCOB	90%	\$12,663.00	\$9,497.25	3/12/2024	\$1,899.45	\$1,266.30
CW 22-24-04	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Gene Smith	Adams 31	WASCOB	75%	\$28,319.00	\$21,239.25	3/12/2024		\$7,079.75

Soltau made a motion to approve the WASCOB cost share contract for Zach Nelson at \$9,497.25. The total cost share with other funding is 90% of the total cost of \$12,663.00. Funding for the SWCD portion, \$9,497.25, will come from the 2022 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant.

Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Kellogg made a motion to approve the WASCOB cost share contract for Gene Smith at \$21,239.25. The total cost share is 75% of the total cost of \$28,319.00. Funding for this project will come from the 2022 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

NRBG:

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
NRBG-24-01	County NRBG Funds	CONTRACT	Galen Herrmann	Windom 1	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$2,200.00	\$1,000.00	3/12/2024	\$1,200.00

Soltau made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share contract for Galen Hemann at \$1,000.00, 50% of the total cost estimate of \$2,200.00 not to exceed \$1,000.00. Funding for this project will come from the NRBG grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Root River 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	Other Funding	L/O Cost
RR22/23-24-01	Root River 1W1P	CONTRACT	Matt Johnson	Pleasant Valley 1	Waterway	90%	\$14,891.00	\$2,246.90	3/12/2024	\$11,155.00	\$1,489.10
RR22/23-24-02	Root River 1W1P	CONTRACT	Roger Bhend	LeRoy 29	Waterway	75%	\$14,572.00	\$10,929.00	3/12/2024		\$3,643.00

Soltau made a motion to approve the waterway contract for Matt Johnson at \$2,246.90. The total cost share with other funding is 90% of the total cost of \$14,891.00. Funding for the SWCD portion, \$2,246.90, will come from the 22/23 Root River WBIF grant. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Kellogg made a motion to approve the waterway contract for Roger Bhend at \$10,929.00. The total cost share is 75% of the total cost estimate of \$14,572.00. Funding for the project will come from the 22/23 Root River WBIF grant. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Summer Intern:

Fox talked about hiring a summer intern, which is included in the 2024 budget. Moe made a motion to approve hiring a 2024 summer intern. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

ARPA Non-Structural Policy:

Peterson entered the board meeting. Peterson and Fox talked about the non-structural policy for the ARPA grant. Discussion was held. Kellogg made a motion to approve the ARPA Non-Structural Policy and to allocate \$80,000 for soil health economics study. The funding will be allocated for the data as follows:

- \$80,000 for program
- a maximum of 40 acres per participant
- \$100/ac for 5 years
- Expect 4 or 5 participants.

Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Discussion Items:

March Meeting-Day at the Capitol:

The board held discussion on the legislative day at the capitol and the issues that will be discussed.

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 April 10, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____