

## Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on October 13, 2021. Held at the Mower County Government Center in Austin.

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

Supervisors Present: Randy Smith  
Jon Erichson, Zoom  
Jim Kellogg  
Micah Peterson  
Rod Moe

Staff Present: Justin Hanson, District Manager  
Jeanne Crump, Office Manager  
Paul Hunter, Conservation Planner

Others Present: Jessica Beske, NRCS  
Dave Copeland, BWSR  
Polly Glynn, Mower County Commissioner

### Agenda:

Peterson made a motion to approve the October agenda. Kellogg seconded the motion.  
Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson  
Opposed: None

### Secretary Report:

Kellogg made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2021, board meeting. Peterson seconded the motion.  
Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson  
Opposed: None

### Treasurer Report:

#### Checks Payable:

The treasurers and payables reports were reviewed with the board. Peterson made a motion to approve the treasurers and payables reports, October payroll and to transfer money as needed. Kellogg second the motion.  
Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson  
Opposed: None

### NRCS Report, Jessica Beske:

Beske updated the board on NRCS Programs, to include: Austin Soil Con, Leanna Schneider is now in the office, EQIP, CSP and Drainage Management project dollars available.

### Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Glynn gave an update on County programs, to include: the October commissioner meeting, possible solar farm in the county, county budget, along with septic system updates.

Introduce Jensen Bigelow, Green Corps Employee:

Hanson introduced Jensen Bigelow, Green Corps employee and explained her position to the board.

BWSR Update, Dave Copeland:

Copeland updated with the board on BWSR items, to include: BWSR Academy, State Cost Share and Local Capacity grants, water storage media event with BWSR board in Mower County, along with a BWSR Covid update.

Action Items:

Cost Share:

The following are requesting cost share assistance for their projects.

Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Rate	Total Estimate/ Cost	Total Cost Share Payment
<b>Drinking Water Protection</b>	CONTRACT	John Stockdale	Bennington 29	Well Sealing	50%	\$2,000.00	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
<b>County NRBG Funds</b>	CONTRACT	Dan Vermilyea	Dexter 24	Well Sealing	50%	\$2,550.00	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
	CONTRACT	Thomas Oots	Red Rock 19	Well Sealing	50%	\$2,600.00	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
<b>Root River 1WIP</b>	<b>PAYMENT</b>	Paul Carman	Grand Meadow 36	Waterway	90%	\$1,360.00	<b>\$1,224.00</b>
<b>State Cost Share</b>	<b>PAYMENT</b>	Mark Carman	Frankford 23	Waterway	75%	\$6,209.00	<b>\$4,656.75</b>
<b>State Cost Share</b>	CONTRACT	Jared Schaefer	Adams 1	WASCOB	75%	\$20,328.00	<b>\$15,246.00</b>

Drinking Water Protection Grant:

Peterson made a motion to approve the well sealing contract for John Stockdale at \$1000.00, 50% of the total cost estimate of \$2,000.00 not to exceed \$1,000.00. Funding for this project will come from the Drinking Water Protection Grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

County NRBG Funds:

Peterson made a motion to approve the well sealing contract for Dan Vermilyea at \$1,000.00, 50% of the total cost estimate of \$2,550.00 not to exceed \$1,000.00. Funding for this project will come from the County NRBG match grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Peterson made a motion to approve the well sealing contract for Thomas Oots at \$1,000.00, 50% of the total cost estimate of \$2,600.00 not to exceed \$1,000.00. Funding for this project will come from the County NRBG match grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Root River 1WIP Cost Share:

Peterson made a motion to approve the cost share payment to Paul Carman for his Root River 1WIP cost shared waterway in the amount of \$1,224.00, 90% of the total cost of \$1,360.00. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

State Cost Share:

Peterson made a motion to approve the cost share payment to Mark Carman for his state cost shared waterway in the amount of \$4,656.75, 75% of the total cost of \$6,209.00. Funding for this project will come from FY18 & FY19 State Cost Share funds. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Kellogg made a motion to approve the state cost share contract for Jared Schaefer for his WASCOB in the amount of \$15,246.00, 75% of the total cost estimate of \$20,328.00. Funding for this project will come from FY19, FY20 & FY21 State Cost Share funds. Peterson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Peterson

Opposed: None

Discussion Items:

Northern Country Co-op Staffing Partnership:

Hanson explained the staffing partnership possibility.

Seasonal Staff Extension & 2022 Budget:

Hanson talked with the board about the seasonal position that Mattie Hackensmith holds and funding that is available to keep her on. The board agreed that Hanson move forward to add this to the 2022 budget.

CPL Easement for Chert Mine Application:

Hanson talked about the Grand Meadow chert mine. Conservation Partners Legacy grant was applied for to assist with buckthorn removal at the chert mine. Propose that SWCD will hold the easement needed to apply for the grant. Hanson explained the partnership and the permanent easement involved. The board agreed to move forward with the easement.

Supervisor Reports:

Chairman Report:

Smith talked about the MASWCD state convention in December.

The board held discussion on the status of the application for covid relief funds that are available in the County. Hanson will meet with the County in November to find out more information.

Staff Report (See Attached):

The Staff Report and all programs were reviewed.

Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be November 10, 2021, at 8:00am at the Mower County Government Center.

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