

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on July 11, 2024. Held at 1408 21st Ave NW, Austin, MN.

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

Supervisors Present: Randy Smith
Jon Erichson
Rod Moe

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

Others Present: Polly Glynn, Mower County Commissioner
Teddy Moreno Santos, NRCS

Agenda:

Erichson made a motion to approve the June agenda. Moe seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe
Opposed: None

Public Input:
None

Windbreak Cost Share:
Fox explained an issue that has come up with windbreak cost share.

Secretary Report:
Erichson made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2024, board meeting.
Moe seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe
Opposed: None

Treasurer Report:
Budget Reports/Checks Payable:
The June budget report, program summary and July payables report were reviewed with the board. Erichson made a motion to approve the financial reports, payables report, July payroll, and to transfer money as needed. Moe second the motion.
Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe
Opposed: None

BWSR Report, Dave Copeland:
Not in attendance.

NRCS Report, Teddy Moreno Santos:
Moved to later in the meeting.

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Glynn informed the board that they will be starting the budget process soon and that she is on the finance committee. Discussion was held on the solar and wind farms in the county.

Action Items:

Cost Share:

ARPA:

Contract #	Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Other	Years	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share/ Incentive Payment	Date	L/O Cost
ARPA-23-12	ARPA Funding	PAYMENT	Martin Larsen	Waltham 35	Cover Crops	125 ac @40	3	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	7/11/2024	

Moe made a motion to approve the 1st year cover crop payment for Martin Larsen at \$5,000.00. Funding for this project will come from the ARPA grant. Erichson seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe
Opposed: None

Cedar Wapsi WBIF:

Contract #	Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Other	Years	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share/ Incentive Payment	Date	L/O Cost
CW22-24-11 from	Cedar-Wapsi IWIP	AMDT/PMT	Chris Swenson	Lodi 6	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1500		\$3,180.00	\$1,500.00	7/11/2024	\$1,680.00
CW20-23-15	Cedar-Wapsi IWIP	PAYMENT	Diamond D LLC	Marshall & Dexter 25	Strip Till	250 ac @20/ac	3	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	7/11/2024	
CW22-24-12	Cedar-Wapsi IWIP	CONTRACT	Pat Nelsen	Dexter 22	Waterway	75%		\$10,109.00	\$7,581.75	7/11/2024	\$2,527.25
CW22-24-14	Cedar-Wapsi IWIP	CONTRACT	Richard & Wendy Jones	Waltham 26	Cover Crops	105 ac @50	3	\$5,250.00	\$15,750.00	7/11/2024	
CW22-24-13	Cedar-Wapsi IWIP	CONTRACT	Triple H Farms- Sam Hanson	Waltham 34	Cover Crops	61 ac @50	3	\$3,050.00	\$9,150.00	7/11/2024	

Moe made a motion to approve the amendment to move Chris Swenson’s well sealing contract from the ARPA grant to the 2022 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant and to raise the maximum payment to \$1500.00. Moe made a motion to approve the amendment for the well sealing contract for Chris Swenson, new contract #CW22-24-11. Erichson seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe
Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share payment for Chris Swenson at \$1,500.00, 50% of the total cost of \$3,180.00 not to exceed \$1,500.00. Funding for this project will come from the 2022 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Erichson seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe
Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve the waterway cost share contract for Pat Nelsen at \$7,581.75, 75% of the total cost of \$10,109.00. Funding for the waterway project will come from the 2022 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Erichson seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe
Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve the cover crop incentive contract for Richard and Wendy Jones. This contract includes an incentive payment of \$5250.00/year (105 acres at \$50/acre/year) for a total of \$15,750.00 for 3 years of cover crops. Funding will come from the FY22/23 and FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF Grants. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe

Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve the cover crop incentive contract for Triple H Farms. This contract includes an incentive payment of \$3,050.00/year (61 acres at \$50/acre/year) for a total of \$9,150.00 for 3 years of cover crops. Funding will come from the FY22/23 and FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF Grants. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe

Opposed: None

Conservation Contracts:

Contract #	Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Other	Years	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share/ Incentive Payment	Date	L/O Cost
CC24-10	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Jack Akkerman	Lansing 24	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000		\$669.90	\$334.95	7/11/2024	\$334.95
CC24-14	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Matt Smith	Nevada 14	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000		\$433.66	\$216.83	7/11/2024	\$216.83
CC24-07	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Phil Oswald	Dexter 19	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000		\$723.84	\$361.92	7/11/2024	\$361.92

Erichson made a motion to approve the above windbreak cost share payments for contracts CC24-07, 10 and 14 at 50% of the total cost, not to exceed \$1,000.00. Funding for these projects will come from the FY24 Conservation Contracts grant. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe

Opposed: None

Root River WBIF:

Contract #	Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Other	Years	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share/ Incentive Payment	Date
RR22/23-24-07	Root River IWIP	CONT/PMT	Osmundson Farms Partnershi	Frankford 7	Prairie Strip Incentive	8.8 ac @80	15	\$704.00	\$10,560.00	7/11/2024

Moe made a motion to approve the prairie strip incentive contract and payment for Osmundson Farms Partnership, 8.8ac @\$80 for 15 years for a total of \$10,560.00. Funding for the prairie strip incentive will come from the 22/23 Root River WBIF grant. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe

Opposed: None

NRCS Report, Teddy Moreno Santos:

Santos informed the board that he has taken the DC position at the Austin Field Office. He also talked about EQIP and CRP in the county.

Outstanding Conservationist:

Fox talked with the board about the 2024 outstanding conservationist staff suggestions. The board held discussion. Erichson made a motion to nominate Diamond D Farms as Mower County's 2024 Outstanding Conservationist. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe

Opposed: None

Wildlife Conservationist:

Fox talked with the board about the 2024 wildlife conservationist staff suggestions. The board held discussion. Erichson made a motion to nominate Marvin Smith as Mower County’s 2024 Wildlife Conservationist. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe

Opposed: None

2025 Budget:

The board held discussion on the 2025 proposed budget. Erichson made a motion to approve the 2025 proposed budget and to present it to the County finance committee. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe

Opposed: None

Windbreak Cost Share Item:

Erichson made a motion that windbreak cost share is not available without a signed contract. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe

Opposed: None

Discussion Items:

June Flood Event Recap:

Fox gave the board a pictorial overview of the flooding throughout the county.

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 August 8, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____