

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on June 12, 2025. Held at 1408 21st Ave NW, Austin, MN.

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

Supervisors Present: Randy Smith Jon Erichson
 Jim Kellogg Rod Moe
 Jay Soltau

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

Others Present: Annie Gunness, BWSR

Agenda:

Soltau made a motion to approve the June agenda. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Secretary Report:

Kellogg made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2025, board meeting. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Treasurer Report:

Budget Report/Checks Payable:

The May budget report and June payables report were reviewed with the board. Kellogg made a motion to approve the budget report, payables report, June payroll, and to transfer money as needed. Soltau second the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

BWSR Report, Annie Gunness:

Gunness updated on grant funding and what it might look like next year.

NRCS Report, Leanna Smeby:

Not in attendance.

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Not in attendance.

Action Items:

Cost Share:

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	L/O Cost
CW24-24-26	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	PAYMENT	Crystal Johnsen	Lansing 27	Well Sealing (2)	50% not to exceed \$1500	\$1,400.00	\$700.00	6/12/2025	\$700.00
CW24-24-27	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	PAYMENT	Leland Aanonsen	Nevada 15	NoTill	16 ac@20	\$320.00	\$320.00	6/12/2025	
CW24-25-04	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Brandon Lawhead	Lansing 27	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1500	\$2,500.00	\$1,500.00	6/12/2025	\$1,000.00
CW24-25-05	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	David Fasbender	Adams 11	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1500	\$2,500.00	\$1,500.00	6/12/2025	\$1,000.00
CW24-25-13	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Terry Hall	Austin 4	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1500	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00	6/12/2025	\$1,500.00
CW24-25-06	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Jennifer Nord	Windom 22	Waterway	90%	\$20,661.00	\$18,594.90	6/12/2025	\$2,066.10
CW24-25-07	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Joe Gossman	Windom 26	Waterway	90%	\$21,959.00	\$19,763.10	6/12/2025	\$2,195.90
CW24-25-08	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Joe Vogt	Windom 26	Waterway	75%	\$1,397.00	\$1,047.75	6/12/2025	\$349.25
CW24-25-09	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Jon Stroup	Windom 22	Waterway	75%	\$2,691.00	\$2,018.25	6/12/2025	\$672.75
CW24-25-10	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Jon Stroup	Windom 24	Waterway	75%	\$9,708.00	\$7,281.00	6/12/2025	\$2,427.00
CW24-25-12	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Keith Ellis	Waltham 31	Waterway	75%	\$22,429.00	\$16,821.75	6/12/2025	\$5,607.25
CW24-25-11	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Joseph Nelson	Red Rock 29	Critical Area Pltg.	95%	\$11,749.50	\$11,162.02	6/12/2025	\$587.48
CW24-25-14	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	David Kiefer	Windom 4	Lined Waterway	95%	\$69,237.75	\$65,775.86	6/12/2025	\$3,461.89

Kellogg made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share payment of \$700.00 for 2 wells for Crystal Johnsen at 50% not to exceed \$1,500.00 per well. Funding for the well sealing cost share will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Kellogg made a motion to approve the no-till incentive payment of \$320.00, 16 acres at \$20 per acre. Funding for the no-till incentive will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve the above well sealing cost share contracts for Lawhead, Fasbender and Hall at 50% not to exceed \$1500.00. Funding for the well sealing projects will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve the waterway cost share contracts for Jennifer Nord at \$18,594.90, 90% of the total cost estimate of \$20,661.00 and Joe Gossman at \$19,763.10, 90% of the total cost estimate of \$21,959.00. Funding for these waterway projects will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Soltau made a motion to approve the waterway cost share contracts at for Joe Vogt at \$1,047.75, 75% of the total cost estimate of \$1,397.00, Jon Stroup at \$2,018.25, 75% of the total cost estimate of \$2,691.00, Jon Stroup at \$7,281.00, 75% of the total cost estimate of \$9,708.00 and Keith Ellis at \$16,821.75, 75% of the total cost estimate of \$22,429.00. Funding for these waterway projects will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve the critical area planting contract for Joseph Nelson at \$11,162.02, 95% of the total cost estimate of \$11,749.50. Funding for this project will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

The board discussed the lined waterway project for David Kiefer. Erichson made a motion to table this to determine if a lower cost alternative is feasible and presented to the board. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

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
CC24-25-01	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Darrel Decker	Sargeant 13	Windbreak	50%	\$991.91	\$495.96	6/12/2025	\$495.95
CC24-25-04	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Fred Harvey	Lodi 19	Windbreak	50%	\$1,180.15	\$590.08	6/12/2025	\$590.07
CC24-25-05	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Brian Miller	Lodi 32	Windbreak	50%	\$604.10	\$302.05	6/12/2025	\$302.05
CC24-25-06	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Bob Gebhardt	Waltham 15	Windbreak	50%	\$1,264.30	\$632.15	6/12/2025	\$632.15
CC25-25-01	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Maddi Rueter	Nevada 22	Windbreak	50%	\$515.64	\$257.82	6/12/2025	\$257.82
CC25-25-02	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Dylan Fasbender	Adams 13	Windbreak	50%	\$1,384.58	\$692.29	6/12/2025	\$692.29
CC25-25-03	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Matt Heimer	Lodi 14	Windbreak	50%	\$944.99	\$472.50	6/12/2025	\$472.49
CC25-25-04	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Troy Hale	Clayton 14	Windbreak	50%	\$1,133.77	\$566.89	6/12/2025	\$566.88
CC25-25-05	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Phil Hartman	Sargeant 12	Windbreak	50%	\$641.50	\$320.75	6/12/2025	\$320.75
CC25-25-06	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Kyle Mittelsted	Grand Meadow 3	Windbreak	50%	\$757.28	\$378.64	6/12/2025	\$378.64
CC25-25-07	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Mathias Bush	Grand Meadow 35	Windbreak	50%	\$811.11	\$405.56	6/12/2025	\$405.55
CC25-25-08	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	George Winkels	Lodi 8	Windbreak	50%	\$1,898.60	\$949.30	6/12/2025	\$949.30
CC25-25-09	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Eric Boe	Windom 36	Windbreak	50%	\$3,965.49	\$1,000.00	6/12/2025	\$2,965.49
CC25-25-10	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Eric Lee	Dexter 2	Windbreak	50%	\$1,238.41	\$619.21	6/12/2025	\$619.20
CC25-25-11	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Blue Top Farms	Adams 18	Windbreak	50%	\$3,346.28	\$1,000.00	6/12/2025	\$2,346.28
CC25-25-12	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Gordy Wenum	Marshall 31	Windbreak	50%	\$510.25	\$255.13	6/12/2025	\$255.12
CC25-25-13	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Mark Wilson	Marshall 9	Windbreak	50%	\$3,341.97	\$1,000.00	6/12/2025	\$2,341.97
CC25-25-14	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Ellen Sunde	Udolpho 32	Windbreak	50%	\$600.86	\$300.43	6/12/2025	\$300.43
CC25-25-15	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Sandy Munson	Clayton 16	Windbreak	50%	\$830.64	\$415.32	6/12/2025	\$415.32
CC25-25-16	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Nick Baldus	Grand Meadow 10	Windbreak	50%	\$2,993.53	\$1,000.00	6/12/2025	\$1,993.53
CC25-25-17	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Doug Meyer	Austin 28	Windbreak	50%	\$623.52	\$311.76	6/12/2025	\$401.83
CC24-25-02	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Randy Smith	Nevada 1	Windbreak	50%	\$593.31	\$296.66	6/12/2025	\$296.65
CC25-25-18	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Jim Richardson	Grand Meadow 24	Windbreak	43.5%	\$1,542.61	\$671.04	6/12/2025	\$871.57

Kellogg made a motion to approve payments for the top 22 above windbreak contracts at 50% not to exceed \$1,000.00. Funding for these windbreak projects will come from the FY24 and 25 Conservation Contracts grants. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Abstained: Smith

Erichson made a motion to approve the above windbreak payment for Jim Richardson at \$671.64, 43.5% not to exceed \$671.64. Funding for this windbreak project will come from the FY25 Conservation Contracts. This project is 43.5% due to grant funds available. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Root River WBIF:

Contract #	Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Other	Year	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share/ Incentive Payment	Date	L/O Cost
RR24/25-25-02	Root River IW1P	PAYMENT	Brian Johnson	Pleasant Valley 25	Well Sealing	75%		\$2,730.00	\$2,047.50	6/12/2025	\$682.50
RR22/23-23-01	Root River IW1P	PAYMENT	Diamond D LLC	Clayton 22	Strip Till	250 ac @20/ac	2nd & 3rd	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	6/12/2025	
RR24/25-25-06	Root River IW1P	CONTRACT	Carolyn Sween	Frankford 19	Well Sealing	75%		\$3,500.00	\$2,625.00	6/12/2025	\$875.00
RR24/25-25-09	Root River IW1P	CONTRACT	Hampton Oaks LP	Frankford 30	Well Sealing	75%		\$3,500.00	\$2,625.00	6/12/2025	\$875.00
RR24/25-25-07	Root River IW1P	CONTRACT	Dom Stier	Clayton 2	Waterway	90%		\$5,707.00	\$5,136.30	6/12/2025	\$570.70
RR24/25-25-08	Root River IW1P	CONTRACT	Gehling Legacy Farms	Frankford 25	Waterway	90%		\$20,157.00	\$18,141.30	6/12/2025	\$2,015.70
RR22/23-23-02	Root River IW1P	CANCEL	Terry Jones	Frankford 14 & 15	Cover Crops	125 ac @20/ac	3rd	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	6/12/2025	

Kellogg made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share payment of \$2,047.50 for Brian Johnson at 75% of the total cost of \$2,730.00. Funding for the well sealing cost share will come from the FY24/25 Root River WBIF grant.

Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Erichson made a motion to approve the 2nd and 3rd year strip-till incentive payments for Diamond D LLC of \$10,000.00, 250 acres at \$20 per acre for 2 years. Funding for the strip-till incentive will come from the FY24/25 Root River WBIF grant.

Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share contracts for Carolyn Sween and Hampton Oaks LP at 75% of the estimated cost of \$3,500.00. Funding for these projects will come from the FY24/25 Root River WBIF grant. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Kellogg made a motion to approve the waterway cost share contracts for Dom Stier at \$5,136.30, 90% of the total cost estimate of \$5,707.00 and Gehling Legacy Farms at \$18,141.30, 90% of the total cost estimate of \$20,157.00. Funding for these projects will come from the FY24/25 Root River WBIF grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Soltau made a motion to cancel Terry Jones' 3rd year cover crop payment for contract #RR22/23-23-02 due to failure to plant on time. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: Erichson

Policy Updates:

Fox explained the policy update for soil health ranking. He would like to update it to mirror the RR1W1P policy and the CW1W1P policies with different caps on the incentives. Discussion was held on the policy. The board tabled this until July board meeting.

Preliminary 2026 Budget:

Fox talked about the preliminary budget. The board held discussion. Fox will make changes to the budget and bring it back to the board.

Orchard Creek Bids:

The board looked at the 5 bids that were received for the Orchard Creek access. Funding for this project will come from DNR bonding, Hormel Foundation and ARPA. Kellogg made a motion to award Rochester Sand & Gravel with the lowest bid for the project at \$117,209.56. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Abstained: Erichson

ATV Trailer Purchase :

Fox talked about the purchase of a new trailer for the ATV. Erichson made a motion to approve the purchase of an ATV trailer at a maximum of \$3500.00 and to purchase locally if possible. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Discussion Items:

Resolutions Meeting:

The board talked about the MASWCD resolutions meeting on the 23rd in Stewartville.

Tree Report:

The board discussed the 2025 tree report.

Staff Report (See Attached)

The Staff Report and all programs were reviewed.

Supervisor Reports:

Nothing new.

Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be held Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____