

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on August 14, 2025. Held at 1408 21st Ave NW, Austin, MN.

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

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

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

Agenda:

Soltau made a motion to approve the August agenda. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Secretary Report:

Soltau made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2025, board meeting. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Treasurer Report:

Budget Report/Checks Payable:

The July budget report and August payables report were reviewed with the board.

Erichson made a motion to approve the budget report, payables report, August payroll, and to transfer money as needed. Kellogg second the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

BWSR Report, Annie Gunness:

Not in attendance.

NRCS Report, Teddy Moreno Santos:

Moreno Santos updated the board on NRCS, to include: staffing in the Austin Field Office, CRP, EQIP, and CSP.

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Glynn updated the board on their cyber-attack, the Mower County survey, staffing and budget.

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
CW24-25-04	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	PAYMENT	Brandon Lawhead	Lansing 27	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1500	\$2,500.00	\$1,250.00	8/14/2025	\$1,250.00
CW24-25-03	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	PAYMENT	David Weness	Clayton 32	Waterway	90%	\$2,890.00	\$2,601.00	8/14/2025	\$289.00
CW24-25-15	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Linda Gilles	Adams 1	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1500	\$4,400.00	\$1,500.00	8/14/2025	\$2,900.00
CW24-25-16	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Duane McGonigle	Red Rock 15	Well Sealing		\$2,500.00	\$1,500.00	8/14/2025	\$1,000.00

Erichson made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share payment of \$1250.00 for Brandon Lawhead, 50% of the total cost of \$2500.00. Funding for the well sealing cost share will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Kellogg made a motion to approve the waterway cost share payment of \$2601.00 for David Weness, 90% of the total cost of \$2890.00. Funding for the waterway will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Kellogg made a motion to approve the above well sealing cost share contracts for Gilles and McGonigle at 50% not to exceed \$1500.00. Funding for the well sealing projects will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, 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
RR24/25-24-10	Root River 1W1P	PAYMENT	Brian Olson	Grand Meadow 12	Well Sealing	75%		\$2,650.00	\$1,987.50	8/14/2025	\$662.50
RR24/25-25-06	Root River 1W1P	PAYMENT	Carolyn Sween	Frankford 19	Well Sealing	75%		\$3,500.00	\$2,625.00	8/14/2025	\$875.00
RR24/25-25-07	Root River 1W1P	PAYMENT	Dom Stier	Clayton 2	Waterway	90%		\$4,747.50	\$4,272.75	8/14/2025	\$474.75
RR24/25-24-06	Root River 1W1P	PAYMENT	Grass & Sons Farm	LeRoy 15 & 22	Cover Crops	159 ac @50	1	\$7,950.00	\$7,950.00	8/14/2025	

Soltau made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share payment of \$1987.50 for Brian Olson and \$2625.00 for Carolyn Sween at 75% of the total costs stated above. Funding for the well sealing cost share payments will come from the FY24/25 Root River WBIF grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Soltau made a motion to approve the waterway cost share payment for Dom Stier at \$4272.75, 90% of the total cost of \$4747.50. Funding for the waterway project will come from the FY24/25 Root River WBIF grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Kellogg made a motion to approve the 1 year cover crop payment for Grass and Sons Farm at \$7950.00. Funding for the cover crops will come from the FY24/25 Root River WBIF grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

RCPP Batch #1:

Program	Contract #	Ranking Score	Contract Total \$	Contract Length	Acres	Practice
RCPP	099-01-01	40	\$3,950	1 year	79	Cover Crops
RCPP	099-01-02	50	\$8,200	2 year	82	Cover Crops
RCPP	099-01-03	55	\$148,260	3 year	706	Cover Crop & Strip Till
RCPP	099-01-04	45	\$169,680	3 year	808	Cover Crop & Strip Till
RCPP	099-01-05	40	\$45,240	3 year	377	Cover Crops
RCPP	099-01-06	40	\$92,400	3 year	616	Cover Crops

Micah Peterson entered the board meeting to talk about the 6 contracts that were received for the 1st batch of the RCPP Soil Health grant. The first grant in hand is \$180,000, with \$165,000 available for practices. The board discussed the options. Erichson made a motion to approve contracts, in order, 099-01-03, 099-01-02, and 099-01-01 for the 1st batch of the RCPP Soil Health grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

2026 Budget:

The board held discussion on the proposed 2026 budget. Erichson made a motion to approve the proposed 2026 budget. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Discussion Items:

Cedar Wapsi Project Tracker:

Fox showed and explained the project tracker.

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, September 11, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____