

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

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

Meeting was called to order by Rod Moe, Board Vice Chairman.

Supervisors Present: Rod Moe
Jon Erichson
Jim Kellogg
Jay Soltau

Non-voting Present: Randy Smith (Zoom)

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

Others Present: Scott Felton, Mower County Auditor/Treasurer
Dave Copeland, BWSR
Ann Gunness, BWSR

Oath of Office:

Scott Felton gave the Oath of Office to Erichson and Soltau.

Election of Offices:

Fox led the election of offices, offices included: Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer/Secretary.

Kellogg nominated Smith for Chairman of the Board. Kellogg made a motion that nominations cease and called for a unanimous vote to elect Smith as Chairman. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Moe volunteered for Vice Chairman. Kellogg made a motion that nominations cease and called for a unanimous vote to elect Moe as Vice Chairman. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Smith nominated Erichson for Secretary/Treasurer. Kellogg made a motion that nominations cease and called for a unanimous vote to elect Erichson as Treasurer/Secretary. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

The 2025 office holders are:

Chairman: Randy Smith
Vice Chairman: Rod Moe
Treasurer/Secretary: Jon Erichson

Agenda:

Kellogg made a motion to approve the January agenda. Erichson seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau
Opposed: None

Secretary Report:

Erichson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2024 board meeting. Kellogg seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau
Opposed: None

Moe entered the meeting.

Oath of Office:

Scott Felton gave the Oath of Office to Moe.

Treasurer Report:

Checks Payable:

The payables report was reviewed with the board. Kellogg made a motion to approve the payables report, January payroll and to transfer money as needed. Moe second the motion.
Affirmative: Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau
Opposed: None

BWSR Report, Dave Copeland:

After rearranging Board Conservationist areas across the state, Copeland will be moving to a different area. Ann Gunness will be the new BC for Mower County. Gunness introduced herself to the board. Copeland updated the board on new grant opportunities. Fox talked about the new RCPP grant.

NRCS Report, Leanna Smeby:

Not in attendance.

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Not in attendance.

Action Items:

Legal Paper:

Erichson made a motion to keep the designation of the Austin Daily Herald as the official legal paper of the District in 2025. Soltau second the motion.
Affirmative: Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau
Opposed: None

Bank of Depository:

Erichson made a motion to continue with the current banks, US bank as the bank of depository for checking, First State Bank MN in LeRoy for the District savings, and United Farmers State Bank in Adams for CD's. Kellogg second the motion.
Affirmative: Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau
Opposed: None

SWCD Board Meeting Time/Place:

Erichson made a motion for the SWCD monthly board meetings to be on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 8:00am. at the Mower SWCD building conference room. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

2025 District Fees:

Fox talked about the proposed 2025 Fees, with a couple changes from last year. Erichson made a motion to approve the 2025 Fee schedule as presented. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Cost Share:

Cedar Wapsi:

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
CW22-24-02	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	PAYMENT	George Winkels	Lodi 6	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$2,500.00	\$1,000.00	1/14/2025	\$1,500.00
CW24-25-01	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Zach Peterson	Lansing 2	Well Sealing (2)	50% not to exceed \$1500/well	\$5,000.00	\$3,000.00	1/14/2025	\$2,000.00

Soltau made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share payment for George Winkels at 50% not to exceed \$1,000.00. Funding for the well sealing cost share will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Kellogg made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share contract for Zach Peterson for 2 wells at \$3000.00, 50% of the total cost estimate of \$5,000.00 not to exceed \$1,500.00 per well. Funding for this project will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon 1W1P grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

TAP-In Funds:

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
TI24-1	Tap In Funds	PAYMENT	Rudy Raatz	Sargeant 2	Reverse Osmosis	100%	\$2,495.00	\$2,495.00	1/14/2025	\$0.00

Soltau made a motion to approve the reverse osmosis payment for Rudy Raatz at \$2,495.00. Funding for the reverse osmosis system will come from the Tap-In Grant. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

ARPA:

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
ARPA-25-01	ARPA Funding	CONTRACT	Mower County	Lansing 23	Well Sealing	100%	\$3,590.00	\$3,590.00	1/14/2025

Erichson made a motion to approve the Well Sealing contract with Mower County for \$3590.00 at 100%. Funding for this project will come from ARPA funds. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Manager Signature Authority:

Erichson made a motion to authorize the District Manager to sign finance reports and grant applications/agreements on behalf of the board. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

SWCD Aid Resolution:

Erichson to approve the SWCD Aid Resolution. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Discussion Items:

Committee Appointments:

The board discussed the SWCD committees. Smith made the following appointments.

The 2025 Committee Appointments:

Personnel:	Randy Smith & Rod Moe
Finance:	Jon Erichson & Randy Smith
Water Planning:	Jon Erichson
Joint Powers:	Rod Moe, Randy Smith alternate
Legislative Committee:	Jon Erichson, Rod Moe alternate
Feedlot Committee:	Randy Smith, Jim Kellogg alternate
Watershed District Liaison:	Jon Erichson
Root River Policy Committee:	Jim Kellogg, Jay Soltau alternate
Cedar River Wtrshd. Policy Com:	Randy Smith, Rod Moe alternate

February Joint Meeting:

The board held discussion on the February joint board meeting with the Cedar River Watershed District and Turtle Creek Watershed District. It will be held on Wednesday, February 19 beginning at 4:30 at the JC Hormel Nature Center.

Orchard Creek Access Update:

Ruzek entered the board meeting to give an update on the Orchard Creek Access.

Dobbins Phase III Restoration:

Fox informed the board of the CRWD DNR CPL Dobbins Phase III grant that was approved.

Cover Crops:

Discussion was held on the Cover Crop incentive program.

Supervisor Reports:

Chairman Report:

Smith talked about the upcoming NACD North Central meeting that he will be attending.

Staff Report (See Attached):

The Staff Report and all programs were reviewed.

Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be February 19, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____