

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on July 16, 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: Polly Glynn, Mower County Commissioner (Zoom)
Teddy Moreno Santos, NRCS

Agenda:

Moe made a motion to approve the July agenda. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Secretary Report:

Erichson made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2025, board meeting. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Treasurer Report:

Budget Report/Checks Payable:

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

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

BWSR Report, Annie Gunness:

Not in attendance.

NRCS Report, Teddy Moreno Santos:

Moreno Santos updated the board on NRCS programs, to include: the open team lead position for the area, of which he is the current acting team lead, EQIP, CSP, and CRP.

Action Items:

Policy Updates (RCPP):

Fox updated on the RCPP Soil Health grant, the ranking process and the grant policy.

Micah Peterson entered the meeting to assist with questions on the grant. The board held discussion. Soltau made a motion to approve the RCPP Soil Health Ranking Form and the RCPP Soil Health Funding Policy. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltan

Opposed: None

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
CW24-25-14	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	David Kiefer	Windom 4	Support Drain	95%	\$14,886.58	\$14,142.25	7/16/2025	\$744.33

Fox explained the new project for David Kiefer from the June board meeting.

Erichson made a motion to approve the support drain contract for David Kiefer at \$14,142.25, 95% of the total cost estimate of \$14,886.58. Funding for this project will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Root River 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
RR24/25-25-04	Root River 1W1P	PAYMENT	Mark Carman	Bennington 4	Waterway	90%	\$18,090.00	\$16,281.00	7/16/2025	\$1,809.00
RR24/25-25-05	Root River 1W1P	PAYMENT	Mike Sourada	LeRoy 25	Waterway	75%	\$16,087.50	\$12,065.63	7/16/2025	\$4,021.87
RR24/25-25-10	Root River 1W1P	CONTRACT	Mary Huntley	Lodi 9	Well Sealing	75%	\$3,100.00	\$2,325.00	7/16/2025	\$775.00

Erichson made a motion to approve the waterway cost share payments for Mark Carman at \$16,281.00, 90% of the total cost of \$18,090.00 and Mike Sourada at \$12,065.63, 75% of the total cost of \$16,087.50. Funding for the 2 waterway projects will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share contract for Mary Huntley at 75% of the estimated cost of \$3,100.00. Funding for these projects will come from the FY24/25 Root River WBIF grant. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Outstanding Conservationist:

Fox informed the board of the staff suggestions for 2025 Outstanding Conservationist.

Soltau made a motion to nominate Terry Jones as Mower County's 2025 Outstanding Conservationist. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Wildlife Conservationist:

Fox informed the board of the staff suggestion for Wildlife Conservationist. Erichson made a motion to nominate Jay and Linda Howton as Mower County's 2025 Wildlife Conservationists. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Discussion Items:

CRP Signup 63 Update:

Fox gave an update on CRP signup 63. He explained that Mower County is 5th in the state for CRP.

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Glynn updated the board on the issue that the County has had with their computer system.

Staff Report (See Attached)

The Staff Report and all programs were reviewed.

Supervisor Reports:

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA):

Smith and Fox talked about the IRA.

Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be held Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____