

## Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on June 13, 2024. Held at 1408 21<sup>st</sup> 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  
Tim Ruzek, Water Planning/Outreach

Others Present: Polly Glynn, Mower County Commissioner (Zoom)  
Warren Formo, MN Ag Water Resource Center (Zoom)

### Agenda:

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

### Secretary Report:

Erichson made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2024 board meeting.  
Soltau seconded the motion.  
Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau  
Opposed: None

### Treasurer Report:

#### Budget Reports/Checks Payable:

The May budget report and June payables report were reviewed with the board.  
Erichson made a motion to approve the financial reports, payables report, June payroll, and to transfer money as needed. Kellogg second the motion.  
Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau  
Opposed: None

Erichson made a motion to approve that Fox and Crump check on interest and move savings and CDs around to the bank with the best interest. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau  
Opposed: None

### BWSR Report, Dave Copeland:

Not in attendance.

NRCS Report, Teddy Moreno Santos:  
Not in attendance.

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn (Zoom):  
Glynn informed the board of the Tuesday Commissioner meeting and the solar farm meeting that she attended.

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-24-01	ARPA Funding	PAYMENT	Donald Flatness	Sargeant 13	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1000		\$3,190.00	\$1,000.00	6/13/2024	\$2,190.00

Erichson made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share payment for Donald Flatness at \$1,000.00, 50% of the total cost of \$2,200.00 not to exceed \$1,000.00. Funding for this project will come from the ARPA grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

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
CW22-24-05	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	PAYMENT	George Winkels	Lodi 6	WASCOB	75%		\$15,992.50	\$11,994.38	6/13/2024	\$3,998.12
CW22-24-07	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	PAYMENT	Brad Tapp	Dexter 18	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1500		\$4,225.00	\$1,500.00	6/13/2024	\$2,725.00
CW22-24-08	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONT/PMT	Glenn Hahn	Waltham 1	Prairie Strip Incentive	4.41 ac @\$80	14	\$352.80	\$4,939.20	6/13/2024	
CW22-24-09	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Sue Finbraaten	Clayton 31	Waterway	75%		\$7,612.00	\$5,709.00	6/13/2024	\$1,903.00
CW22-24-10	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	David Kiefer	Windom 4	Grade Stabilization	90%		\$67,885.05	\$61,096.54	6/13/2024	\$6,788.51

Kellogg made a motion to approve the WASCOB cost share payment for George Winkels at \$11,994.38, 75% of the total cost of \$15,992.50.

Funding for the WASCOB project will come from the 2022 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Soltau made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share payment for Brad Tapp at \$1,500.00, 50% of the total cost of \$4,225.00 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, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve the prairie strip incentive contract and payment for Glenn Hahn, 4.41 ac @\$80 for 14 years for a total of \$4939.20. Funding for the prairie strip incentive will come from the 2022 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Kellogg made a motion to approve the waterway cost share contract for Sue Finbraaten at \$5,709.00. The cost share is 75% of the total cost of \$7,612.00. Funding for this project will come from the 2022 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Soltau made a motion to approve the grade stabilization cost share contract for David Kiefer at \$61,096.64. The total cost share is 90% of the total cost estimate of \$67,885.05. Funding for the project will come from the 2022 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Moe 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	Years	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share/ Incentive Payment	Date	L/O Cost
CC24-01	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Randy Smith	Adams 30	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000		\$1,203.89	\$601.95	6/13/2024	\$601.95
CC24-02	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Jarred Ellis	Red Rock 29	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000		\$489.75	\$244.88	6/13/2024	\$244.88
CC24-03	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Mike Arndorfer	Clayton 26	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000		\$660.20	\$330.10	6/13/2024	\$330.10
CC24-04	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Cindy Ziegler	Lyle 26	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000		\$1,536.14	\$768.07	6/13/2024	\$768.07
CC24-05	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Chris Prescott	Neveda 13	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000		\$1,118.66	\$559.33	6/13/2024	\$559.33
CC24-08	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Pat Harty	Red Rock 11	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000		\$790.72	\$395.36	6/13/2024	\$395.36
CC24-09	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	David Ruhter	Waltham 31	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000		\$1,044.23	\$522.12	6/13/2024	\$522.12
CC24-12	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Adam Lee	Windom 25	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000		\$300.97	\$150.49	6/13/2024	\$150.49

Kellogg made a motion to approve windbreak cost share payment for Randy Smith at \$601.95, 50% of the total cost of \$1,203.89. Funding for this project will come from the FY24 Conservation Contracts grant.

Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Kellogg, Erichson, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Abstained: Smith

Erichson made a motion to approve the above windbreak cost share payments for contracts CC24-02 through 05, 08, 09, and 12 at 50% of the total cost, not to exceed \$1,000.00. Funding for these projects will come from the FY24 Conservation Contracts grant. 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	Years	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share/ Incentive Payment	Date	L/O Cost
RR22/23-24-06	Root River IWIP	CONT/PMT	Brian Hahn	Sargeant 35	Prairie Strip Incentive	2.26 ac @80	10	\$180.80	\$1,808.00	6/13/2024	
RR22/23-24-04	Root River IWIP	PAYMENT	Gary Vogt	Frankford 34	Waterway	90%		\$5,300.50	\$4,770.45	6/13/2024	\$530.05
RR24/25-24-01	Root River IWIP	CONTRACT	Lodi Township-Mar	Lodi 9	Well Sealing	75%		\$6,485.00	\$4,863.75	6/13/2024	\$1,621.25

Moe made a motion to approve the prairie strip incentive contract and payment for Brian Hahn, 2.26ac @\$80 for 10 years for a total of \$1,808.00. Funding for the prairie strip incentive will come from the 22/23 Root River WBIF grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Soltau made a motion to approve the waterway cost share payment for Gary Vogt of \$4,770.45, 90% of the total cost of \$5,300.50. Funding for the project will come from the 22/23 Root River WBIF grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Discussion was held on the Lodi Township well sealing contract.

Soltau made a motion to approve the well sealing contract for Lodi Township at \$4,863.75, 75% of the total cost estimate of \$6,485.00. Funding for the project will come from the 22/23 Root River WBIF grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Ruzek talked about the Ramsey well sealing project and ARPA funds. The board agreed to use ARPA funds to seal the Ramsey well. The SWCD will forward the ARPA funds to Mower County after the project is completed.

#### SE Nitrate Agreements:

Ruzek informed the board of three regional grant agreements related to nitrate concerns with drinking water: Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network (VNMN); Tap In program for free bottled water and the Tap In program for assistance with water-treatment systems. Erichson made a motion to grant Fox the authority to sign the agreements that are necessary to help address the nitrates in the Mower County. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

#### Staff Job Approval Authority:

Fox talked about Job Approval Authority for Paul Hunter and Micah Peterson.

Kellogg made a motion to approve Paul Hunter's JAA for waterways. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Erichson made a motion to approve Micah Peterson's JAA for cover crops. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

#### Discussion Items:

##### Warren Formo- Update:

Formo gave the board an update on Discovery Farms and funding available for farmers. The board talked about different ways to get the word out about Discovery Farms.

Final Tree Numbers-2024:

The board held discussion on the 2024 tree program report.

Proposed 2025 Budget:

The board went through the 2025 proposed budget. The board would like to see information as to what other counties are doing with health insurance. Discussion was held. Fox will have the insurance information for the July board meeting, along with action for the proposed budget.

Erichson left the board meeting.

SE Nitrate Update:

Fox talked about the funding that will be available for nitrate assistance.

Supervisor Reports:

Chairman Report:

Nothing new.

Staff Report (See Attached):

The Staff Report and all programs were reviewed.

Smith talked about the Area 7 resolution meeting that is scheduled for June 17.

Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be July 11, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_