

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on March 13, 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
 Rod Moe Jay Soltau

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

Others Present: Polly Glynn (Zoom)

Agenda:

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

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Secretary Report:

Soltau made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2025, board meeting. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Treasurer Report:

Budget Report/Checks Payable:

The January-February budget report and March payables report were reviewed with the board. Erichson made a motion to approve the budget report, payables report, March 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, Leanna Smeby:

Not in attendance.

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Glynn gave a quick update on the County.

Action Items:

Cost Share:

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	CONTRACT	Darrel Decker	Sargeant 13	Windbreak	50%	\$991.91	\$495.96	3/13/2025	\$495.95
CC24-25-03	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Micah Peterson	Pleasant Valley 33	Windbreak	50%	\$1,098.17	\$549.09	3/13/2025	\$549.08
CC24-25-04	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Fred Harvey	Lodi 19	Windbreak	50%	\$1,180.15	\$590.08	3/13/2025	\$590.07
CC24-25-05	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Brian Miller	Lodi 32	Windbreak	50%	\$604.10	\$302.05	3/13/2025	\$302.05
CC24-25-06	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Bob Gebhardt	Waltham 15	Windbreak	50%	\$1,264.30	\$632.15	3/13/2025	\$632.15
CC25-25-01	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Maddi Rueter	Nevada 22	Windbreak	50%	\$515.64	\$257.82	3/13/2025	\$257.82
CC25-25-02	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Dylan Fasbender	Adams 13	Windbreak	50%	\$1,384.58	\$692.29	3/13/2025	\$692.29
CC25-25-03	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Matt Heimer	Lodi 14	Windbreak	50%	\$944.99	\$472.50	3/13/2025	\$472.49
CC25-25-04	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Troy Hale	Clayton 14	Windbreak	50%	\$1,133.77	\$566.89	3/13/2025	\$566.88
CC25-25-05	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Phil Hartman	Sargeant 12	Windbreak	50%	\$641.50	\$320.75	3/13/2025	\$320.75
CC25-25-06	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Kyle Mittelsted	Grand Meadow 3	Windbreak	50%	\$757.28	\$378.64	3/13/2025	\$378.64
CC25-25-07	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Mathias Bush	Grand Meadow 35	Windbreak	50%	\$811.11	\$405.56	3/13/2025	\$405.55
CC25-25-08	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	George Winkels	Lodi 8	Windbreak	50%	\$1,898.60	\$949.30	3/13/2025	\$949.30
CC25-25-09	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Eric Boe	Windom 36	Windbreak	50%	\$3,965.49	\$1,000.00	3/13/2025	\$2,965.49
CC25-25-10	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Eric Lee	Dexter 2	Windbreak	50%	\$1,238.41	\$619.21	3/13/2025	\$619.20
CC25-25-11	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Blue Top Farms	Adams 18	Windbreak	50%	\$3,346.28	\$1,000.00	3/13/2025	\$2,346.28
CC25-25-12	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Gordy Wenum	Marshall 31	Windbreak	50%	\$510.25	\$255.13	3/13/2025	\$255.12
CC25-25-13	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Mark Wilson	Marshall 9	Windbreak	50%	\$3,341.97	\$1,000.00	3/13/2025	\$2,341.97
CC25-25-14	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Ellen Sunde	Udolpho 32	Windbreak	50%	\$600.86	\$300.43	3/13/2025	\$300.43
CC25-25-15	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Sandy Munson	Clayton 16	Windbreak	50%	\$830.64	\$415.32	3/13/2025	\$415.32
CC25-25-16	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Nick Baldus	Grand Meadow 10	Windbreak	50%	\$2,993.53	\$1,000.00	3/13/2025	\$1,993.53
CC25-25-17	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Doug Meyer	Austin 28	Windbreak	50%	\$803.67	\$401.84	3/13/2025	\$401.83

Erichson made a motion to approve the above 22 windbreak contracts at 50% not to exceed \$1000.00 per contract. Funding for these windbreak projects will come from the FY24 and 25 Conservation Contracts grants. Soltau seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau
Opposed: None

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
CC24-25-02	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Randy Smith	Nevada 1	Windbreak	50%	\$593.81	\$296.66	3/13/2025	\$297.15

Erichson made a motion to approve the above windbreak contract for Randy Smith at 50% not to exceed \$1000.00. Funding for this windbreak project will come from the FY24 Conservation Contracts grants. Soltau seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Erichson, Moe, Soltau
Opposed: None
Abstained: Smith

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
CC25-25-18	Conservation Contracts	CONTRACT	Jim Richardson	Grand Meadow 24	Windbreak	43.5%	\$1,542.61	\$671.64	3/13/2025	\$870.97

Erichson made a motion to approve the above windbreak contract for Jim Richardson at 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. Soltau seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau
Opposed: None

NMI Cover Crops:

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
NMI-22-02	Nutrient Mgmt. Init.- NMI	PAYMENT	Scott Lightly	Oakland 11 & 12	Cover Crops	\$500.00	3rd	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	3/13/2025
NMI-22-03	Nutrient Mgmt. Init.- NMI	PAYMENT	Jim Kellogg	Clayton 28	Cover Crops	\$500.00	3rd	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	3/13/2025
NMI-22-05	Nutrient Mgmt. Init.- NMI	PAYMENT	Bryan May	Nevada 12	Cover Crops	\$500.00	3rd	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	3/13/2025
NMI-22-09	Nutrient Mgmt. Init.- NMI	PAYMENT	Tom Finnegan	Red Rock 21	Cover Crops	\$500.00	3rd	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	3/13/2025
NMI-22-10	Nutrient Mgmt. Init.- NMI	PAYMENT	Eric Heins-Hoosier Ridge Ranch	Wabasha Cty.-Watopa 28	Cover Crops	\$500.00	2nd	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	3/13/2025
NMI-22-8	Nutrient Mgmt. Init.- NMI	PAYMENT	Dan Warner	Steele Cty.-Owatonna 35	Cover Crops	\$500.00	3rd	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	3/13/2025
NMI-23-01	Nutrient Mgmt. Init.- NMI	PAYMENT	Terry Jones	Grand Meadow 9	Cover Crops	\$500.00	2nd	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	3/13/2025

Soltau made a motion to approve the above 2nd & 3rd year cover crop payments at \$1000.00. Funding will come from the NMI grant. Erichson 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
RR24/25-24-11	Root River IWIP	PAYMENT	Darren Wendt	Pleasant Valley 9	Well Sealing	75%	\$2,900.00	\$1,875.00	3/13/2025	\$1,500.00

Soltau made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share payment for Darren Wendt at \$1875.00, 75% of the total cost of \$2900.00. Funding for this project will come from the FY24/25 Root River WBIF grant. Moe seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau
Opposed: None

Summer Intern:

Erichson made a motion to approve hiring a summer intern. Moe seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau
Opposed: None

Policy Updates:

Fox explained the policy updates. Micah talked about adding cover crops to the ARPA funding.

Moe left the board meeting.

Discussion Items:

ARPA Soil Health:

The board talked further on the ARPA grant and soil health.

Online Bill Payments:

The board discussed paying more payables online. Staff will look further into it.

Organizational Updates:

Fox explained that he is updating a couple of job descriptions due to changes in staff duties. He will then be sending the job descriptions to the David Drone agency for them to look over.

NACD Dues:

The board discussed the amount to be paid for the NACD annual dues. They decided on \$101.00 for 2025.

Staff Report (See Attached)

The Staff Report and all programs were reviewed.

Supervisor Reports:

Nothing more to add.

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

APPROVED _____ DATE _____