

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on October 10, 2024. 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)
Lauren Fuller, ADM associate (Zoom)

Agenda:

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

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Public Input:

None

Secretary Report:

Erichson made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2024, board meeting. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Treasurer Report:

Budget Reports/Checks Payable:

The September budget report and October payables report were reviewed with the board. Erichson made a motion to approve the financial reports, payables report, October payroll, and to transfer money as needed. Soltau second the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

BWSR Report, Dave Copeland:

Not in attendance.

NRCS Report, Teddy Moreno Santos:

Not in attendance.

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Glynn informed the board of updates within the county October 1st work session and gave a report, highway department finishing up summer work and change in staff, next years road work.

ADM associate:

Lauren Fuller, ADM associate joined the board meeting via Zoom to learn more about SWCD's.

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	Other Funding	L/O Cost	AMENDED TYPE (AMOUNT/ DATE)	AMENDED COST SHARE/NEW DATE
CW22-24-06	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	AMEND/PMT	Neal Anderson	Waltham 28	Waterway	75%	\$8,220.00	\$6,165.00	10/10/2024		\$2,055.00	AMOUNT	\$6,165.00
CW22-24-10	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	AMEND/PMT	David Kiefer	Windom 4	Grade Stabilization	84%	\$89,380.71	\$75,413.86	10/10/2024	\$9,497.91	\$4,468.94	AMOUNT	\$75,413.86

Erichson made a motion to approve the amendment to the Cedar Wapsi 1W1P cost share contract #CW22-24-06 for Neal Anderson. The amendment includes increasing the cost share amount from \$4,923.75 to \$6,165.00. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Erichson made a motion to approve the waterway cost share payment for Neal Anderson at \$6,165.00, 75% of the total cost of \$8,220.00. Funding for this project will come from the 2022 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Erichson made a motion to approve the amendment to the Cedar Wapsi 1W1P cost share contract #CW22-24-10 for David Kiefer. The amendment includes increasing the cost share amount from \$61,096.54 to \$75,413.86. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Erichson made a motion to approve the partial grade stabilization cost share payment for David Kiefer at \$75,413.86, 84% of the partial cost of \$89,380.71. Funding for this project will come from the 2022 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Moe 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	Years	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share/ Incentive Payment	Date
CW24-24-20	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Ron Frank	Nevada 34	Cover Crops	160 ac @40	3	\$6,400.00	\$19,200.00	10/10/2024
CW24-24-21	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Mark Yunker	Marshall 19 & 20	Cover Crops	160 ac @40	3	\$6,400.00	\$19,200.00	10/10/2024
CW24-24-22	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Joe Sheely	Dexter 7/Waltham 32 & 33	Cover Crops	166 ac @40	3	\$6,640.00	\$19,920.00	10/10/2024
CW24-24-23	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Brad Lukes	Austin 30	Strip Till	226 ac @15	3	\$3,390.00	\$10,170.00	10/10/2024
CW24-24-24	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Brad Lukes	Austin 30 & 33	Strip Till	218 ac @15	3	\$3,270.00	\$9,810.00	10/10/2024

Moe made a motion to approve the cover crop incentive contracts for Ron Frank, Mark Yunker and Joe Sheely. These contracts include an incentive payment for 3 years of cover crops at \$40/acre/year. Funding will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF Grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Soltau made a motion to approve the 2 strip-till incentive contracts for Brad Lukes. These contracts include an incentive payment for 3 years of strip till at \$15/acre/year. Funding will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF Grant. Moe 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	Years	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share/ Incentive Payment	Date	L/O Cost
RR22/23-24-02	Root River 1WIP	PAYMENT	Roger Bhend	LeRoy 29	Waterway	75%		\$14,498.50	\$10,873.88	10/10/2024	\$3,624.62
RR24/25-24-05	Root River 1WIP	CONTRACT	CJ Inglebret	Grand Meadow 24	Cover Crops	25 ac @40	3	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00	10/10/2024	
RR24/25-24-06	Root River 1WIP	CONTRACT	Grass & Sons Farm	LeRoy 15 & 22	Cover Crops	159 ac @50	1	\$7,950.00	\$7,950.00	10/10/2024	
RR24/25-24-07	Root River 1WIP	CONTRACT	Cody Drinkall	Bennington 36	Cover Crops	37 ac @40	1	\$1,480.00	\$1,480.00	10/10/2024	
RR24/25-24-08	Root River 1WIP	CONTRACT	Cody Drinkall	Bennington 36	Cover Crops	78 ac @40	1	\$3,120.00	\$3,120.00	10/10/2024	
RR24/25-24-09	Root River 1WIP	CONTRACT	Cody Drinkall	Bennington 23	Cover Crops	144 ac @40	1	\$5,760.00	\$5,760.00	10/10/2024	

Soltau made a motion to approve the waterway cost share payment for Roger Bhend at \$10,873.88. The total cost share is 75% of the total cost of \$14,498.50. Funding for the project will come from the 22/23 Root River WBIF grant. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve the 3-year cover crop incentive contracts for CJ Inglebret and 3 for Cody Drinkall at \$40/acre/year and Grass & Sons Farm at \$50/acre/year. Funding for these incentives will come from the FY24/25 Root River WBIF grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Soil Health Cost Share:

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	AMENDED TYPE (AMOUNT/ DATE)	AMENDED COST SHARE/NEW DATE
SH-23-01	Soil Health Cost Share	AMENDMENT	Terry Jones	Frankford 35	Cover Crops	354 ac @20/ac	2	\$7,080.00	\$14,160.00	10/10/2024	ACRE AMT/RATE PER ACRE	118 to 354 ac @40 to 20/ac

Soltau made a motion to approve the amendment to Terry Jones's cover crop incentive contract to include the number of acres and per acre rate. The number of acres will go from 118 acres to 354 acres and per acre rate will go from \$40 to \$20. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Cedar Wapsi & Root River CRP Incentives:

Fox explained that the Cedar Wapsi CRP Incentive grant and the Root River CRP Incentive grant will be approved by BWSR within the next couple of days. Requesting approval on the following contracts pending grant approval.

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
CW-CRP-24-01	Cedar Wapsi -CRP Incentives	CONT/PMT	Fern Paschke	Red Rock 18	CRP Incentive	3.30 ac @50	10	\$165.00	\$1,650.00	10/10/2024
CW-CRP-24-02	Cedar Wapsi -CRP Incentives	CONT/PMT	Ethan Young	Lyle 28	CRP Incentive	10 ac @50	15	\$500.00	\$7,500.00	10/10/2024
CW-CRP-24-03	Cedar Wapsi -CRP Incentives	CONT/PMT	Bryan May	Marshall 33	CRP Incentive	1.97 ac @50	10	\$98.50	\$985.00	10/10/2024

Erichson made a motion to delegate authority to Cody Fox as SWCD Manager to sign the above 3 CRP Incentive Payment Contracts on behalf of the Board, once the new BWSR Cedar Wapsi CRP State Incentives grant has been executed. The motion also authorizes SWCD staff to process the incentive payment contract vouchers and send the payments to producers only after the CRP-1 Contract has been signed by the producer and approved by the USDA FSA County Committee. 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	Years	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share/ Incentive Payment	Date
RR-CRP-24-01	Root River -CRP Incentives	CONT/PMT	Kristen Ehrhardt	Racine 31	CRP Incentive	12.78 ac @80	10	\$1,022.40	\$10,224.00	10/10/2024
RR-CRP-24-02	Root River -CRP Incentives	CONT/PMT	Michael Arndorfer	LeRoy 7	CRP Incentive	3.11 ac @80	15	\$248.80	\$3,732.00	10/10/2024
RR-CRP-24-03	Root River -CRP Incentives	CONT/PMT	Barbara Bush	Grand Meadow 35	CRP Incentive	1.34 ac @80	10	\$107.20	\$1,072.00	10/10/2024
RR-CRP-24-04	Root River -CRP Incentives	CONT/PMT	Barbara Bush	Clayton 3	CRP Incentive	6.36 ac @80	10	\$508.80	\$5,088.00	10/10/2024
RR-CRP-24-05	Root River -CRP Incentives	CONT/PMT	Laverne Hoffman IFT- I	Clayton 4	CRP Incentive	1.43 ac @80	15	\$114.40	\$1,716.00	10/10/2024
RR-CRP-24-06	Root River -CRP Incentives	CONT/PMT	Greg Arndorfer	LeRoy 12	CRP Incentive	1.40 ac @80	15	\$112.00	\$1,680.00	10/10/2024

Erichson made a motion to delegate authority to Cody Fox as SWCD Manager to sign the above 6 CRP Incentive Payment Contracts on behalf of the Board, once the new BWSR Root River CRP State Incentives grant has been executed. The motion also authorizes SWCD staff to process the incentive payment contract vouchers and send the payments to producers only after the CRP-1 Contract has been signed by the producer and approved by the USDA FSA County Committee. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

MASWCD Resolutions:

The board discussed and voted on the 2024 State Resolution packet.

Discussion Items:

MN Association of Floodplain Leaders Meeting:

Fox informed the board of the meeting that will take place on November 14.

Supervisor Reports:

Chairman Report:

Smith informed the board that he put his name in for Vice President of MASWCD.

Erichson talked about health insurance and the board possibly setting up a committee to discuss different options for 2026.

The board discussed purchasing new logo apparel.

Staff Report (See Attached):

The Staff Report and all programs were reviewed.

Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be tentatively November 14, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____