

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on September 12, 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,  
Jessica Bulman, Conservation Tech

Others Present: Polly Glynn, Mower County Commissioner (Zoom)

Agenda:

Erichson made a motion to approve the September agenda. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Public Input:  
None

Secretary Report:

Kellogg made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2024, board meeting.  
Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Treasurer Report:

Budget Reports/Checks Payable:

The July/August budget report, program summary and September payables report were reviewed with the board. Moe made a motion to approve the financial reports, payables report, September payroll, and to transfer money as needed.  
Soltau second the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

BWSR Report, Dave Copeland:  
Not in attendance.

NRCS Report, Teddy Moreno Santos:

Moreno Santos was not in attendance but provided Fox a NRCS report. The board held discussion.

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Glynn informed the board of updates within the county and the levy information for 2025. She also attended the FAARM meeting along with Fox.

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
ARPA-24-03	ARPA Funding	CONT./PMT	Mower County	Lansing 23	Well Sealing	100%		\$3,590.00	\$3,590.00	9/12/2024

Erichson made a motion to approve the Mower County Ramsey well sealing project at 100% using ARPA funds. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

State Cost Share/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
CC24-15	State Cost Share/Cons. Contracts	PAYMENT	Loneragan Bros.	Marshall 18	Waterway	75%		\$11,435.00	\$8,576.25	9/12/2024	\$2,858.75

Soltau made a motion to approve the waterway cost share payment of \$8,576.25 for Lonergan Bros. at 75% of the total cost of \$11,435.00.

Funding for this project will come from the FY23 State Cost Share and FY24 Conservation Contracts grant. Kellogg 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	AMENDED TYPE (AMOUNT / DATE)	AMENDED COST SHARE/NEW DATE	AMENDMENT APPROVAL DATE
CW22-24-12	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	AMEND/PMT	Pat Nelsen	Dexter 22	Waterway	75%		\$14,940.50	\$11,205.37	9/12/2024	\$3,735.13	AMOUNT	\$11,205.37	9/12/2024
CW22-24-13	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	PAYMENT	Triple H Farms- Sam Hanson	Walworth 34	Cover Crops	61 ac @50	1st	\$3,050.00	\$3,050.00	9/12/2024				
CW22-24-14	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	PAYMENT	Richard & Wendy Jones	Walworth 26	Cover Crops	105 ac @50	1st	\$5,250.00	\$5,250.00	9/12/2024				
CW22-24-17	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Robert Weiner	Wisdom 12	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1500		\$2,500.00	\$1,250.00	9/12/2024	\$1,250.00			
CW22-24-18	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Russell Nelson	Red Rock 15	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1500		\$2,500.00	\$1,250.00	9/12/2024	\$1,250.00			
CW22-24-19	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Trevor Emmanuel	Marshall 34	Cover Crops	137 ac @40	3	\$5,480.00	\$16,440.00	9/12/2024				

Erichson made a motion to approve the amendment to the Cedar Wapsi 1W1P cost share contract #CW22-24-12 for Pat Nelsen. The amendment includes increasing the cost share amount from \$7,581.75 to \$11,205.37. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Erichson made a motion to approve the waterway cost share payment for Pat Nelsen at \$11,205.37, 75% of the total cost of \$14,940.50. Funding for this project will come from the 2022 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Soltau made a motion to approve the above 1<sup>st</sup> year cover crop incentive payment for Triple H Farms at \$3,050.00. Funding for this incentive payment will come from the 2022 Cedar Wapsipinicon 1W1P grant. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve the above 1<sup>st</sup> year cover crop incentive payment for Richard & Wendy Jones at \$5,250.00. Funding for this incentive payment will come from the 2022 Cedar Wapsipinicon 1W1P grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share contract for Robert Weimer at \$1,250.00, 50% of the total cost estimate of \$2,500.00 not to exceed \$1,500.00. Funding for this project will come from the 2024 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share contract for Russell Nelson at \$1,250.00, 50% of the total cost estimate of \$2,500.00 not to exceed \$1,500.00. Funding for this project will come from the 2024 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Soltau made a motion to approve the cover crop incentive contract for Trevor Emmanuel. This contract includes an incentive payment of \$5480.00/year (137 acres at \$40/acre/year) for a total of \$16,440.00 for 3 years of cover crops. Funding will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF Grants. 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	AMENDED TYPE (AMOUNT / DATE)	AMENDED COST SHARE/NEW DATE	AMENDMENT APPROVAL DATE
RR22/23-24-03	Root River 1W1P	PAYMENT	Dom Stier	Clayton 10	Waterway	75%		\$17,407.50	\$13,055.63	9/12/2024	\$4,351.88			
RR24/25-24-01	Root River 1W1P	AMEND/PMT	Lodi Township-Mark Schaefer	Lodi 9	Well Sealing	75%		\$8,850.00	\$6,637.50	9/12/2024	\$2,212.50	AMOUNT	\$6,637.50	9/12/2024
RR24/25-24-02	Root River 1W1P	CONTRACT	Roger Bhend	LeRoy 29	Well Sealing	75%		\$4,275.00	\$3,206.25	9/12/2024	\$1,068.75			
RR24/25-24-03	Root River 1W1P	CONTRACT	Notre Reid	Frankford 7	Well Sealing	75%		\$2,900.00	\$2,175.00	9/12/2024	\$725.00			
RR24/25-24-04	Root River 1W1P	CONTRACT	Carl Nielsen	Ord 26/Grand Med	Cover Crops	159 ac @ \$40	3	\$6,360.00	\$19,080.00	9/12/2024				

Soltau made a motion to approve the waterway cost share payment for Dom Stier at \$13,055.63. The total cost share is 75% of the total cost of \$17,407.50. Funding for the project will come from the 24/25 Root River WBIF grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve the amendment to the Root River 1W1P cost share contract #RR24/25-24-01 for Lodi Township. The amendment includes increasing the cost share amount from \$1,000.00 to \$6,637.50.

Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share payment for Lodi Township at \$6,637.50, 75% of the total cost of \$8,850.00. Funding for the project will come from the 24/25 Root River 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 contract for Roger Bhend at \$3,206.25, 75% of the total cost estimate of \$4,275.00. Funding for the project will come from the 24/25 Root River WBIF grant.

Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Soltau made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share contract for Nate Reid at \$2,175.00, 75% of the total cost estimate of \$2,900.00.

Funding for the project will come from the FY24/25 Root River WBIF grant. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Soltau made a motion to approve the cover crop incentive contract for Carl Nielsen. This contract includes an incentive payment of \$6,360.00/year (159 acres at \$40/acre/year) for a total of \$19,080.00 for 3 years of cover crops. Funding will come from the FY24/25 Root River WBIF grant.

Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

#### Windbreak Cost Share:

After further discussion was held on the windbreak cost share request for Phil Hartson, Erichson made a motion to pay \$250.00 to Hartson for his windbreak. Funding for this cost share will come from the District windbreak cost share fund. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

#### Pheasants Forever Positions:

Fox explained Pheasants Forever reaching out to partner with a potential for two positions. One position will be a precision ag and conservation specialist. The other position is a farm bill biologist which, as proposed, would work jointly with Freeborn and Mower SWCDs. This would

require local match of \$6,500 total or \$3,250 per district if shared between Mower and Freeborn. Erichson made a motion to approve the Mower local match for these positions. Moe seconded the motion.  
Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau  
Opposed: None

Discussion Items:

ARPA Plans:

Fox explained that staff are working on ARPA plans and policy for the next board meeting.

Supervisor Reports:

Chairman Report:

Nothing new.

Staff Report (See Attached):

The Staff Report and all programs were reviewed.

Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be tentatively October 10, 2024 at 7:00 a.m.

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