

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on September 12, 2024.
Held at 1408 21st 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	Lonergan 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/PAT	Pat Nelsen	Dexter 22	Waterway	75%		\$14,940.50	\$11,200.37	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	Wolfford 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	Wolfford 26	Cover Crops	105 ac @ \$50	1st	\$5,250.00	\$5,250.00	9/12/2024				
CW22-24-17	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Robert Weimer	Widom 12	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1,500		\$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 \$1,500		\$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 1st 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 1st 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/PAT	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 Bhand	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	Steve 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 _____