

## Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on September 11, 2025. Held at 1408 21<sup>st</sup> 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: Annie Gunness, BWSR (Zoom)  
Polly Glynn, Mower County Commissioner (Zoom)

## Agenda:

An addition of Copier was made to the Action Items portion of the agenda. Kellogg made a motion to approve the September agenda with addition. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

## Secretary Report:

Erichson made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2025, board meeting. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

## Treasurer Report:

## Budget Report:

The August budget report and program summary were reviewed with the board. Soltau made a motion to approve the month end reports, September payroll, and to transfer money as needed. Kellogg second the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

## BWSR Report, Annie Gunness:

Gunness updated the board on the grants that are being worked on for approval/sent out to the districts. She also talked about the new manure management grant that is available.

NRCS Report, Teddy Moreno Santos:

Not in attendance.

## Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Glynn updated the board on the 2026 budget/levy.

### Checks Payable:

The September payables report was reviewed with the board. Kellogg made a motion to approve the budget report, payables report, September payroll, and to transfer money as needed. Soltau second the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

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	L/O Cost	AMENDED TYPE	AMENDED COST SHARE	AMENDMENT APPROVAL DATE
CW24-25-07	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	PAYMENT	Joe Gossman	Windom 26	Waterway	90%	\$15,590.00	\$14,031.00	9/11/2025	\$1,559.00			
CW24-25-08	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	AMEND/PMT	Joe Vogt	Windom 26	Waterway	75%	\$2,860.00	\$2,145.00	9/11/2025	\$715.00	AMOUNT	\$2,145.00	9/11/2025

Soltau made a motion to approve the waterway cost share payment of \$14,031.00 for Joe Gossman, 90% of the total cost of \$15,590.00. Funding for the waterway will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Kellogg made a motion to approve the amendment to the Cedar Wapsi 1W1P cost share contract #CW24-25-08 for Joe Vogt. The amendment includes increasing the cost share amount from \$1,047.75 to \$2,145.00. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Soltau made a motion to approve the waterway cost share payment for Joe Vogt at \$2,145.00, 75% of the total cost of \$2,860.00. Funding for this project will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Erichson 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	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share/ Incentive Payment	Date	L/O Cost	AMENDED TYPE	AMENDED COST SHARE	AMENDMENT APPROVAL DATE
RR24/25-25-03	Root River 1W1P	AMEND/PMT	Dave Severson	Pleasant Valley 8	Waterway	90%	\$18,290.00	\$16,461.00	9/11/2025	\$1,829.00	AMOUNT	\$16,461.00	9/11/2025
RR24/25-24-12	Root River 1W1P	AMEND/PMT	Martin Hedstrom	Bennington 5	Well Sealing	75%	\$3,400.00	\$2,550.00	9/11/2025	\$850.00	AMOUNT	\$2,550.00	9/11/2025

Soltau made a motion to approve the amendment to the Root River 1W1P cost share contract #RR24/25-25-03 for Dave Severson. The amendment includes increasing the cost share amount from \$15,842.70 to \$16,461.00. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve the waterway cost share payment for Dave Severson at \$16,461.00, 90% of the total cost of \$18,290.00. Funding for the waterway project will come from the FY24/25 Root River WBIF grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Soltau made a motion to approve the amendment to the Root River 1W1P cost share contract #RR24/25-24-12 for Martin Hedstrom. The amendment includes increasing the cost share amount from \$1,875.00 to \$2,550.00. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Kellogg made a motion to approve the well-sealing cost share payment of \$2,550.00 for Martin Hedstrom at 75% of the total cost of \$3,400.00. Funding for the well-sealing cost share payments will come from the FY24/25 Root River WBIF grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

#### RCPP Payments:

Contract #	Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Other	Year	Total Estimate/ Cost/ Cost per year	Total Cost Share/ Incentive Payment	Date
099-01-01	RCPP- SOIL HEALTH	PAYMENT	BATCH #1	Cover Crops	79Ac@\$50/Ac	1 year	\$3,950.00	\$3,950.00	9/11/2025
099-01-02	RCPP- SOIL HEALTH	PAYMENT	BATCH #1	Cover Crops	82Ac@\$50/Ac	1st	\$4,100.00	\$4,100.00	9/11/2025

Soltau made a motion to approve the 1-year cover crop payment for contract #099-01-01 at \$3,950.00 and the 1<sup>st</sup> year cover crop payment for contract #099-01-02 for \$4,100.00. Funding for the cover crops will come from the 2026 Soil Health Practices- RCPP grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Erichson made a motion to give District Manager the authority to sign any/all future RCPP Soil Health Practices grant agreements on behalf of the board, along with contracts with producers for any/all monthly batching. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

#### Copier Purchase:

Fox informed the board of the breakdown of the copier in the office. Kellogg made a motion to give staff the authority to purchase a new copy machine at a maximum of \$7,000.00. Equipment Replacement fund dollars will be used to purchase the copier. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

#### Discussion Items:

##### Orchard Creek:

Fox talked about and showed the board drone video and pictures of the new Orchard Creek access.

**Paid Family Medical Leave (PFML):**

Fox informed the board of the new PFML that will begin January 1, 2026. He explained that it will be a small cost to staff and the District. He will bring more information to board meetings as it becomes available.

**Health Insurance:**

Fox explained that he has been looking into other options for staff health insurance. He will have more information at the October board meeting.

**Staff Report (See Attached)**

The Staff Report and all programs were reviewed.

**Supervisor Reports:**

Area 7 Meeting:

Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be held Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.

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