

## 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.

Supervisors Present: Randy Smith                      Jon Erichson  
                                 Jim Kellogg                      Rod Moe  
                                 Jay Soltau

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 \_\_\_\_\_