

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on December 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
Jeanne Crump, Office Manager

Agenda:

Kellogg made a motion to approve the December agenda. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Public Input:

None

Secretary Report:

Erichson made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2024, board meeting. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Treasurer Report:

Budget Reports/Checks Payable:

The budget report and payables report were reviewed with the board. Kellogg made a motion to approve the financial reports, payables report, December payroll, to transfer money as needed and to pay all additional bills for 2024 by the end of December. Soltau second the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

BWSR Report, Dave Copeland:

Not in attendance.

NRCS Report, Teddy Moreno Santos:

Not in attendance.

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Not in attendance.

Action Items:

Cost Share:

Cedar Wapsi WBIF:

Contract #	Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Other	AMENDED TYPE	AMENDED COST SHARE	AMENDMENT APPROVAL DATE
CW20-23-15	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	AMEND/PMT	Diamond D LLC	Marshall & Dexter 25	Strip Till	250 ac @20/ac	DUE DATE AMENDED	12/31/2024	12/12/2024

Soltau made a motion to approve the amendment to Cedar Wapsi 1W1P strip till contract #CW20-23-15 for Diamond D LLC. This amendment will extend the contract end date to 12/31/24. Moe seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, 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	L/O Cost
CW20-23-15	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	AMEND/PMT	Diamond D LLC	Marshall & Dexter 25	Strip Till	250 ac @20/ac	2nd&3rd	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	12/12/2024	
CW22-24-17	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	PAYMENT	Robert Weimer	Windom 12	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1500		\$2,591.25	\$1,295.63	12/12/2024	\$1,295.63
CW24-24-26	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Crystal Johnson	Lansing 27	Well Sealing (2)	50% not to exceed \$1500		\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00	12/12/2024	\$2,500.00
CW24-24-27	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Leland Aanonson	Nevada 15	NoTill	16 ac@20		\$320.00	\$320.00	12/12/2024	

Soltau made a motion to approve the strip till payment for Diamond D LLC at \$10,000.00, which includes the 2nd & 3rd year payments of \$5000.00 each. Funding for this project will come from the 2022 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Moe seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau
Opposed: None

Moe made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share payment for Robert Weimer at \$1,295.63, 50% of the total cost of \$2,591.25 not to exceed \$1,500.00. Funding for this project will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau
Opposed: None

Kellogg made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share contract for Crystal Johnson for 2 wells at \$2,500.00, 50% of the total cost of \$5,000.00 for the 2 wells not to exceed \$1,500.00 per well. Funding for this project will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Soltau seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau
Opposed: None

Soltau made a motion to approve the no-till incentive contract for Leland Aanonson for \$320.00, 16ac @ \$20/ac. Funding will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF Grant. Soltau seconded the motion.
Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, 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
RR24/25-24-11	Root River 1W1P	CONTRACT	Darren Wendt	Pleasant Valley 9	Well Sealing	75%	\$2,900.00	\$2,175.00	12/12/2024	\$725.00
RR24/25-24-12	Root River 1W1P	CONTRACT	Martin Hedstrom	Bennington 5	Well Sealing	75%	\$2,500.00	\$1,875.00	12/12/2024	\$625.00

Kellogg made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share contracts for Darren Wendt at \$2,175.00, 75% of the total cost estimate of \$2,900.00 and Martin Hedstrom at \$1,875.00, 75% of the total cost estimate of \$2,500.00. Funding for these projects will come from the 24/25 Root River WBIF grant. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Tap-In Funds:

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
TI24-1	Tap In Funds	CONTRACT	Rudy Raatz	Sargeant 2	Reverse Osmosis	100%	\$2,495.00	\$2,495.00	12/12/2024

Moe made a motion to approve the reverse osmosis contract for Rudy Raatz at \$2,495.00. Funding for the reverse osmosis system will come from the Tap-In Grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

2025 Wage Scale:

2025 Wages	Wage Jan. 1	Wage on Anniv.
District Manager	\$52.61	\$52.61
Operation Specialist	\$39.22	\$39.22
Resource Specialist	\$45.89	\$45.89
Watershed Tech	\$41.11	\$42.42
Outreach Coord/Water Plann	\$40.79	\$40.79
Watershed Conservationist	\$35.14	\$36.27
District Tech	\$29.03	\$30.10
Conservation Tech	\$29.51	\$30.64

The board discussed the proposed 2025 wage scale. Kellogg made a motion to approve the 2025 proposed wage scale with a 3.5% cost of living increase January 1, 2025, and a step on the employee’s anniversary date. Moe seconded the motion. The board talked about health insurance and requested a summary of surrounding counties for informational purposes for 2026.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

2025 Final Budget:

Erichson made a motion to approve the final 2025 Budget. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

2025 Partner Agreement:

Moe made a motion to approve the 2025 agreement with CRWD. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Discussion Items:

MASWCD Convention:

The board discussed the convention that was held December 2-4.

SE Nitrate Legislation:

Fox updated the board on the nitrate legislation.

February Joint Meeting:

The board discussed having the joint meeting between the SWCD, CRWD and TCWD in February. Fox will follow up with the watershed districts and confirm a date.

Orchard Creek Access:

There will be an update on the access at the January 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 January 14, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____