

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on February 19, 2025. Held at the JC Hormel Nature Center.

Meeting was called to order by Randy Smith, Board Chairman.

Supervisors Present: Randy Smith Jim Kellogg
Rod Moe Jay Soltau

Staff Present: Cody Fox, District Manager Jeanne Crump
Tim Ruzek Micah Peterson
Paul Hunter Jessica Bulman

Others Present: Dave Copeland, BWSR Leanna Smeby, NRCS
Annie Gunness, BWSR Shelby Oldenkamp, PF

Agenda:

Kellogg made a motion to approve the February agenda. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Secretary Report:

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

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Treasurer Report:

Checks Payable:

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

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

BWSR Report, Annie Gunness:

Gunness updated the board on the new RCPP Water Storage grant.

NRCS Report, Leanna Smeby:

Smeby updated the board on EQIP and 2024 projects in the county. The board held discussion.

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Not in attendance.

Action Items:

Cost Share:

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
RR24/25-24-02	Root River 1W1P	PAYMENT	Roger Bhend	LeRoy 29	Well Sealing	75%	\$4,275.00	\$3,206.25	2/19/2025	\$1,068.75
RR24/25-25-01	Root River 1W1P	CONTRACT	Gerald Claeys	Pleasant Valley 27	Well Sealing	75%	\$3,200.00	\$2,400.00	2/19/2025	\$800.00
RR24/25-25-02	Root River 1W1P	CONTRACT	Brian Johnson	Pleasant Valley 25	Well Sealing	75%	\$3,000.00	\$2,250.00	2/19/2025	\$750.00

Kellogg made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share payment for Roger Bhend at \$3206.25, 75% of the total cost of \$4275.00. Funding for this project will come from the FY24/25 Root River WBIF grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Soltau made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share contract for Gerald Claeys at \$2400.00, 75% of the total cost estimate of \$3200.00. Funding for this project will come from the FY24/25 Root River WBIF grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Soltau made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share contract for Brian Johnson at \$2250.00, 75% of the total cost estimate of \$3000.00. Funding for this project will come from the FY24/25 Root River WBIF grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Discussion Items:

ARPA Soil Health:

Fox informed the board staff have discussed and will be bringing a revised ARPA policy that was discussed with the board last fall. The funding is not conventional funding, so staff are excited about the opportunity to work with producers and understand more about cover crops and soil health and why those practices don't seem to be regularly adopted long term in our area.

RCPP Soil Health Updates:

Fox informed the board of the RCPP Soil Health grant that is in the works. The grant will be funded by NRCS and BWSR with distribution by BWSR. Staff are waiting to hear more information with a freeze on many federal things. Fox will be working on payment policies to be brought before the board.

Staff Report (See Attached)

The Staff Report and all programs were reviewed.

Supervisor Reports:

Smith informed the board of the NACD annual meeting that he attended.

Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be held Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____