

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on January 8, 2026. Held at 1408 21st Ave NW, Austin, MN.

Meeting was called to order by Cody Fox, District Manager.

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

Staff Present: Cody Fox, District Manager
Jeanne Crump, Office Manager

Election of Offices:

Fox led the election of offices, offices included: Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer/Secretary.

Kellogg nominated Smith for Chairman of the Board. Kellogg made a motion that nominations cease and called for a unanimous vote to elect Smith as Chairman. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Abstained: Smith

Kellogg nominated Moe for Vice Chairman of the Board. Kellogg made a motion that nominations cease and called for a unanimous vote to elect Moe as Vice Chairman. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Abstained: Moe

Kellogg nominated Erichson for Secretary/Treasurer. Moe made a motion that nominations cease and called for a unanimous vote to elect Erichson as Treasurer/Secretary. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Abstained: Erichson

The 2026 office holders are:

Chairman: Randy Smith
Vice Chairman: Rod Moe
Treasurer/Secretary: Jon Erichson

Agenda:

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

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Secretary Report:

Erichson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2025, board meeting. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Treasurer Report:

Checks Payable:

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

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Not in attendance.

BWSR Report, Annie Gunness:

Not in attendance.

NRCS Report, Teddy Moreno-Santos:

Not in attendance.

Action Items:

Legal Paper:

Erichson made a motion to keep the designation of the Austin Daily Herald as the official legal paper of the District in 2026. Kellogg second the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Bank of Depository:

Kellogg made a motion to continue with the current banks, US bank as the bank of depository for checking and First State Bank MN in LeRoy for the District savings and CD's. Soltau second the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

SWCD Board Meeting Time/Place:

Erichson made a motion for the SWCD monthly board meetings to be on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 8:00am at the Mower SWCD building conference room. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

2026 District Fees:

Fox talked about the proposed 2026 Fees. Erichson made a motion to approve the 2026 Fee schedule as presented. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Committee Appointments:

The board discussed the SWCD committees. Smith made the following appointments.

The 2026 Committee Appointments:

Personnel:	Randy Smith & Jon Erichson
Finance:	Jon Erichson & Randy Smith
Water Planning:	Jon Erichson
Joint Powers:	Rod Moe, Randy Smith alternate
Legislative Committee:	Jon Erichson, Rod Moe alternate
Feedlot Committee:	Randy Smith, Jim Kellogg alternate
Watershed District Liaison:	Jon Erichson
Root River Policy Committee:	Jim Kellogg, Jay Soltau alternate
Cedar River Wtrshd. Policy Com:	Randy Smith, Rod Moe alternate

Manager Signature Authority:

Erichson made a motion to authorize the District Manager to sign finance reports and grant applications/agreements on behalf of the board. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

SWCD Aid Resolution:

Erichson made a motion to approve the SWCD Aid Resolution. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

SWCD Election Options:

The board discussed the options for SWCD supervisor elections. Currently, SWCD supervisors are elected at large, and the new option is to change to election by district. The board held discussion. This item was tabled.

Cost Share:

ARPA:

Contract #	Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Other	Year	Total Estimate/ Cost	Total Cost Share	Date
ARPA-23-08	ARPA Funding	PAYMENT	Clinton Jones	Pleasant Valley 15	Cover Crops	125 ac @20	3rd	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	1/8/2026
ARPA-23-09	ARPA Funding	PAYMENT	Daryle Irlbeck	Racine 3	Cover Crops	113 ac @20	3rd	\$2,260.00	\$2,260.00	1/8/2026
ARPA-23-10	ARPA Funding	PAYMENT	Marc Irlbeck	Racine 3	Cover Crops	120 ac @20	3rd	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00	1/8/2026
ARPA-23-06	ARPA Funding	PAYMENT	Terry Jones	Frankford 19	Cover Crops	125 ac @20	3rd	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	1/8/2026

Soltau made a motion to approve the 4- 3rd year cover crop incentive payments. Funding for these incentives will come from ARPA funds. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Cedar Wapsi:

Contract #	Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Other	Year	Total Estimate/ Cost	Total Cost Share	Date	L/O Cost
CW24-24-21	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	PAYMENT	Mark Yunker	Marshall 19 & 20	Cover Crops	160 ac @40	2nd	\$6,400.00	\$6,400.00	1/8/2026	
CW24-26-01	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	David Fasbender	Adams 11	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1500		\$2,500.00	\$1,500.00	1/8/2026	\$1,000.00

Moe made a motion to approve the 2nd year cover crop incentive payment of \$6,400.00 for Mark Yunker. Funding for the incentive will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Erichson made a motion to approve the well sealing cost share contract for David Fasbender at \$1500.00, 50% of the total cost not to exceed \$1,500.00. Funding for this project will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Root River:

Contract #	Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Other	Year	Total Estimate/ Cost	Total Cost Share	Date	L/O Cost
RR24/25-24-04	Root River 1W1P	PAYMENT	Carl Nielsen	Frankford 26/Grand Meadow 4	Cover Crops	159 ac @40	2nd	\$6,360.00	\$6,360.00	1/8/2026	
RR24/25-24-05	Root River 1W1P	PAYMENT	CJ Inglebret	Grand Meadow 24	Cover Crops	25 ac @40	2nd	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	1/8/2026	
RR24/25-25-12	Root River 1W1P	PAYMENT	Kari Haarstad	Dexter 2	Well Sealing	75%		\$2,976.60	\$2,232.45	1/8/2026	\$744.15

Kellogg made a motion to approve the 2- 2nd year cover crop incentive payments for Carl Nielsen and CJ Inglebret. Funding for the incentives 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 well sealing cost share payment for Kari Haarstad at \$2,232.45, 75% of the total cost of \$2,976.60. Funding for this project will come from the FY24/25 Root River WBIF grant. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

RCPP:

Funding Source	Contract #	Ranking Score	Contract Total \$	Contract Length	Acres	Practice	Cover Crop Payment	
							Payment	Date
RCPP	099-01-03	55	\$148,260	3 year	706	Cover Crop & Strip Till	\$35,300.00	1/8/2026
RCPP	099-03-04	45	\$56,000	1 year	800	Cover Crop & Strip Till	\$40,000.00	1/8/2026

Soltau made a motion to approve the 1st year cover crop payment for contract #099-01-03 for \$35,300.00 and the 1-year cover crop payment for contract #099-03-04 at \$40,000.00. Funding for the cover crops will come from the 2026 Soil Health Practices- RCPP grant. Moe seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

February Joint Meeting Date:

The board held discussion on the February joint board meeting with the Cedar River Watershed District and Turtle Creek Watershed District. Erichson made a motion to hold the February joint meeting on Wednesday, February 18 beginning at 4:00 at the JC Hormel Nature Center. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Moe, Soltau

Opposed: None

Discussion Items:

No discussion items for January.

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 February 18, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____