

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on June 10, 2026. 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 Jay Soltau

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

Others Present: Dave Copeland, BWSR (zoom)
 Teddy Moreno Santos, NRCS

Agenda:

Kellogg made a motion to approve the June agenda. Erichson seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Secretary Report:

Erichson made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2026, board meeting. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Treasurer Report:

Budget Report/Checks Payable:

The May budget report/program summary and June payables report were reviewed with the board. Kellogg made a motion to approve the May budget report/program summary, June payables, June payroll, and to transfer money as needed. Soltau second the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Not in attendance.

BWSR Report, Dave Copeland:

Copeland informed the board that Annie Gunness will be back to work mid-September, he also updated the board on Cedar Wapsi WBIF policy updates, the next CW WBIF grant application, Root River 10-year review and the CWF application submitted by the Cedar River Watershed District.

NRCS Report, Teddy Moreno Santos:

Moreno Santos updated the board on NRCS programs, to include, EQIP and CSP.

Action Items:

Cost Share:

Cedar Wapsi WBIF:

Contract #	Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Other	Year	Total Estimate/ Cost	Total Cost Share	Date
CW24-24-22	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	PAYMENT	Joe Sheely	Dexter 7/Waltham 32 & 33	Cover Crops	94 ac @40	2nd	\$3,760.00	\$880.00	6/10/2026

Erichson made a motion to approve the 2nd year cover crop incentive payment for Joe Sheely at \$3,760.00. Funding for this incentive payment will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon 1W1P grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Contract #	Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Other	Total Estimate/ Cost	Total Estimated Cost Share	Date
CW24-26-07	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Tanya Cook	Nevada 19	Waterway	90%	\$14,779.00	\$2,931.10	6/10/2026
CW24-26-08	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Barbara Felten	Nevada 25	Waterway	90%	\$11,516.00	\$1,475.40	6/10/2026
CW24-26-09	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Joseph Gossman	Windom 22	Waterway	90%	\$7,313.00	\$2,433.70	6/10/2026
CW24-26-10	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Golden Acres LLC	Windom 22	Waterway	90%	\$21,173.00	\$4,734.70	6/10/2026
CW24-26-11	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Carpenter Farms GP	Marshall 1	Waterway	90%	\$25,072.00	\$7,750.00	6/10/2026
CW24-26-12	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Matt Taylor	Lansing 22	Waterway	90%	\$3,954.00	\$1,582.60	6/10/2026

Kellogg made a motion to approve the above 6 waterway cost share contracts not to exceed the total estimated cost share and 90% of the total cost when combined with additional federal cost share dollars. Funding for the waterway projects will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsipinicon WBIF grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Contract #	Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Other	Total Estimate/ Cost	Total Cost Share	Date
CW24-26-13	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Brian Kasel	Marshall 17	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1500	\$2,525.00	\$1,500.00	6/10/2026
CW24-26-14	Cedar-Wapsi 1W1P	CONTRACT	Joann Wollschlager	Lansing 11	Well Sealing	50% not to exceed \$1500	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00	6/10/2026

Soltau made a motion to approve the well-sealing cost share contracts for Brian Kasel and Joann Wollschlager for 50% of the total cost not to exceed \$1500.00 per contract. Funding for these projects will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsi WBIF grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Root River WBIF:

Contract #	Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Other	Total Estimate/ Cost	Total Estimated Cost Share	Date
RR24/25-26-01	Root River 1W1P	CONTRACT	Lisa Start	Bennington 33	Waterway	90%	\$13,700.00	\$2,947.00	6/10/2026
RR24/25-26-02	Root River 1W1P	CONTRACT	Lisa Start	Bennington 29	Waterway	90%	\$21,010.00	\$5,082.00	6/10/2026
RR24/25-26-03	Root River 1W1P	CONTRACT	Lisa Start	Bennington 21	Waterway	90%	\$42,228.00	\$12,821.20	6/10/2026
RR24/25-26-04	Root River 1W1P	CONTRACT	Ryan Gehling	Grand Meadow 18	Waterway	90%	\$27,261.00	\$6,757.90	6/10/2026

Kellogg made a motion to approve the above 4 waterway cost share contracts not to exceed the total estimated cost share and 90% of the total cost when combined with additional federal cost share dollars. Funding for the waterway projects will come from the FY24/25 Root River WBIF grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Conservation Contracts:

Contract #	Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Other	Total Estimate/ Cost	Total Cost Share	Date	L/O Cost
CC26/27-26-1	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Rich and Sharon Bergstrom	Marshall 29	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$504.86	\$252.43	6/10/2026	\$252.43
CC26/27-26-10	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Connor Goodwin	Waltham 5	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$1,708.74	\$854.37	6/10/2026	\$854.37
CC26/27-26-13	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Paul Ulwelling	Sargeant 15	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$2,098.17	\$1,000.00	6/10/2026	\$1,098.17
CC26/27-26-18	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Paul and Gretchen Eickhoff	Dexter 15	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$900.75	\$450.38	6/10/2026	\$450.37
CC26/27-26-19	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Mark Wilson	Marshall 9	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$2,378.64	\$1,000.00	6/10/2026	\$1,378.64
CC26/27-26-2	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Bob Gebhardt	Waltham 15	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$1,186.63	\$593.32	6/10/2026	\$593.31
CC26/27-26-20	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Jessica Fretty	Grand Meadow 2	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$631.07	\$315.54	6/10/2026	\$315.53
CC26/27-26-21	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Ron Gilgenbach	Lodi 29	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$1,711.98	\$855.99	6/10/2026	\$855.99
CC26/27-26-23	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Eric Boe	Windom 36	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$2,491.91	\$1,000.00	6/10/2026	\$1,491.91
CC26/27-26-24	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Lucas Schaefer	Lodi 32	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$3,601.95	\$1,000.00	6/10/2026	\$2,601.95
CC26/27-26-25	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Troy Hale	Clayton 14	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$659.12	\$329.56	6/10/2026	\$329.56
CC26/27-26-28	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Rick Roe	Adams 25	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$879.18	\$439.59	6/10/2026	\$439.59
CC26/27-26-3	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Garrett Wehner	Lodi 18	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$1,323.63	\$661.82	6/10/2026	\$661.81
CC26/27-26-32	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Sarah Gossman	Nevada 1	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$1,779.94	\$889.97	6/10/2026	\$889.97
CC26/27-26-35	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Gene Kline	Lyle 19	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$1,186.63	\$593.32	6/10/2026	\$593.31
CC26/27-26-36	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Daniel Till	Leroy 30	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$3,488.68	\$1,000.00	6/10/2026	\$2,488.68
CC26/27-26-5	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Dan and Kathy Blanchard	Sargeant 20	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$522.12	\$261.06	6/10/2026	\$261.06
CC26/27-26-6	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	James Baumgartner	Udolpho 25	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$854.37	\$427.19	6/10/2026	\$427.18
CC26/27-26-9	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Bruce and Lori Bergstrom	Adams 24	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$1,722.76	\$861.38	6/10/2026	\$861.38

Erichson made a motion to approve the above 19 windbreak cost share payments at 50% not to exceed \$1,000. Funding for these windbreaks will come from the FY26 and 27 Conservation Contracts grants. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Contract #	Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Landowner	Twp/Sect	Project	Total Cost Share Rate/Other	Total Estimate/ Cost	Total Estimated Cost Share	Date	L/O Cost
CC26/27-26-26	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Randy Smith*	Adams 30	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$1,169.37	\$584.69	6/10/2026	\$584.68
CC26/27-26-30	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Rick Smith*	Adams 31	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$522.12	\$261.06	6/10/2026	\$261.06

Soltau made a motion to approve the windbreak cost share payments for Randy Smith and Rick Smith at 50% not to exceed \$1,000. Funding for the windbreaks will come from the FY27 Conservation Contract grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Abstained: Smith

RCPP-Soil Health Practices:

Contract #	Acres		Practice	Total Payment
099-01-03	706	PAYMENT	Strip Till	\$14,120.00
099-02-10	67	PAYMENT	Strip Till	\$1,340.00
099-02-09	452	PAYMENT	Strip Till	\$9,040.00
099-02-13	93	PAYMENT	Strip Till	\$1,860.00
099-03-04	800	PAYMENT	Strip Till	\$16,000.00
099-03-14	165	PAYMENT	No Till	\$3,300.00
099-03-05	431	PAYMENT	Strip Till	\$8,620.00
099-03-08	1097	PAYMENT	Strip Till	\$21,940.00
099-03-11	140	PAYMENT	Strip Till	\$2,800.00
099-05-23	54	PAYMENT	Strip Till	\$1,080.00

Soltau made a motion to approve the 1-year strip till/no till payments for the above contracts. Funding for the incentives will come from the 2026 Soil Health Practices- RCPP grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Discussion Items:

Preliminary 2027 Budget:

Not ready yet.

EPA Farmer to Farm Grant:

Fox talked about the EPA Farmer to Farm Grant opportunity. Fox and Riley Buley, Fillmore SWCD manager, are looking into sending a joint watershed application between the Cedar Wapsi watershed and the Root River watershed.

2026 Tree Report:

The board discussed the 2026 tree report and the 20,000 plus trees sold.

Staff Report (See Attached)

The Staff Report and all programs were reviewed.

Supervisor Reports:

No supervisor reports were added.

Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____