

Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District

Minutes of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District on May 13, 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

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

Agenda:

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

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Secretary Report:

Erichson made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2026, board meeting. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Treasurer Report:

Budget Report/Checks Payable:

The April budget report and May payables report were reviewed with the board. Kellogg made a motion to approve the April budget report, May payables, May payroll, and to transfer money as needed. Erichson second the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Commissioner Report, Polly Glynn:

Not in attendance.

BWSR Report, Dave Copeland:

Copeland updated the board on RCPP soil health and Mower SWCD's work and the CWF application submitted by the Cedar River Watershed District.

NRCS Report, Teddy Moreno Santos:

Moreno Santos updated the board on NRCS programs and the recent funding for structural practices through EQIP.

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	Total Cost Share	Date	L/O Cost
CW24-26-05	Cedar-Wapsi IWIP	PAYMENT	Paul Ebeling	Lansing 10	Well Sealing (2)	50% not to exceed \$1500/well	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00	5/13/2026	\$1,500.00

Kellogg made a motion to approve the well-sealing cost share payment of \$1,500 for Paul Ebeling (2 wells) at 50% of the total cost of \$3,000. Funding for this project will come from the FY24/25 Cedar Wapsi WBIF grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Tap-In Program:

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
TI26-1	Tap In Funds	PAYMENT	Paul Ebeling	Lansing 10	New Well Construction	50% not to exceed \$8000	\$17,750.00	\$8,000.00	5/13/2026	\$9,750.00

Soltau made a motion to approve the new well construction payment of \$8,000 for Paul Ebeling at 50% of the cost of \$17,750, not to exceed \$8,000. Funding for the new well construction will come from the Tap-In Grant. Kellogg 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
CC26/27-26-4	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Ellen Sunde	Udolpho 32	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$645.09	\$322.55	5/13/2026	\$322.54
CC26/27-26-7	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	David Yahn	Marshall 4	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$894.28	\$447.14	5/13/2026	\$447.14
CC26/27-26-11	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Matt Bissen	Red Rock 28	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$1,186.63	\$593.32	5/13/2026	\$593.31
CC26/27-26-14	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Mark Yunker	Marshall 7	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$864.08	\$432.04	5/13/2026	\$432.04
CC26/27-26-15	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Micah Peterson	Pleasant Valley 33	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$982.74	\$491.37	5/13/2026	\$491.37
CC26/27-26-17	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Doug Meyer	Austin 28	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$610.57	\$305.29	5/13/2026	\$305.28
CC26/27-26-27	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Eric Lee	Dexter 1	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$2,807.99	\$1,000.00	5/13/2026	\$1,807.99
CC26/27-26-29	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Jim Richardson	Grand Meadow 24	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$1,067.96	\$533.98	5/13/2026	\$533.98
CC26/27-26-31	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Kenneth Williams	Lodi 18	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$1,447.68	\$723.84	5/13/2026	\$723.84
CC26/27-26-33	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Francis Michel	Leroy 23	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$598.17	\$299.09	5/13/2026	\$299.08
CC26/27-26-34	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Sandy Munson	Clayton 16	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$545.85	\$272.93	5/13/2026	\$272.92
CC26/27-26-37	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Grand Meadow Gun Club	Frankford 20	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$690.40	\$345.20	5/13/2026	\$345.20

Kellogg made a motion to approve the above 12 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 Cost Share	Date	L/O Cost
CC26/27-26-16	Conservation Contracts	PAYMENT	Jay Soltau*	Pleasant Valley 33	Windbreak	50% not to exceed \$1000	\$2,729.24	\$1,000.00	5/13/2026	\$1,729.24

Erichson made a motion to approve the windbreak cost share payment of \$1,000 for Jay Soltau at 50% not to exceed \$1,000. Funding for this windbreak will come from the FY26 Conservation Contract grant. Kellogg seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg

Opposed: None

Abstained: Soltau

Contract #	Funding Source	Contract/ Payment Approval	Project	Total Incentive Payment
099-02-07	RCPP-SOIL HEALTH	PAYMENT	Strip Till	\$ 27,940.00

Erichson made a motion to approve the 1-year strip till payment for contract #099-02-07 at \$27,940. Funding for the strip till incentive will come from the 2026 Soil Health Practices- RCPP grant. Soltau seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Smith, Erichson, Kellogg, Soltau

Opposed: None

Discussion Items:

Groundwater Protection Program:

Fox updated the board that he expects \$2.8 million to go to Olmsted SWCD for the Groundwater protection program. Those funds will be split between Counties in the Southeast. Fox expects if the funds are released that Mower SWCD could expect approximately \$250,000 if fully funded.

Fox also explained the difference between the program and traditional RCPP or cover crop programs.

CRWD CIP Update

Fox updated the board that CRWD secured two large easements at their April board meeting. Bids were to be opened later in the day on May 13th.

Board Elections

Fox reminded Smith and Kellogg of their expiring terms and their filing period for re-election is May 19-June 2.

Whitewater Update

Fox updated the board that the Whitewater project is at 30% designs and is working on gathering funds to move the design forward to 60%.

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, June 10, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.

APPROVED _____ DATE _____