

**Minutes of the meeting of the
Rock County Soil and Water Conservation District
Monday, November 20, 2023**

A meeting of the Rock County Soil and Water Conservation District Board was held Monday, November 20, 2023 at 8:00 AM at the Prairie Service Center with the following members present: Josh Ossefoort, Dave Esselink, Gene Cragoe, County Commissioner Stan Williamson, Director Eric Hartman, Assistant Director Doug Bos, Office Manager Mary Thompson, and Office Manager Shayla Rock. Absent: Roger Hoff and Jim Veldkamp

Vice Chair Ossefoort called the meeting to order and asked for any additions to the agenda. With no additions, motion to approve by Dave Esselink, second by Gene Cragoe. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Grant Agreements:

Thompson presented the Buffer Law grant agreement explaining all signatures are electronic now so we are asking for signature authorization for Hartman. Motion to approve by Esselink, second by Cragoe. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Thompson presented FY24/FY25 Soil and Water Conservation District Programs and Operations Grant Agreement. Thompson also explained that we will be receiving FY24 and FY25 this year due to a change in language by the legislation. They were able to amend to allow expiration of both year funds to 12/31/2025 rather than 6/30/25 so are sending both years at once to allow the 2 years to spend. Typically, the expiration date on the funds would be 12/31/2026. Motion to approve signature authorization to Eric Hartman by Cragoe, second by Esselink. All ayes, no oppose, motion carried.

Thompson presented the following Cost Share Contracts:

FY23-1 for Robert Sandager for a rock chute located in Beaver Creek Township, in the NW ¼ of Section 33 for \$7,357.50. Motion to approve by Cragoe, second by Esselink. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

CUA-66 for Brian Knips for conservation use acres located in Magnolia Township, Section 36, NW ¼ for 8.5 acres/\$150.00 per acre. Motion to approve by Esselink, second by Cragoe.

Cost Share Payments:

Thompson presented the following cost share payments for approval:

Contract FY21-LC-4 for Sells Farms, LTD for \$11,344.64 for a grassed waterway located in Beaver Creek Township, Section 16, SE ¼. Motion approve by Cragoe, second by Esselink. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Contract FY22-LC-1 for Todd Matus for \$18,292.07 for a grassed waterway located in Beaver Creek Township, Section 21, NE ¼. Motion to approve by Esselink, second by Cragoe. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Contract FY23-BSH-2 – for Mark Nelson for 37 acres of single species cover crops for \$3,873.90 located in Martion Township, Section 32, SW ¼. Motion to approve by Cragoe, second by Esselink. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Conservation Use Acres Payments:

CUA-63 for Sells Farms, LTD for small grain/cover crop for 10 acres/\$100.00 per acre for a total of \$1,000.00. Motion to approve by Esselink, second by Cragoe. All Ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

CUA-64 for Sells Farms, LTD for small grain/cover crop for 10 acres/\$100.00 per acre for a total of \$1,000.00 Motion approved by Cragoe, second by Esselink. All Ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

CUA-65 for Todd Matus for small grain/cover crop for 8.5 acres/ \$150.00 per acre for a total of \$1,050.00. Motion approved by Esselink, second by Cragoe. All Ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

CUA-61 for John Bowron for small grain/cover crop for 10 acres/\$100.00 per acres for a total of \$1,000.00. Motion approved by Cragoe, second by Esselink. All Ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

CUA-62 for Jeff Ahrendt for small grain/cover crop for 4 acres/\$100.00 \$400.00. Motion approved by Esselink, second by Cragoe. All Ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Conservation Use Acre Contract Cancellation:

Thompson requested contract CUA-57 for Roger Wynia be cancelled as nothing was planted. Motion to approve by Esselink, second by Cragoe. All Ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

One Watershed One Plan Projects:

Bos stated the FY 24 funding is \$2 million. Tech group allocated 1.2 million for projects and \$800,000 for soil health. Some new incentives including stacking options of cover crop and strip till/no till on the same acres/\$10 per acre and \$20/per acre for stacked practices on the same acres for 3 years. Single species cover crop was increased to \$40 per acre and multi-species to \$60 per acre. Stacking options will be determined as to what is best for each farming operation.

Bos also stated there is potential for the SWCD to receive \$200,000 for soil health. Area V has potential for other grants for Decker's position, soil health field days and workshops.

Drill:

The board requested staff look into replacing the drill at the September meeting. Thompson stated for 2022 and 2023 combined drill income was \$10,082.10. Expenses for the drill for 2022 and 2023 were \$4,843.16, leaving a profit of \$5,238.94. Hartman stated ballpark for a new drill is estimated to be around \$45,000. Current drill that was purchased 7 years ago is estimated around \$32,000. Hartman will start looking at getting bids for new drill.

2024 Tree Prices:

Thompson presented tree price updates for 2024 along with adjusting the planting fee from \$135 to \$150. Motion to approve by Cragoe, second by Esselink. All Ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Bills for Post Approval:

Thompson presented the following bills for post-approval.

Regular Checking 10/6/23:

A/P Date	Vendor Number	Vendor Name	Total Amount
10/06/2023	2295	HOUSTON ENGINEERING INC	\$9,292.25
10/06/2023	13092	MVTL LABORATORIES INC	\$710.20
10/06/2023	18751	ROCK COUNTY LAND MANGEMENT	\$250.00

Total: \$ 10,252.45

Regular Checking 10/20/23:

A/P Date	Vendor Number	Vendor Name	Total Amount
10/20/2023	2295	HOUSTON ENGINEERING INC	\$2,677.50
10/20/2023	12060	LUVERNE/CITY OF	\$29.00
10/20/2023	4057	NEW VISION COOP	\$11,246.18
10/20/2023	100	SUNSHINE FOODS	\$5.97

Total: \$13,958.65

Cost Share Checking 10/6/23:

A/P Date	Vendor Number	Vendor Name	Total Amount
10/06/2023	18751	ROCK COUNTY LAND MANGEMENT	\$50.00

Total: \$50.00

Cost Share Checking 11/10/23

A/P Date	Vendor Number	Vendor Name	Total Amount
11/10/2023	20015	TOLLEFSON PUBLISHING	\$169.25

Total: \$169.25

Motion to approve by Esselink, second by Cragoe. All Ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Bills for Approval:

Thompson presented the following bills for approval.

Bills for Approval 11-20-2023

Regular Checking

A/P Date	Vendor Number	Vendor Name	Total Amount
11/20/2023	638	MILMORE CONSOLIDATED	\$160.00
11/20/2023	13060	MN DEPT OF AGRICULTURE	\$250.00
11/20/2023	14420	NATIONAL ASSOC OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS	\$775.00
11/20/2		HOUSTON ENGINEERING, INC.	\$6,654.00

Total: \$ 7,839.00

Motion to approve by Cragoe, second by Esselink. All Ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Financial Statements:

Hartman presented the October financial statements. Thompson stated the \$110,000 income is the grant dollars for staff development of MS4 Front with Houston Engineering. After review, motion to approve by Esselink, second by Cragoe. All Ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Hartman presented the November financial statements. Thompson stated the \$20,734.07 income is from the Nature Conservancy for the Conservation Agronomist position. After review, motion to approve by Cragoe, second by Esselink. All Ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Minutes:

The September 18, 2023 minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve by Esselink, second by Cragoe. All ayes, no oppose, motion carried.

Upcoming Meeting:

Next meeting Monday, December 18, 2023

Motion to adjourn by Cragoe, second by Esselink. All ayes, no opposes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Shayla Rock
Office Manager