

**Minutes of the Cedar River Watershed District**  
**1408 21<sup>st</sup> Ave NW, Austin, MN 55912**  
**Wednesday, May 21, 2025**  
**Meeting held at the Austin office**

Managers Present:     Steve Kraushaar                     Mike Jones  
                                 Mike Merten                     Kevin Kiser  
                                 Sue Olson                     Joe Sheely

Others Present:        Cody Fox, Administrator  
                                 Jeanne Crump, Mower SWCD  
                                 Dave Livingston, Dodge SWCD  
                                 Annie Gunness, BWSR – (Zoom)

Chairman Olson, called the board meeting to order.

Introductions were made for newly appointed Mower County representative board member, Joe Sheely.

**Agenda**

Jones made a motion to approve the May agenda. Kiser seconded the motion.  
Affirmative: Jones, Kraushaar, Merten, Kiser, Olson, Sheely  
Opposed: None

**Public Input**

No public input.

**Secretary's Report**

The minutes were presented to the board from the April 21, 2025, board meeting. Olson made a motion to approve the minutes. Kraushaar seconded the motion.  
Affirmative: Jones, Kraushaar, Merten, Kiser, Olson, Sheely  
Opposed: None

**Treasurer's Report**

Jones reviewed the April month end reports with the board. Merten made a motion to approve the April month end reports. Olson seconded the motion.  
Affirmative: Jones, Kraushaar, Merten, Kiser, Olson, Sheely  
Opposed: None

The May payables report, check #4210-4215, was reviewed with the board. Kraushaar made a motion to approve the payables for May. Kiser seconded the motion.  
Affirmative: Jones, Kraushaar, Merten, Kiser, Olson, Sheely  
Opposed: None

Crump reviewed the 2024 yearend balance sheet and the summary of committed fund balance with the board.

**Action Items**

**Repairs to Project #5-17**

Fox updated the board on a washout on project #5-17. Jones made a motion to approve paying for the repairs with the Maintenance Levy, not to exceed \$13,000. Kiser seconded the motion.  
Affirmative: Jones, Kraushaar, Merten, Kiser, Olson, Sheely  
Opposed: None

### **319 Sample Costs**

Fox explained that some samples that were part of the Federal 319 grant were not sent in time to be reimbursed via the 319 grant. MPCA is the lead contact for the grant and they are pushing CRWD to have the samples processed as the samples were apart of the grant work plan. Staff are asking the board to approve \$3,680 for sample work for Rhithron and \$215 for Kara Fitzpatrick for shipping samples.

Kiser made a motion to pay Kara Fitzpatrick \$215 for shipping the samples and to pay Rhithron Associates, Inc \$3680 for the sample identification. Kraushaar seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Jones, Kraushaar, Merten, Kiser, Olson, Sheely

Opposed: None

### **Partners Reports**

#### **Dodge SWCD, Dave Livingston**

Livingston updated the board on Dodge SWCD, to include a new technician starting soon.

#### **BWSR, Annie Gunness**

Gunness introduced herself to the board as the new BWSR board conservationist for the watershed and updated on BWSR programs.

### **Discussion and Updates**

#### **Project Updates**

Fox updated the board on an obstruction on project #4-16 that the landowner has placed on CRWD project #4-16. Fox showed the board the easement language and reminded them that CRWD compensated the landowner for the easement to be maintained and the conditions that go along with the easement. The board instructed Fox to meet with the landowner, along with the engineer of the project. Rinke-Noonan may be contacted if resolution does not come from the landowner meeting.

#### **Soil Health RCPP Grant Update**

Fox and Gunness informed the board of the RCPP Soil Health grant that the Mower SWCD office will be receiving.

#### **Ellis Ditch Update**

Fox explained that the City of Austin has hired WHKS to study and review existing conditions for options to minimize flooding chances in the city, specifically around the Ellis Ditch area. Fox informed the board that he has shared the H & H model and hydrocad model with the engineers to help save time. The city will be taking the lead on this project with the CRWD staying informed of progress.

### **Manager's Reports**

#### **Chairman Report**

Nothing new.

Kiser made a motion to adjourn the board meeting. Merten seconded the motion.

Affirmative: Jones, Kraushaar, Merten, Kiser, Olson, Sheely

Opposed: None

Next meeting will be Wednesday, June 19, 2025.

Submitted by,

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*Kevin Kiser, Secretary, jkc*