

Minutes of the Cedar River Watershed District
1408 21st Ave NW, Austin, MN 55912
Wednesday, July 15, 2026
Meeting held at the Mower SWCD Office, Austin

Managers Present:	Mike Jones	Steve Kraushaar
	Mike Merten	Kevin Kiser
	Jason Weis	Sue Olson
	Joe Sheely	
Others Present:	Cody Fox, Administrator	Jeanne Crump, Mower SWCD
	James Fett, Mower SWCD	Dave Livingston, Dodge SWCD
	Justin Watkins, MPCA	Ben Lundeen, MPCA (Zoom)

The board meeting was called to order by Chairman, Weis.

Agenda

Website was added to the Discussion and Updates section on the agenda. Olson made a motion to approve the adjusted July agenda. Kiser seconded the motion.

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

Opposed: None

Public Input

No public input.

Secretary's Report

The minutes were presented to the board of the June 17, 2026, board meeting. Merten made a motion to approve the minutes. Kraushaar seconded the motion.

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

Opposed: None

Treasurer's Report

Jones reviewed the June month end reports with the board. Kraushaar made a motion to approve the June month end reports. Weis seconded the motion.

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

Opposed: None

The July payables report, check #4327-4337, was reviewed with the board. Olson made a motion to approve the payables for July. Sheely seconded the motion.

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

Opposed: None

Discussion and Updates

319 Discussion/Presentation with MPCA Staff

Justin Watkins and Ben Lundeen, MPCA, presented on the monitoring that the SWCD has been doing in Dobbins Creek. They talked about the WRAPS (Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy) document for the Dobbins 319 project.

2027 Preliminary Budget and Levies

The board held discussion on the 2027 budget. Fox discussed keeping the administrative, project and maintenance levies for an additional 5 years, through 2031. He cited how important bringing in the project levy to leverage other state and federal dollars.

RCPP Water Storage

Fox talked about the RCPP Water Storage grant that was not approved for Minnesota the first round and that BWSR is talking about applying for the next grant.

Flooding

Fox showed pictures from June flooding around the watershed. The board held discussion.

Permitting

Fett talked about MN DOT work in Blooming Prairie. JHS is working with them. There will be more information for the August board meeting.

Website

Fox talked about a new website for the CRWD, integrated with the Mower SWCD site. More information will be brought to the board at the August board meeting.

Action Items

Set Hearing for 2027 Budget and Levies

Olson made a motion to set the hearing date for August 19 at 6:00pm for the 2027 budget and levies. Kiser seconded the motion.

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

Opposed: None

Partners Reports

Dodge SWCD, Dave Livingston

Livingston talked about the Dodge County fair going on this week.

BWSR, Dave Copeland

Not in attendance.

Manager's Reports

Jones talked about the change order on the Rugg project. He also asked if the 2 projects would be done in 2026 and Fox said that they should be.

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

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

Opposed: None

Next meeting will be Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 6:00pm.

Submitted by,

Joe Sheely, Secretary, jkc