

**MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION**

November 2, 2021

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in a Work Session on November 2, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. at the Government Center, 201 1st Street NE, in Austin, Minnesota. All members present, viz: Chair Polly Glynn, Vice-Chair Jerry Reinartz, Mike Ankeny, Jeff Baldus, and John Mueller. Also in attendance were County Attorney Kristen Nelsen, County Administrator Trish Harren, Executive Assistant Denise Barthels, Soil & Water Conservation District personnel Justin Hanson and Tim Ruzek; Public Works Director Mike Hanson and Environmental Services Supervisor and Assistant Supervisor Angie Lipelt and Valerie Sheedy

Justin Hanson & Tim Ruzek, Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), provided the Board with an update on Turtle Creek Hearing for Redetermination of Benefits JD24. Mr. Hanson also provided a brief update concerning an easement with the Chert Mine. The SWCD is working with the Historical Society in establishing a conservation easement at the Chert Mine. Mr. Tim Ruzek briefly discussed the 2022 budgeted expenditures related to Aquatic Invasive Species approved by the Board at its regular session. The canoemobile has been a successful program. The Natural Resources Block Grant will be brought forward for board approval when ready. The block grant is a regional and may be used on projects related to clean water and environmental sustainability. Since the County Board had already approved ARPA funding for some partnership projects, a thank you was expressed and SWCD looks forward to working on the partnership projects identified as a Capital Infrastructure Project to stabilize flows and improve surface water in the Cedar River Watershed District area; additional resources for the Well Sealing program to target communities door to door to find and seal wells; Cover Crop Cost-Share Assistance; and Ag Retail Incentive Program for Conservation Outcomes.

Environmental Services Supervisor Angela Lipelt and Assistant Environmental Services Supervisor Valerie Sheedy further discussed with the Board the proposed Ordinance revisions for the SSTS Ordinance and the Zoning Ordinance. Staff will prepare an agenda to discuss these proposed amendments with the newly created Land Use Committee. The Committee will also meet with Mr. Erkeneff regarding his appeal for a refund of the after-the-fact permit fee. There was also a brief discussion concerning methods to find and recruit interested persons for appointment to the Planning Commission (and Board of Adjustment) when terms expire.

The work session concluded at 4:35 p.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____
Chairperson

Attest:

By: _____
Clerk/Administrator

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