



STEELE COUNTY
Soil and Water Conservation District

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Owatonna MN 55060
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www.steeleswcd.org

The regular monthly meeting of the Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was called to order by Dan Hansen at 5:00 PM on Wednesday November 9, 2022 at the Steele County SWCD Office, 235 Cedardale Drive SE, Owatonna MN, 55060.

<u>SWCD Supervisors Present:</u>	<u>SWCD Staff Present:</u>	<u>Others Present:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>
Mark Ihlenfeld, Reporter	Eric Gulbransen	Jim Smith, NRCS	
Dan Hansen, Chairman	Adam Arndt	Rick Gnemi, County Commissioner	
Dave Melby, Treasurer	Adrienne Gransee	Teddy Moreno-Santos, NRCS	
Mark Ditlevson, Vice Chair			
Mike Klecker			

The November agenda was reviewed, item number three was removed and thank you from 4-H award winner was added.

The October minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ditlevson, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

The October Treasurer’s Report was read by Melby. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Ditlevson, to approve the October Treasurer’s Report. Motion was carried by voice vote.

Bills: (See attached) Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby, to approve paying the bills. Motion was carried by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Meeting Reports – JPB – Personnel Meeting – Mark Ihlenfeld attended this meeting. The primary topic of discussion was medical insurance for 2023 and the drastic increase in the monthly premium cost for the same coverage.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2021 Audit – Adrienne Gransee provided the Board with updated financial graphs showing the Districts standing for the last several years and informed them that hard copies of the completed audit were available to anyone interested in receiving one.
2. Medical Insurance 2023 – Adrienne Gransee presented the 2023 options for medical insurance to the Board. She also presented options for vision coverage which had not been covered previously. After discussion the Board decided to stay with the same plan offered by Blue Cross Blue Shield that they selected last year and to add single vision coverage for the staff. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker, to approve the medical cover selections as discussed. Motion passed by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

3. Annual Convention – December 12-14 – Adrienne Gransee presented the Board with the schedule for the annual convention and requested that those who wish to attend let her know as soon as possible so that registration and hotel arrangements can be made.
4. Ditch Inspector Contract – 2023 – Eric Gulbransen went over the terms of the 2022 contract with the Board. They discussed how long the District has been serving as the ditch inspector and the changes that have been made to the contract in that time. It was decided that it would be appropriate to request an increase to the hourly billing rate to better match what the staff hours rates are the to cover the other additional costs.
5. Annual Soil Health Summit – December 15-16 – Eric Gulbransen presented the information to the Board for any who might be interested in attending.
6. December Meeting Date – The regularly scheduled meeting for December was to be held on the 14th and conflicted with the Annual Convention. After discussion it was decided that the meeting would be held on the 15th at 5pm with the personnel committee meeting prior to that to conduct staff reviews.
7. District Clothing - \$200 per employee – The staff presented the idea of purchasing some updated logo clothing for the staff and any Supervisors interested. A motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Ditlevson, to approve spending up to \$200 per individual for the purchase of new District wear. Motion carried by voice vote.
8. Stream Monitoring Results – Gransee presented the final results of the summer stream monitoring to the Board. The graphs included the tolerable levels this time. There was discussion about what the causes of the elevated levels were, as well as how the different data points related to each other.

Agency Reports

Rick Gnemi stated that the primary discussions at the County Board meetings have been budget requests. They also have been talking about staff COLAs for 2023.

Teddy Moreno-Santos stated that the CSP and EQIP are being processed. He also informed the Board that there is a new technician starting in the Dodge County office. He informed the Board that the deadline for EQIP applications is set for November 18.

Jim Smith has been primarily working on project estimates for projects. He also let the Board know that the FSA CD resigned and there will be a temporary placement for that position.

Staff Reports

Eric Gulbransen reported that he has continued to be busy with WCA and the county ditches. There have been a variety of WCA applications that have been submitted and he is trying to process them as efficiently as possible.

Adam Arndt reported that his time has been spent getting the tree program ready as well as completing ditch inspections. There is also a large clean out on JD6 that is being discussed. He has also been coordinating beaver removal as needed and completing cover crop inspections.

Adrienne Gransee reported that her time has been primarily focused on completing 3rd quarter grant reporting for herself and Arndt, getting the calendar completed and ready to go to print, and preparing the website for tree sales to begin.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Gransee,
Administrative Assistant

November Bills

Cedardale Development Co.	November Rent		\$792.00
Spectrum	November Internet		\$64.99
Clean River Partners	Tent Rental Reimbursment		\$600.00
Elan	Cell Phone	\$84.17	
	Gas	\$109.08	
	Postage	\$8.40	\$201.65
		TOTAL	\$1,658.64