



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 PM on Tuesday March 8, 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	Adam Arndt
Dan Hansen, Chairman	Adrienne Gransee	Dave Copeland, BWSR (via conference call)	
Dave Melby, Treasurer			
Mark Ditlevson (via conference call)			
Mike Klecker			

The March agenda was reviewed, two additional items were added.

The February minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. Minor changes that had been made since being distributed were noted. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the minutes with the noted changes. Motion carried by voice vote.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Meeting Reports – Area 7 Supervisors meeting – Dave Melby and Mark Ihlenfeld attended this virtual meeting. They reported that the primary topic of discussion was the legislative platform that the MASWCD is presenting this year. The major items that they are pursuing is establishing SWCD Aid in the general fund and increasing CREP funding.

Soil Health and Carbon meeting – Waseca, MN – March 4 – Mark Ihlenfeld and Mark Ditlevson attended this event. They reported that the speakers were interesting and offered a different approach to looking at carbon in soils. They also thought that the local farmer forum was well worth the time.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. FY22 Local Capacity Work Plan – Eric Gulbransen presented a work plan for this grant to the Board and requested any ideas that they had for new programs to fund through the grant. A reduced tillage incentive program was suggested. Staff will create a policy related to this program and present it to the Board for approval.
2. 2021 Financial – Adrienne Gransee presented the 2021 financial summary to the Board. There was not a significant change from the previous year.
3. Joint Local Workgroup – EQIP – Eric Gulbransen reported to the Board that NRCS plans to hold a joint local workgroup for EQIP with Mower and Freeborn again this year. They are expecting it to take place in June. When the date is set Gulbransen will let the Board know.
4. NRCS Civil Right Review – Jim Smith reviewed the NRCS civil right policy and where to find all of the needed information if a problem ever needed to be reported. All of the present Supervisors signed the policy acknowledging that they have been presented with the information.
5. CRP Contribution Agreement – Eric Gulbransen presented the CRP contribution agreement to the Board. The agreement states that the District will complete 60 CRP plans and receive compensation for those completed. The District will also be compensated for completing the site reviews after needed work has been completed.

Agency Reports

Jim Smith gave an overview of the NRCS activities for the previous month.

Dave Copeland gave an update on CREP. He also told the Board about the virtual half-day Spring Training that will be taking place on March 29. He reported that at this time there are no firm plans for staff returning to working in the office.

Staff Reports

Adrienne Gransee gave an update on Envirothon. At the present time there is limited interest. The committee is going to keep registration open for an extended time to give schools more opportunity. If interest remains very low Area 4 has agreed to have those teams join their event.

Eric Gulbransen informed the Board that he is currently helping look for a local farmer who is willing to be featured on an upcoming soil health tour. He also stated that the work for ditches is beginning to pick up since the snow is melting.

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

Respectfully Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adrienne Gransee". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Adrienne Gransee,
Administrative Assistant

March Bills

Cedardale Dev. Co	March Rent		\$716.40
MetroNet	Internet		\$54.95
Elan	Meal	33.39	
	Gas	79.26	
	Cell Phone	84.18	
	Website	24.85	
	QB - Annual Payroll	719.41	
	Postage	1.56	
	Convention	270.00	\$1,212.65
		Total	\$1,984.00