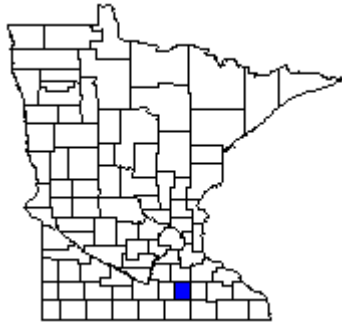


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**MINNESOTA
 SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

The regular monthly meeting of the Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Dan Hansen at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday May 14, 2019 at the Conservation Office located at 235 Cedardale Drive SE, Owatonna, MN.

<u>SWCD Supervisors Present:</u>	<u>SWCD Staff Present:</u>	<u>Others Present:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>
Mark Ihlenfeld, Reporter	Adam Arndt	Jim Smith, NRCS	
Dan Hansen, Chairman	Eric Gulbransen	Kelly Burke, NRCS	
Jim Klecker, Secretary	Adrienne Gransee	James Brady, County Commissioner	
Kyle Wolfe, Vice-Chair			
Dave Melby, Treasurer			

The May agenda was reviewed, no changes were made.

The April minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker, to approve the minutes as written. Motion was carried by voice vote.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Envirothon – May 8 – Adrienne Gransee, Eric Gulbransen, Dave Melby, Dan Hansen and Kelly Burke were all were at the Area 7 Envirothon. The event was held at the Byron Sportsman and Conservation Club again this year. There were 17 teams that attended, 10 Senior level and 7 Junior. Despite the rain the event went smoothly. Hansen expressed that he was quite pleased to see the effort that some teams put in to their preparations. The top three teams were Goodhue Black, Goodhue Purple, and John-Marshall Black. They will be advancing to the state competition held in Elk River MN on May 20.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. NRCS Civil Rights MOU – Kelly Burke presented the NRCS Civil Rights Policy to the Board and staff. She reviewed the rights and responsibilities of the Board and staff. She also reviewed where this information could be found within the building. A motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby, to acknowledge understanding the rights and responsibilities and to sign the Memorandum of Understanding. Motion passed by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Truck Accessories – Eric Gulbransen presented the quotes that he has for the accessories and decals for the new pick-up. After discussing the options a motion was made by Melby, seconded by Wolfe, to purchase the accessories from Anhorn. Motion passed by voice vote.
3. Cover Crop Policy Update – Adam Arndt presented an amended Cover Crop Cost Share Policy to the Board. The policy had been adjusted to state that there will be no more than 30% soil disturbance in the fall. This adjustment allows the producers the ability to strip till in the fall. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Klecker, to allow this update and approve the amended policy. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. Cover Crop Contracts – Adam Arndt presented 3 cover crop contracts, listed below, to the Board for approval. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Wolfe, to approve the contracts. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - a. John Olsen, 3-18-CC, 80 acres, \$7,200
 - b. Tyler Morgan, 4-18-CC, 80 acres, \$7,200
 - c. Dan Morgan, 5-18-CC, 80 acres, \$7,200
5. 4-H Exploring the Environment Award – \$25 – Adam Arndt presented the information about the award. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Klecker, to make the \$25 payment to sponsor the 4-H award. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. 4-H Agronomy Project Kits – Root Viewers – Adam Arndt presented a brief overview of the program that he has been helping put together and promote. The program is meant to give kids a chance to test out participating in a 4-H project over the summer. There are 4 different projects that the kids can choose from and the final products will be displayed at the Steele Co. Free Fair. Arndt requested permission to purchase up to 12 of the root viewers to provide to the interested students. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker, to approve the purchase. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. Nitrate Testing at Fair Booth – Adam Arndt presented the idea of offering Nitrate testing at the fair booth this year. Testing would be offered on specific days during specific times when staff would be manning the booth. The Board was in favor of this idea and Arndt stated that he would look into getting a spectrometer to do the testing.
8. Fair Give Away Items – Adrienne Gransee presented the idea of having items with the District name on them available as give away items at the fair. She requested ideas for items from the Board. Some that were presented included pens, rain gauges, can cozy, and magnetic clips. Gransee stated that she would price out some options and bring them along for the next meeting.
9. RC&D Meeting – 5/20, 9:30-12 2122 Campus Drive Rochester, MN – Eric Gulbransen informed the Board of the upcoming RC&D meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

10. Other: Eric Gulbransen let the Board know that the area Resolution meeting will be held on June 28. He stated that if the Board had any resolutions that they would like written they should contact him before the next Board meeting.

Gulbransen also informed the Board that the PCA is looking for a volunteer to do Citizen Stream Monitoring on Crane Creek. If anyone was interested there were to get in touch with Gulbransen.

Agency Reports:

Kelly Burke reported that there are 3 CSP application within the county. She also stated that there have been some changes to the program. Burke also informed the Board that there were 3 EQIP applications as well.

Jim Smith reported on his recent activities. There have been some easements in the county that have been burned as part of regular maintenance. Smith has also been assisting with easement monitoring. He stated that there currently was no update from FSA about the state of CRP.

James Brady reported on the most recent county Board meeting. The culvert project that Gulbransen has been working on was approved and will be moving forward.

Staff Reports

Eric Gulbransen reported to the Board that he has spent a fair amount of time working on county ditches. He also reported on the 1 watershed 1 plan meeting that he attended. The plan will be put out for comments for 90 days beginning June 5.

Adam Arndt reported that tree pick up went smoothly. There are a handful of ponderosa pines left and a few bundles of various things. He has also been working on a lot of calls regarding county ditches and tile.

Adrienne Gransee reported that she has been working on Envirothon and the follow up from the event. She continues to work on the new website. It should be launched before the next board meeting but will still need updating after that. She will also have the 2020 budget completed at that time.

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

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Gransee,
Administrative Assistant

May Bills

Cedardale Dev. Co.	May Rent		\$716.40
Jaguar	Internet		\$54.95
Eric Gulbransen	162 miles @ .58		\$121.80
Elan	Meal	\$28.01	
	Gas	\$228.91	
	Employee Training	\$40.00	\$296.92
Verizon	Cell Phone Plan		\$106.09
Tree World	Plantskyyd		\$589.32
Schumacher's	Trees		\$6,369.25
Wolcyn	Trees		\$21,156.25
Marlin Behne	Tree Refund		\$88.05
Tyler Borchert	Tree Refund		\$31.93
Dan Arndt	16.5 hours @ \$15		\$247.50
Noel Frank	12.5 hours @ \$15		\$187.50
		TOTAL	\$29,965.96