



STEELE COUNTY
Soil and Water Conservation District

235 Cedardale Drive SE
Owatonna MN 55060
507-451-6730 Ext. 3
www.steeleswcd.org

The regular monthly meeting of the Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was called to order by Dave Melby at 5:00 PM on Wednesday January 8, 2025 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, Treasurer	Eric Gulbransen	Jim Smith, NRCS	Mark Ditlevson, Chairman
Dan Hansen, Secretary	Adam Arndt	James Brady, County Commissioner	
Dave Melby, Vice-Chair	Adrienne Gransee	Lezlie Sorensen, NRCS	
Brad Hagen, PR&I	Ian Pringle	Roger Wacek	
	Alan Krause		

The January agenda was reviewed, no changes were made.

The December minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Hagen, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

The December Treasurer’s Report was read by Ihlenfeld. Motion was made by Hagen, seconded by Hansen, to approve the December Treasurer’s Report. Motion was carried by voice vote.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Meeting Reports – There were no meeting reports made.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Reorganization of the Board of Supervisors – Traditionally board positions are rotated on a 2 year basis. There were some minor adjustments last year due to the addition of a new board member. The Board discussed the positions and agreed upon changes as listed below.
 - Chairman – Dave Melby
 - Vice Chair – Dan Hansen
 - Secretary – Mark Ihlenfeld
 - Treasurer – Brad Hagen
 - PR&I – Mark Ditlevson

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Committees and Appointments – The Board discussed who was currently on each committee and decided to make appointments as listed below.
 - Personnel – Melby & Hagen
 - Budget & Planning – Hagen & Melby
 - SE Joint Powers – Ihlenfeld
 - CRWJPB – Hansen
 - Zumbro 1W1P - Hansen
3. Annual Approvals and Designations – The Board reviewed the current designations and made no changes. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the designations as listed below. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - Primary Financial Institution – United Prairie Bank
 - Official Newspaper – Steele County Times
 - Official Radio Station – KOWZ
 - Authorized Grant Signer – Eric Gulbransen
4. Dues & Contribution – Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Hagen, to approve the dues and contributions as listed below. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - MASWCD - \$7,431.37
 - CRWJPB - \$3,750.00
5. Soil Health Winter Workshop – February 18 – Torey’s Restaurant, 9:00am – 2:00pm – Adam Arndt gave the Board an overview of the agenda; Hagen, Hansen and Melby expressed interest in attending.
6. SWCD Day at the Capital – March 4-5 – Adrienne Gransee gave the dates of the event to the Board and will be providing more information once it becomes available.
7. Cover Crop Cost Share Payment – 4-21-CC - \$2,340, Final Payment – Arndt presented This contract for payment. This payment was delayed due to the grant that was funding it having expired at the end of 2023. The payment will be made using the funds returned from the cancelled contract funded through the same local capacity grant. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the payment. Motion carried by voice vote.

Public Comment

Roger Wacek spoke about the Haney test again and asked that the District consider including more information about the test and it’s uses in future soil health events. He also provided the Board with excerpts from a book that he has been reading titled “A New Way of Soil Testing” written by Gabe Brown.

Agency Reports

Jim Brady gave the Board a brief update about the County Board. He will be serving as the Chairman of the County Board. He reported that there have been no significant developments for the County in the previous month.

Jim Smith introduced Lezlie Sorensen to the Board. He informed the Board that Gary Kurer has officially retired from NRCS. Smith gave the Board an update on the status of the EQIP applications; they are currently fine tuning the details.

Staff Reports

Eric Gulbransen reported that he has been looking into 5-6 new possible WCA violations. The County ditch works has also kept him busy and the project of PT18 has been completed. JD5 and JD10 are both scheduled for redetermination in the near future.

Adam Arndt gave the Board an update on the upcoming soil health workshop and informed them that he has been working on completing his recertification for his conservation planner status.

Ian Pringle continues to work on his training including conservation planning and earning job approval authority for various practices. In addition, he has been actively involved with the annual tree program.

Adrienne Gransee had begun working on year end reporting as well as assisting with the tree program. She has also been working on website updates including adding contractor lists and creating an updated Environment page.

Alan Krause has been becoming more familiar with the county and the most common practices that are used. He reported to the Board that of the 7,500 crop acres in Steele county approximately 5% are utilizing cover crops, based on the current cost share and incentive contracts.

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

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Gransee,
Administrative Assistant

January Bills

Cedardale Development Co.	January Rent		\$792.00
Cedardale Development Co.	1st Quarter Garage Rent		\$600.00
TriM Graphics	Postage & Mail Services		\$2,083.29
MCIT	2025 Coverage		\$6,852.00
Elan	Meals	\$238.64	
	Hotel	\$800.58	
	Gas	\$102.58	
	Phone	\$87.43	
	Wix Extended Email	\$29.00	
	Monthly Payroll	\$30.07	
	Office Supplies	\$4.00	\$1,292.30
		Total	\$11,619.59