



STEELE COUNTY
Soil and Water Conservation District

235 Cedardale Drive SE
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 7:00 PM on Tuesday June 9, 2020 at the SWCD office located at 235 Cedardale Drive SE, Owatonna.

| <u>SWCD Supervisors Present:</u> | <u>SWCD Staff Present:</u> | <u>Others Present:</u> | <u>Absent:</u> |
|--|----------------------------|---|----------------|
| Mark Ihlenfeld, Reporter | Adam Arndt | Dave Copeland, BWSR (attended by phone) | |
| Dan Hansen, Chairman | Eric Gulbransen | | |
| Jim Klecker, Secretary | Adrienne Gransee | | |
| Kyle Wolfe, Vice-Chair (attended by phone) | | | |
| Dave Melby, Treasurer | | | |
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The June agenda was reviewed, no changes were made.

The May minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker, to approve the minutes. Motion was carried by roll call vote.

The May 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 roll call vote.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tree Program Results – Adam Arndt presented the results from the 2020 program. The profit and percentage were both quite similar to last year despite the overall sales being down slightly. Arndt also spoke about the expanded native plant sales and the success of that addition to the program.
2. 2021 Budget – Adrienne Gransee presented the proposed budget for 2021. There were reductions in the grant funding the expenditures were reduced to match the anticipated funding level. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the budget and submit it to the county. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. Strategic Plan – The plan was distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. There was discussion about the various action points that are identified and the feasibility of the ideas. The Board expressed interest in a shared staff position whose focus would be outreach, promotion and education about conservation and the positive effects. There was talk about the county profile that was provided and the areas that they found surprising. The last topic addressed was the mission statement. After some initial discussion it was decided to take the next month to reflect and make the mission statement an action item on the next month’s agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

4. 2020 Conservation Winners – The Board was provided with the list of candidates. Each section was discussed and the winners were selected as listed below. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby, to award the annual awards as discussed. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - Conservation Farmer – James Nash
 - Outstanding Windbreak – Dean & Amy Kremmin
 - Wildlife Conservationist – Charles Armstrong

5. FY20 State Cost Share T/A Option – Adrienne Gransee presented the FY20 state cost share form that allows the District to use the funds on staff hours. A motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Wolfe, to approve and sign the form. Motion carried by voice vote.

6. Easement Delivery Work-Order – Eric Gulbransen presented the work order for easement inspections. There was discussion about what the work order entailed and who would be completing the work. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker, to approve the work order for inspections. Motion carried by voice vote.

7. Cover Crop Cost Share – Adam Arndt presented the contracts listed below for Board approval. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Melby, to approve the contracts. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - Scott Arndt, 5-22-CC, \$7,200
 - Alex Wayne, 2-20-CC, \$7,200
 - Frank Springer, 6-20-CC, \$7,200

8. RCPP Renewal Letter of Support – Eric Gulbransen presented a draft letter to the Board. There was discussion about how much of an in-kind match would be appropriate to include in the letter of support.

Agency Reports

Dave Copeland reported that he is continuing to work from home. He also stated that the office is going to be moving. The move is planned for next month.

Staff Reports

Adrienne Gransee stated that she is back to being full time again. The majority of her time has been spent working on the budget and grant reporting for the first quarter of 2020.

Adam Arndt stated that moving the drills has been keeping him quite busy. He also assisted with the 4-H agronomy project preparation and distribution. The native flowers and seed packets arrived and have been distributed. He has also been spending time working on the county ditches.

Staff Reports

Eric Gulbransen stated that WCA and the county ditch/tile systems have been taking up a large amount of his time lately. He has also been attending virtual meetings.

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

Respectfully Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adrienne Gransee".

Adrienne Gransee,
Administrative Assistant

June Bills

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Cedardale Dev. Co | June Rent | | \$716.40 |
| Jaguar | Internet | | \$54.95 |
| Schlatter's | Probes & Tips | | \$438.88 |
| Cedardale Dev. Co | Garage | | \$540.00 |
| MN Native Landscapes | Seeds | | \$590.56 |
| Eric Gulbransen | Reimbursement | | \$8.50 |
| Elan | Office Supplies | 53.79 | |
| | Gas | 177.84 | |
| | Website | 276.00 | |
| | Vehicle | 67.16 | |
| | Root Viewers | 294.6 | |
| | Cell Phone | 88.35 | |
| | Meal | 25.51 | \$983.25 |
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| | | | |
| | | TOTAL | \$3,332.54 |