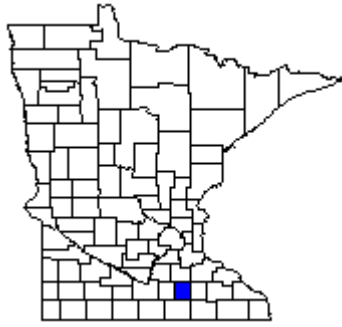


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**MINNESOTA
 SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

The regular monthly meeting of the Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was called to order by Dan Hansen at 5:00 PM on Tuesday February 11, 2020 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 | Kelly Burke, NRCS | Adrienne Gransee |
| Dan Hansen, Chairman | Eric Gulbransen | Roger Wacek | |
| Jim Klecker, Secretary | | Jim Smith, NRCS | |
| Kyle Wolfe, Vice-Chair | | | |
| Dave Melby, Treasurer | | | |

The February agenda was reviewed, the 2020 grant was added.

The January minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the minutes. Motion was carried by voice vote.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Meeting Reports – 1W1P – Hansen reported that BWSR is not effectively communicating with the group and it is creating challenges with completing the process. He also stated that dues need to be paid as soon as possible so that some outstanding bills can be paid off. Gulbransen told the Board that Steele and Rice are in the top tier for dues and all involved will be paying the max allowed this year for dues. Hansen said that both Rice and Dakota SWCDs would like to be the fiscal and administrative agent for the plan. That will be decided at the next meeting.

Joint Powers Board – Mark Ihlenfeld – The meeting was primarily annual business. All staff salaries were approved, grants were discussed and the annual COLA was decided upon. Gulbransen reported that the JPB will be \$50,000 short by June of 2020. Their current employees include 4 staff members, 2 engineers, 1 CET, and 1 Technician.

RC&D – Mark Ihlenfeld – Ihlenfeld reported that the reviewed possible grant work that could be done and John Beckwith will be retiring at the end of the year.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Meeting Reports Cont. – Bee Friendly Alliance – Kyle Wolfe reported that the meeting was very good. The speakers were very informational. They gave good presentations about what the community is doing to plant native species and support the bee populations.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2020 Local Capacity Grant – Gulbransen briefed the Board on the details of the grant. There was discussion about ideas for the work plan including a new drill, an incentive program for buckthorn/parsnip removal, and fire proof cabinets to protect the various files stored in the office. There was also discussion about purchasing a new Ranger, using funds from a prior Capacity grant to cover a portion of the cost. There was discussion about keeping the total cost under \$23,000. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby, to allow Gulbransen to move forward with the purchase keeping it at or below the \$23,000 threshold. Motion carried by voice vote.
2. Tesch CREP 74-19-WW1 – Gulbransen presented this easement contract. The easement is 50 acres and includes the Straight River headwaters. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, and seconded by Klecker, to approve the contract. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. Strategic Planning meeting – Feb. 19 – 2-6 PM – A reminder was given to have the surveys filled out before the meeting so the discussion points are ready.
4. Extension Farm Family of the Year – Gulbransen presented a request for recommendations for the farm family of the year. The Board member will consider the options and contact Gulbransen with any recommendations.
5. Dues – Gulbransen presented the dues as listed below. There was discussion regarding the increase in the MASWCD dues, and if there was enough benefit from NACD to warrant paying those. After discussion a motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby, to pay dues as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - Envirothon - \$175 * MASWCD - \$4186.67 * NACD \$775
 - SE MASWCD - \$500 * Cannon 1W1P - \$5000
6. Final Financial reports – Gulbransen presented the final financial reports for the grants that were completed in December of 2019 (see below). Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve signing and returning the reports and the remaining grant funds. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - FY17 Cost Share * FY18 Buffer Law * FY18 Buffer Cost Share - \$1907.74 returned
 - FY18 Conservation Delivery * FY19 Conservation Delivery
7. NRCS Local Work Group – Kelly Burke reviewed Civil Rights with the Board. She also headed a discussion about the Operational Agreement. All Board members were asked to sign the Civil Rights document and a local work group packet was distributed for the Board to review. Recommendations will be discussed next month.

8. SFA 2020 Soil Health Summit – March 5 – Elk River - \$75 – A request for approval to attend the event was made by staff. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Wolfe, to approve attendance and cover the cost of registration for those staff and supervisors interested in attending. Motion carried by voice vote.
9. State Managers Meeting – March 18 – Baxter – Gulbransen requested to attend this meeting. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Wolfe, to approval him attending and for the District to cover the cost of his lodging. Motion carried by voice vote.
10. Day at the Capital – March 24 & 25 – There was a discussion about it being a bonding year and then about who intends to go. It was also expressed that they want to get meetings set as soon as possible.

Agency Reports

Kelly Burke reported that both EQIP and CSP programs should have more information available shortly. She informed the Board that Gary Kurer is the new team lead. CRP sign up will continue through the end of February, general sign up will continue through the summer for continuous.

Jim Smith has been primarily advising on CRP application with FSA. The General CRP deadline is a priority right now.

Staff Reports

Adam Arndt reported that he spoke at the Bee Friendly and Izaak Walton event. He stated that there is a SHT event on Feb. 26 and also that they are looking for sponsors. He is planning to attend Pheasant Fest on Friday.

Eric Gulbransen reported that he continues to be busy with WCA. The county tile reroute for the Costco warehouse project has been completed.

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

February Bills

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Jaguar | | Internet | | \$54.95 |
| Cedardale Development Co. | | February Rent | | \$716.40 |
| Elan | | | | |
| | | Postage | \$62.50 | |
| | | Office Supplies | \$47.22 | |
| | | Cell Phone | \$88.40 | \$198.12 |
| Tri-M Graphics | | | | \$173.60 |
| Court Sports | | | | \$158.00 |
| No-Till Farmer | | | | \$26.85 |
| Agri-News | | | | \$49.56 |
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| | | | | |
| | | | Total | \$1,377.48 |