



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 Dan Hansen at 5:00 PM on Thursday January 12, 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	Dave Copeland, BWSR (via conference call)	
Dan Hansen, Chairman	Adrienne Gransee	Kelly Burke, NRCS	
Dave Melby, Treasurer	Adam Arndt	Jim Smith, NRCS	
Mark Ditlevson		James Brady, County Commisioner	
Mike Klecker (via conference call)			

The January agenda was reviewed. No changes or additions were made

The December minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. One change to a motion was noted. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the minutes with the noted correction. Motion carried by voice vote.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Meeting Repots – Annual MASWCD Convention – Dec 13 & 14 – The convention was attended by Melby, Hansen, Ditlevson, Gulbransen, Arndt and Gransee. During the Supervisor business meeting there were 5 resolutions discussed. Of those five, one was passed. Hansen reported on the savannah pasture session that he attended. He thought that the focus of this particular one was lacking compared to other that he has attended on the same topic. The practice that they used seemed to cause more damage than benefit. Melby reported on the session that he attended on communication with legislators. He said that it made useful points and was beneficial to attend. The Conservation Farmer of the Year from both 2020 and 2021 attended the Tuesday luncheon.

JPB Personnel Meeting – Mark Ihlenfeld reported that this meeting was primarily focused on providing updates on the various staff positions.

OLD BUSINESS:

1W1P Technical Meeting – Eric Gulbransen provided an update on the water sampling that the District will be doing. There will be 6 sites at various stream location through the county. The current plan is to share monitoring equipment with a neighboring county to help reduce initial costs.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Reorganization of the Board – There was a discussion about what positions people currently held as well as their responsibilities. It was decided to keep positions as they were in 2021 and revisit the topic again at the beginning of 2023. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Melby. Motion passed by voice vote.
 - Chairman – Dan Hansen
 - Vice-Chair – Mark Ditlevson
 - Secretary – Mike Klecker
 - Treasurer – Dave Melby
 - PR&I – Mark Ihlenfeld
2. Committees and Appointments – Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker, to keep all committees and appointments the same as 2021 and revisit the topic in 2023. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - Personnel – Dan Hansen & Dave Melby
 - Budgeting & Planning – Dave Melby & Mark Ditlevson
 - SE JPB – Mark Ihlenfeld
 - RC&D – Mark Ihlenfeld
 - 1W1P – Dan Hansen
3. Annual Approvals and Designations – The Board went through the current designations and there was a discussion about granting Eric Gulbransen approval to sign grant documents in order to speed up processing. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the current designations and grant Gulbransen signing authority. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - Primary Financial Institution – United Prairie Bank
 - Official Newspaper – Steele County Times
 - Official Radio Station – KOWZ
 - Authorized Grant Singer – Eric Gulbransen
4. Election Framework – Gulbransen presented information about the 2 methods for nominating and electing District Supervisors. He let the Board know that if they desired to change the current method it is an option. The Board expressed that they are satisfied with how things are currently being done.
5. Mileage Rate for 2022 - \$0.585 – Gransee informed the Board of the updated IRS standard for mileage reimbursement.
6. Drill Update – Glubransen gave the Board an update on the drill. The new Truax has been ordered. The final cost was approximately \$33,000 and it is expected to be available at the end of February. The Waseca SWCD is interested in purchasing the existing drill for use by their landowners.

NEW BUSINESS:

7. Zumbro 1W1P Implementation – Gulbransen told the Board that the Zumbro 1W1P is at the implementation phase and will be able to begin work soon. They are currently looking for which LGUs plan to become involved with this process. A small portion of the Zumbro watershed lies in Steele county. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to send a representative to the meetings and see if there is the opportunity to do work in that portion of the county. Motion carried by voice vote.
8. Annual Dues – Gransee presented the annual dues that have been received currently, listed below. There was discussion about the amounts for the area and state association dues, as well as the Envirothon contribution. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ditlevson, to pay the dues as presented.
 - MASWCD - \$5750.58
 - JPB - \$3000.00
 - CRWJPB - \$5000.00
 - Envirothon - \$175.00
 - Area 7 SE MASWCD - \$100.00
9. Cover Crop Cost Share Contract – 4-21-CC, Warner, \$7020.00 – Adam Arndt presented this contract for approval. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby, to approve the cover crop contract, Motion carried by voice vote.
10. Cannon 1W1P Cost Share Payment – 21-ST-002, Empress Farms, \$16,601.63 – Adam Arndt presented this contract for payment. There was a discussion about how the project turned out and the benefits that should be seen from completing it. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Ditlevson, to approve the payment. Motion passed by voice vote.

Agency Reports

Dave Copeland told the Board that he is working to get work plans for the FY22 finalized. He told the Board about plans for a virtual “Spring Training” session that BWSR will be hosting. He also reported on staff changes.

Kelly Burke informed the Board that it was her last meeting as she will be moving to take a position in Virginia. She reviewed her monthly report with the Board, see attached.

James Brady gave an update for the County. The County has been working hard to implement new mandates and policies that have been put in place. There are currently several public health nurse positions open. He also reported that the County is working to keep ahead of needed building maintenance.

Jim Smith reported that he has been finalizing projects and preparing for potential projects to be funded in the spring.

Staff Reports

Adrienne Gransee gave a brief update on the 2022 calendar as well as information regarding Envirothon, which will be held in person this spring.

Eric Gulbransen informed the Board that the tile reroute that he had been involved with is officially completed. He also stated that he is in the process of looking for a contractor to complete a few jobs yet this fall because there was a unexpected change with the one that was previously lined up to complete the work.

Adam Arndt reported that the trees are selling out very quickly this year. He told the Board about the soil health workshop that will be held on February 9, as well as the 3 other opportunities to see those speakers. He told the Board about the cover crop meeting on January 26, and let them know that he would be speaking to the local Rotary club on February 2.

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

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Gransee,
Administrative Assistant

January Bills

Cedardale Development Co.	January Rent		\$716.40
Cedardale Development Co.	1st Quarter Garage Rent		\$540.00
Elan	Fire Proof Cabinets	\$13,782.00	
	Convention Hotel	\$453.52	
	Meals	\$60.74	
	Gas	\$58.20	
	Phone	\$84.26	\$14,438.72
Laura's Lane	Tree Deposit		\$268.00
Tri-M Graphics	Postage & Mailing		\$1,445.86
Schlatters Inc	Tile probes & tips		\$339.98
Peterson Company LTD	2020 Audit		\$3,100.00
MCIT	2022 Insurance		\$6,797.00
Adrienne Gransee	Mileage 124 @ 0.585		\$72.54
		Total	\$27,718.50