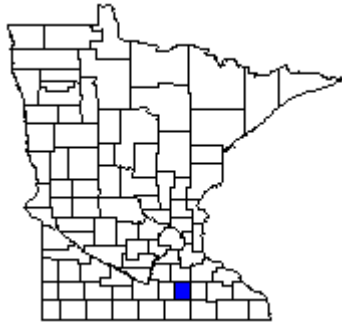


235 Cedardale Drive SE
 Owatonna, Minnesota 55060-4417
 Telephone (507) 451-6730 Ext. 3



**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 July 9, 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	Kyle Wolfe, Vice-Chair
Dan Hansen, Chairman	Eric Gulbransen	Kelly Burke, NRCS	
Jim Klecker, Secretary	Adrienne Gransee	James Brady, County Commissioner	
Dave Melby, Treasurer		Roger Wacek	

The July agenda was reviewed, no additions were made.

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

The June Treasurer’s Report was read by Melby. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the May 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. Meeting Reports – Adam Arndt attended the area resolution meeting on June 28. There were 8 resolutions presented; four of them passed and four did not. The District presented 2 resolutions. Neither passed. The major concerns with the resolutions that the District presented were the timing and how the inventory would be done. They believed that it was too soon after the State buffer law to push for private ditches and tile intakes to be buffered. They also stated that those should have been included in the other waters that the District had the opportunity to add during the establishment of the State law.

James Brady reported that he had a constituent contact him regarding giant ragweed. The constituent was pushing to get have it added to the invasive weed list.

Eric Gulbransen reported on the 1 Watershed 1 Plan meeting that he attended. The primary focus of the meeting was to continue working on developing the cost share policy.

Gulbransen also reported on the Cannon River Agricultural Cohort (CRAC) meeting that he attended. This group consists of larger business as well as various other organizations. Their goal is to promote the responsible use of chemicals and sustainable agricultural practices.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Conservation Award Winners Selection – Adam Arndt presented the Board with an updated candidate list for the 3 conservation awards. The Board discussed the options and selected the final three, Dale & Mary Ramsey for Outstanding Conservation Farmer, Larry Stebbins for Outstanding Windbreak, and Lynn Miller for Outstanding Wildlife Conservationist. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker, to approve the selections as discussed. Motion carried by voice vote.
2. Job Approval Authority Concurrence – Eric Gulbransen and Adam Arndt both received their updated JAA status. There were no changes to their approval levels. Both were asked to sign the ethics agreement and to have the chairman also sign. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Melby, to sign and return the documents. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. Phone Stipend Approval – Adrienne Gransee told the Board that a detailed motion was needed in regards to the phone stipend that was included in the work plan of the FY17 Local Capacity grant. A motion was made to approve granting Adam Arndt and Eric Gulbransen each a \$200 cell phone stipend in 2017 and a \$350 stipend for each of them in 2018 and 2019. This motion would be retroactive to the execution date of the FY17 Local Capacity Grant. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Ihlenfeld, and passed by unanimous voice vote.
4. Steele County Free Fair Schedule – Gransee requested that each Supervisor choose a night to be at the fair booth. The schedule is as follows:
 - a. Tuesday – Jim Klecker
 - b. Wednesday – Mark Ihlenfeld
 - c. Thursday – Kyle Wolfe
 - d. Friday – Dave Melby
 - e. Saturday – Dan Hansen
5. August Meeting Date – Gransee informed the Board that the regularly scheduled Board meeting for August fell on the first day of the fair. The other options for the meeting date were August 6 and August 20. A motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker, to hold the meeting on the 6th of August. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. JPB Meeting – Gulbransen told the Board that the JPB Annual meeting was going to be held either August 29 or 30. He will let them know the exact date when it has been finalized. He and Ihlenfeld intend to attend the meeting.

Public Comments – Roger Wacek brought in information about a field day being held July 11. He gave the details to Eric Gulbransen for those interested.

Agency Reports:

Kelly Burke reported that 2 Equip contracts have been approved. She also told the Board about the Prevent Plant Cover Crop program that NRCS is offering. She has 10 applications so far. The deadline to apply is July 12, and approvals will be made by August 2.

Jim Smith reported that there are a lot of CRP re-enroll and new applications that he will be processing.

James Brady stated that he has been addressing a fair number of issues related to the amount of rain the county has received in the last couple of weeks. Besides that he stated that things have been quiet in the county.

Staff Reports

Eric Gulbransen reported that the ditches are continuing to require a lot of his attention as is WCA. He informed the Board that there will be a 20% reduction in our Riparian Aid funding due to a change in legislative funding.

Adam Arndt reported that he was able to get a Spectrometer to use at the Fair. We will be doing water testing Wednesday afternoon/evening and Thursday morning. He told the Board about the Soil Health Team Bus Tour that is going to be held on September 7. He also stated that he will be sending out 28 letters to landowners that still need to install buffers.

Adrienne Gransee reported that she continues to update the website. She has the District promotional items ordered and they should arrive by the end of the month. She also reported on a bio-reactor and saturated buffer field day that she attended with Kelly Burke.

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

July Bills

Cedardale Dev. Co			July Rent		\$716.40
Jaguar			Internet		\$54.95
Cedardale Dev. Co			Garage Rent		\$510.00
Harland's			Tire		\$151.54
IRS			PICCORI Fee		\$17.15
Sign Pro			Truck Graphics		\$75.00
Elan					
			Meal	\$16.21	
			Gas	\$225.99	
			Postage	\$59.95	
			Tablet & Router	\$153.93	
			Vehicle	\$11.80	
			Cell Phone	\$85.76	\$553.64
Freeborn SWCD			CREP Position		\$940.00
				TOTAL	\$3,018.68