



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 7:00 PM on Wednesday July 13, 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	Rick Gnemi, County Commissioner	Mark Ditlevson, Vice Chair
Dave Melby, Treasurer	Adrienne Gransee	Teddy, NRCS	
Dan Hansen, Chairman	Adam Arndt	Dave Copeland, BWSR	
Mike Klecker		Glenda Smith	

The August agenda was reviewed, no changes were required.

The July minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Meeting Reports – Hartle Meeting – July 26 – Dave Melby, Mark Ihlenfeld, Mark Ditlevson and Eric Gulbransen attended this meeting. They reported that there was a good turnout again this year. The discussion focused on cover crops; what was working, how to apply them, what equipment was being used, etc. Gulbransen also presented the cost share/incentive programs that the District offers for cover crops as for strip or no-till.

TSA meeting – July 20 – Mark Ihlenfeld and Eric Gulbransen attended this meeting via Zoom. They reported that the current Joint Powers Agreement was out of date and a new one was going to be presented. There were no significant changes to the agreement.

OHS Lab Farm Proposal – Adam Arndt and Dave Melby attended a meeting held by the local Ag teachers. They are developing a proposal to create a hands on learning farm for both students and community members to use. The proposal is in its very early stages. Currently they are looking at funding sources and gauging community interest.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. Fair Booth Schedule – Gransee reviewed the fair booth schedule with the supervisors and made sure that they were still able to be at the booth on their preferred evening.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Governor’s Pheasant Opener – 2023 – Glenda Smith informed the Board that proposals to host the 2023 Pheasant opener were being taken and one was being put together for Steele County. She told the Board that it would be helpful if they could include a letter of support from the SWCD. The letter states that the District is in support of the proposal and is willing to assist, primarily by locating land where the hunts could take place. The opening weekend will be October 20-23, 2023. They are requesting that approximately 3000 acres be designated for hunting. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Melby, to send a letter of support and be willing to help secure property for the hunt if Steele is chosen. Motion passed by voice vote.
2. MASWCD Annual Convention – December 12-14 – Bloomington MN – Gransee informed the Board of the convention dates so that they can decide if they wish to attend.
3. TSA Area 7 Joint Powers Agreement – Gulbransen presented the updated joint powers agreement to the Board. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby, to approve signing the joint powers agreement. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. Trailer Sale Update – Gulbransen updated the Board on the sale of the trailer. It sold for \$5000 to a man from Rochester. The sale was completed easily and the title has been transferred to the new owner’s name.
5. Water Monitoring Results – Gransee presented a series of graphs summarizing the results of the water monitoring that have been received so far. The Board was interested in the data and asked to have tolerable levels marked for the various things that are being tested.
6. Cost Share Contract Approval – 1-22, \$3,547.50, Grassed Waterway – Adam Arndt presented the contract for approval. The project is a rebuild of an existing grassed waterway. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the contract. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. Nominations for MASWCD – President & Vice-President – Gulbransen let the Board know that if there was someone that they wanted to nominate for the MASWCD Board they could send te nomination to either Gulbransen or to LeAnn Buck.

Agency Reports

Dave Copeland gave the Board an update on the Cedar 1W1P progress. He reminded the Board about BWSR Academy in October and that there will be a new version of eLink being released. He also talked about the possible renewal of RCPP grants for the first five of the 1W1P and the potential for forming new groups as well.

Rick Gnemi gave an update for the County. They are working on getting the budget for 2023 finalized. The current concern is to get tax increases down to a manageable level.

Teddy reported that he is continuing to work on CRP plans with Adam Arndt assisting. He is reviewing plans with landowners and will soon begin site visits for those that will be eligible for renewal in 2023 and 2024. There have been three more EQIP applications funded and one CSP application.

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

August Bills

Cedardale Dev. Co.		August Rent			\$716.40
Elan		Gas		\$531.56	
		Field Supplies		\$21.02	
		Cell Phone		\$84.38	
		Meals		\$42.85	\$679.81
Adrienne Gransee		142 miles @ 0.625			\$88.75
Eric Gulbransen		31 miles @ 0.625			\$19.38
				Total	\$1,504.34