

235 Cedardale Drive SE  
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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 December 17, 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	Kelly Burke, NRCS	
Dan Hansen, Chairman	Adrienne Gransee	Roger Wacek	
Jim Klecker, Secretary	Eric Gulbransen	Jim Smith, NRCS	
Kyle Wolfe, Vice-Chair		Mark Ritter, FSA	
Dave Melby, Treasurer			

The December agenda was reviewed, no additions were made.

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

The November Treasurer’s Report was read by Melby. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Klecker, to approve the November 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. Annual Convention – Dan Hansen, Mark Ihlenfeld, Jim Klecker, Kyle Wolfe,, Adam Arndt, and Eric Gulbransen attended the Annual SWCD Convention. The Supervisors reported that there were 18 resolutions presented, only one was rejected. All who attended commented on the trade show and the quality of the presentation for the Conservation Farmer of the Year luncheon. There were also several very interesting breakout sessions that were available.
2. Meeting Reports – RC&D – Mark Ihlenfeld reported on the RC&D meeting that he attended. He informed the Board that John Beckwith is planning to retire within the year. The RC&D is in good financial standing currently but there was a discussion about the lack of projects coming in over the last year.

Cannon 1W1P – Eric Gulbransen gave an update on the 1W1P status. The Plan was not recommended for approval. A review was completed and changes were made. The plan has been sent to BWSR for the January Board meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Shared Easement Specialist Position – Eric Gulbransen presented the new agreement for this position. The only substantive change was a slight increase in the monthly cost. The new rate will be \$500/quarter. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Melby, to approve the new agreement. Motion carried by voice vote.
2. County Ditch Agreement – Eric Gulbransen presented the County Ditch Agreement. There was no change from the 2019 agreement. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Klecker, to approve the agreement. Motion was carried by voice vote.
3. Cover Crop Cost Share Approval – Adam Arndt presented the below listed contracts for payment approval. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Wolfe, to approve the contract payments. Motion carried by voice vote with Mark Ihlenfeld abstaining.
  - a. 1-18-CC, 80 acres, \$3,200
  - b. 2-18-CC, 80 acres, \$3,200
  - c. 3-18-CC, 80 acres, \$2,400
  - d. 4-18-CC, 80 acres, \$2,400
  - e. 5-18-CC, 80 acres, \$2,400
  - f. 6-18-CC, 80 acres, \$3,200
4. Strategic Planning Session – Eric Gullbransen discussed this option with the Board and it was decided to pursue it further. The plan is to establish dates that the facilitator is available and then consult the Board on their availability.
5. FY20 Local Capacity Ideas – Eric Gulbransen requested that the Board help brainstorm ideas about how they would like to see the FY20 Capacity put to use. Ideas that came up included getting new signs for the county lines, getting signs for the landowners participating in the cover crop program, creating a new program to cost share headland buffers, and purchasing a new no-till drill.
6. Annual Reviews – Tabled until after regular business was completed.
7. Other – FY17 Local Capacity Amendment – Gulbransen informed the Board that the request that we made for an extension was granted.

Roger Wacek spoke about information that he had learned about shorter growing season corn. The shorter season allows the corn more time to dry in the field which cuts on fossil fuel use and drying costs. He also spoke about shifting focus from yield per acre to profit per acre.

**Agency Reports**

Kelly Burke reported that they have been working on application and CSP payments. There is no new information regarding EQIP or CSP. She also informed the Board that there will be a Soil Health Team workshop held on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

### Agency Reports

Mark Ritter introduced himself. He is the new County Executive Director (CED) for FSA. He has a professional background managing waste water issues as well as finding funding and problem solving for how to correct those problems.

### Staff Reports

Adam Arndt reported to the Board that he has completed an update of the mailing address list. He has also been completing field checks and buffer compliance procedures. There were 4 landowners that were turned over to the County for enforcement due to their lack of compliance and no contact with the SWCD after letters were sent.

Adrienne Gransee reported that she has been working on getting the spreadsheets updated for use in 2020. She has also been working on the new online store and began a 6 year financial analysis.

Eric Gulbransen reported that he continues to be busy with both WCA and the county ditches. County Ditch 24 has been a large part of that as there have been numerous repairs being completed.

The Board requested to close the meeting so that they could get the report from the Personnel Committee about the annual reviews. The meeting was reopened after the report was completed and agenda point 6 was reopened.

### New Business

6. All reviews for the staff were positive and the Board thanked them for continuing to work diligently for the well being of the county. There was a motion made by Klecker, seconded by Melby, to give a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment and step increases to those staff who are eligible for them. Motion was carried by voice vote.

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

December Bills

<b>Cedardale Dev Co</b>	<b>December Rent</b>		<b>\$716.40</b>
<b>Jaguar</b>	<b>Internet</b>		<b>\$54.95</b>
<b>Elan</b>	<b>Gas</b>	<b>\$372.57</b>	
	<b>Meals</b>	<b>\$42.80</b>	
	<b>Promo Items</b>	<b>\$999.00</b>	
	<b>Cell Phone</b>	<b>\$88.48</b>	<b>\$1,502.85</b>
<b>RMB Lab</b>	<b>Nitrate Testing</b>		<b>\$2,567.57</b>
<b>Sign Pro</b>	<b>Truck Graphics</b>		<b>\$75.00</b>
<b>Freeborn SWCD</b>	<b>CREP Services</b>		<b>\$470.00</b>
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,386.77</b>