



STEELE COUNTY
Soil and Water Conservation District

235 Cedardale Drive SE
Owatonna MN 55060
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www.steeleswcd.org

The regular monthly meeting of the Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was called to order by Mark Ditlevson at 5:00 PM on Wednesday August 9, 2023 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, Treasurer	Eric Gulbransen	Jim Smith, NRCS	Mike Klecker, Vice Chair
Dan Hansen, PR&I	Adam Arndt	Rick Gnemi, County Commissioner	
Dave Melby, Secretary	Adrienne Gransee	Dave Copeland, BWSR	
Mark Ditlevson, Chairman			

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The August agenda was reviewed, no changes were made.

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

The July Treasurer’s Report was read by Ihlenfeld. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Melby, to approve the July 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 Reports – Soil Health Event – Dan Hansen, Dave Melby, Mark Ditlevson, Eric Gulbransen, and Adam Arndt attended this event. They reported a good turn out and good crowd participation. All expressed that the farmer panel question session was the highlight of the event. It was well planned and executed.

Cannon 1W1P – Dan Hansen attended this meeting. The decision was made to keep dues at the current level for the upcoming year. The funds have been effectively used and it appears that there will continue to be need for a similar level of funding in the future. They also discussed a large flood water management research study that will be starting.

TSA JPB – Mark Ihlenfeld and Eric Gulbransen attended this meeting. The primary focus was a review of the past year and the distribution of the workload by county.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. MASWCD Annual Convention – December 11-13, 2023 – DoubleTree Hotel, Bloomington, MN – Adrienne Gransee let the Board know about the dates for the annual State wide convention. She will provide more details as they become available.
2. Fair Schedule – Gransee requested that each Board member select an evening to spend at the fair booth. Their choices were made and there was discussion about doing their best to fill in on the days that there was not a member available for the evening.
3. No-till/Strip-till Contracts – Adam Arndt presented the contracts listed below for approval. There was discussion about the options for continuing the program moving forward since there has been a shift in the funding that the District receives. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the contracts. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - 1-23, 160 acres, \$19,200
 - 2-23-NT, 100 acres, \$15,000
4. Water Monitoring Results - Adrienne Gransee presented the results of the water monitoring that she and Arndt have been conducting. The Board discussed how the results compared to those collected last year and the variations between the different sites.
5. New Laptops – District Technician and Administrative Assistant – Gransee requested approval from the Board to begin the process for purchasing new laptops that will be linked to the Federal network. There was discussion about the need for a separate computer for District financial work and what the process

Agency Reports

Dave Copeland gave the Board an update on the status of the funding increases that are going to be coming through BWSR. Currently they are still developing the plan for division and distribution. He also gave the Board an update on staffing including a new position that will be opening. The new position will be the coordinator for the new Federal programs.

Rick Gnemi informed the Board of some expected retirements and that the County is still having difficulty in resolving things with the railroad in regards to the round-a-bout.

Jim Smith informed the Board the applications for haying CRP are being accepted in Steele county. NRCS is taking EQIP applications for projects to be completed next year. He also let the Board know that interviews for the FSA CED position have recently been held.

Staff Reports

Adrienne Gransee told the Board that preparation for both the Fair Booth and the 2022 audit are being finalized. She has been continuing to assist with water monitoring. Gransee also recently attended a training focused on how the public information act applies to personnel data.

Adam Arndt gave an update on the soil health team plans. They have decided to assist with advertising and support the field days that are already being held in the area this fall. Arndt has completed 20 CRP plans and 20 site inspections. He also is in the process of completing annual easement checks

Eric Gulbransen gave the Board an update on the hiring process. He, along with the personnel committee, have completed the review and selected the ones that they wish to move on to the next stage. He also told the Board that they are likely to need to find a new winter storage option for the drills.

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

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Gransee,
Administrative Assistant

August Bills

Cedardale Dev. Co.	August Rent			\$792.00
Adrienne Gransee	Mileage 140 @ .655		\$91.70	
	Photo Reinbursement		\$36.86	\$128.56
Tech Sales	Water Monitoring Equip			\$322.13
Elan	Gas		\$293.85	
	Drill		\$13.95	
	Fair Posters/Supplies		\$308.17	
	Phone		\$84.01	\$699.98
Freeborn SWCD	Easement Specialist			\$940.00
			Total	\$2,882.67