



**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 June 8, 2022 at the Steele County SWCD Office, 235 Cedardale Drive SE, Owatonna MN, 55060.

<b><u>SWCD Supervisors Present:</u></b>	<b><u>SWCD Staff Present:</u></b>	<b><u>Others Present:</u></b>	<b><u>Absent:</u></b>
Mark Ihlenfeld, Reporter	Eric Gulbransen	Teddy Moreno-Santos, NRCS	
Dave Melby, Treasurer	Adrienne Gransee	Dave Copeland, BWSR	
Mark Ditlevson, Vice Chair	Adam Arndt		
Mike Klecker			
Dan Hansen, Chairman			

The June agenda was reviewed, no changes were required.

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

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Meeting Reports – Mark Ditlevson reported on a meeting that he attended in Rochester. The meeting was held by an organization developing local interest in growing oats. The oats will be processed into oat milk. Ditlevson reported that the contract they were offering to those interested looks like a good opportunity and it had the benefit of adding a small grain to a crop rotation.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Tree Program Results – Adam Arndt presented the report to the Board. The number of trees and shrubs sold was reduced from the 2021 sale. This was due to a lack of availability from the suppliers through rather than a lack of interest. He also informed the Board that the majority of the native plant kits that had been sold went to the Owatonna Public School District. The profit margin was comparable to last year, even with the increased cost of the trees and shrubs.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

2. Conservation award winners – Eric Gulbransen presented the 2022 candidate list to the Board. The Board discussed each candidate and decided on the following for the conservation winners. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby, to approve the selections. Motion carried by voice vet.
  - Outstanding Conservation Farmer Award – Pat Smith
  - Outstanding Windbreak – Gene Keller
  - Wildlife Conservationist – Tom Moore
3. 2023 Proposed Budget – Adrienne Gransee presented the proposed budget to the Board. There was a discussion about the current level of support from the County and whether or not to request additional funds. It was decided to not request any additional support at this time. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby, to approve the budget as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. CRWJPB Tour – July 6 – Registration June 17 – Adam Arndt informed the Board of the plans for the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board tour to be held on July 7. Those interested in attending were requested to contact the office before June 17 so that those planning had an accurate count in order to plan for lunches.
5. Data Practices Training – MCIT – July 20 - \$65 – Adrienne Gransee presented the information about a training being held by MCIT. The training will cover data practices and requests. She requested approval from the Board to attend the meeting on July 20. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Ditlevson, to allow her to attend and to cover the registration fee. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. Trailer Sale – Gulbransen asked the Board how they would like to address the sale of the older trailer. They discussed a reasonable asking price and agreed that a direct sale would be more efficient than trying to do an auction or closed bid sale.
7. Cover Crop Cost Share Contract – Patrick Kasper – 1-22-CC - \$9,600 – Adam Arndt presented the contract. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the cover crop cost share contract. Motion passed by voice vote.
8. Other – Resolution meeting – June 28 – Faribault – Eric Gulbransen reminded the Board that the resolution meeting was going to be held in Faribault on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June for those interested in attending.

**Agency Reports**

Teddy Moreno-Santos gave an update for NRCS. He reported that the high priority CSP contracts have been approved at the state level and they are moving on to second tier funding. He also stated that there is a fair amount of EQIP activity currently including waterways and certifying strip-till acres. The CRP contracts are still an ongoing source of work for NRCS. He also reminded the Board that the EQIP Local Workgroup meeting will be held on June 14 at the Blooming Prairie Town Hall.

Dave Copeland updated the Board on the plans for BWSR Academy, at this time it is planned to be an in person event held October 25-27 at Craguns. He also gave the Board a brief history of the Local Capacity grants and outlined how the funding levels were established for each District.

**Staff Reports**

Adrienne Gransee gave the Board an update on the annual audit, as well as a brief update on how the water monitoring project for CRWJPB has been going so far this summer.

Eric Gulbransen remains busy with WCA work and a conditional use permit related to a pond that was installed. He has also been working through a complication that arose related to a ditch that run next to the railroad tracks.

Adam Arndt has been delivering drills throughout the county. He informed the Board that the native plant packs have been delivered for the year with nearly half of the ones purchased going to the Owatonna School District. He reported on upcoming field days being planned by the soil health team, and gave an overview of the 4H Agronomy night.

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

June Bills

<b>Cedardale Dev. Co</b>	<b>June Rent</b>		<b>\$716.40</b>
<b>MetroNet</b>	<b>Internet</b>		<b>\$54.95</b>
<b>Eric Gulbransen</b>	<b>54 miles @ 0.585</b>		<b>\$31.59</b>
<b>Elan</b>	<b>Gas</b>	<b>\$413.62</b>	
	<b>Tree Week Meals</b>	<b>\$302.97</b>	
	<b>4H Agronomy</b>	<b>\$147.04</b>	
	<b>Water Sampling Materials</b>	<b>\$293.32</b>	
	<b>Office Expenses</b>	<b>\$286.70</b>	
	<b>Vehicle</b>	<b>\$523.45</b>	
	<b>Phone</b>	<b>\$84.14</b>	
	<b>Postage</b>	<b>\$60.16</b>	
	<b>Website Hosting</b>	<b>\$276.00</b>	
	<b>Admin Training Hotel</b>	<b>\$159.99</b>	<b>\$2,547.39</b>
<b>Freeborn SWCD</b>	<b>Easement Specialist</b>		<b>\$940.00</b>
<b>MNL</b>	<b>Native Plants and seeds</b>		<b>\$2,675.00</b>
<b>Noel Frank</b>	<b>6 hours @ \$15</b>		<b>\$90.00</b>
<b>Mitch Hansen</b>	<b>19 Hours @ \$15</b>		<b>\$285.00</b>
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,340.33</b>