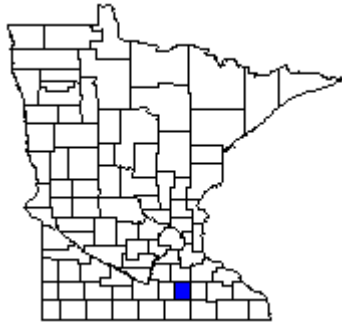


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**MINNESOTA
 SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

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 September 10, 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	Dave Melby, Treasurer
Dan Hansen, Chairman	Adrienne Gransee		
Jim Klecker, Secretary	Eric Gulbransen		
Kyle Wolfe, Vice-Chair			

The October agenda was reviewed, no additions were made.

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

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Meeting Reports – Area 7 Employee and Supervisor meeting – Ihlenfeld, Hansen, Gransee, and Arndt attended this meeting. The meeting began with a presentation from an area farmer on how he is using cover crops and other best management practices to restore his farmland and the results that he has seen. He stressed the need to get more people actively involved with soil health. Those attending went to the lunch at the country club then broke into the employees and supervisors for business meetings.

Eric Gulbransen attended a meeting put on by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture regarding the Emerald Ash Bore. The Ash Bore has been found in Medford. They stated that currently there is no solid plan for control or treatment. The treatment options available range from \$3-\$10 per diameter inch and the treatments needs to be done every 2-3 years.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2020 Medical Insurance – Gransee reported the 2020 Medical Insurance rate to the Board. The District will be receiving a 6.2% increase for the year of 2020.
2. Resolution Packet – Gransee distributed the packets to the Board members and requested that they have the completed forms back by October 25 so that it can be sent to the state office on time.
3. 2020 Meeting Date and Time – Gransee opened the topic up for discussion. The Board members talked and agreed that the current arrangement works well. A motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Wolfe, to continue having meetings on the second Tuesday of the month with 5PM start times from September through March and 7PM start times April through August. The motion carried by voice vote.
4. Riparian Aid Overpayment – Gulbransen explained to the Board that due to a change at the legislative level the amount of Riparian Aid that the county received was reduced, causing the amount that they had given us to be an overpayment based on the percentage we had agreed upon. A motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Klecker, to issue a check to Steele County for the amount of the overpayment. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. Addressed at 5:50 PM when Mark Ihlenfeld arrived – Soil Health Coalition – Representatives from the Soil Health Coalition spoke to the Supervisors at the Area 7 meeting. They were seeking funding to continue to develop their group. Ihlenfeld stated that when asked questions the representatives seemed to lack a lot of the details about the organization. Ultimately, the Supervisors did agree to give them part of the funding that they were requesting.
6. Other – Eric Gulbransen spoke about a concern that a landowner had brought to him regarding Giant Ragweed. The landowner was wondering if there was anything in place to enforce that the ragweed be controlled. Gulbransen informed them that since it is not listed as a noxious weed there is no official method of enforcing that it is controlled.

Agency Reports

Kelly Burke reported for NRCS. She stated that they are currently processing payments and when that is complete she is planning to begin lining up new projects for the next sign up.

Staff Reports

Adam Arndt stated that he has 6 landowners who were contacted regarding needing to install required buffer strips who have not responded. He has completed the field checks on all of them and will be moving on to the next step of turning their names over to the County to begin enforcement.

Adrienne Gransee reported on her activities of the last month which included beginning grant reporting, working on the calendar, and getting the website ready for the annual tree sale.

Eric Gulbransen reported that the county ditches were still a steady workload. He also stated that the activity related to WCA was picking up during the last month.

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

Respectfully Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adrienne Gransee".

Adrienne Gransee,
Administrative Assistant

October Bills

Cedardale Dev. Co	October Rent		\$716.40
Jaguar			\$54.95
Cedardale Dev. Co	Garage Rent		\$510.00
Freeborn SWCD	CREP Position		\$470.00
Adrienne Gransee	140 miles @ .58		\$81.20
Elan			
	Postage	6.40	
	Gas	164.33	
	Vehicle	47.23	
	Anti-virus software	139.57	
	Hotel	212.93	
	Ranger Tires	172.62	
	Office Expense	33.25	
	Cell phone	88.48	\$864.81
			\$2,697.36