



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 Tuesday July 13, 2021 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	Dave Copeland, BWSR	
Dan Hansen, Chairman	Adrienne Gransee	Kelly Burke, NRCS	
Dave Melby, Treasurer	Adam Arndt		
Mark Ditlevson			
Mike Klecker			

The July agenda was reviewed. No changes were made

The June minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. There were no corrections needed. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Meeting Report – Mark Ihlenfeld participated in the Area resolution meeting on June 22. There were 3 resolutions approved to move on to the State level. In the afternoon he attended the site visit for a nitrogen study being conducted just outside Lansing MN. They were testing to see the effect that different treatment and application techniques had on the field and associated waters. He stated that it was an interesting visit.

Mark Ihlenfeld also attended the RC&D planning meeting. The new director is getting settled in and there is discussion on adding focus to carbon credits in the future.

Dave Melby attended a soil health event hosted by Bill Hartle on July 8. The event was a farmer led discussion about techniques that they have tried, tips to help for success, and what has shown the most benefit. He reported that there was a good turnout.

Dan Hansen reported on the Cannon 1W1P meeting on July 7. Both the JPB and the work group met. He reported that there are projects getting moving and they expect to see progress beginning soon.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Juneteenth (June 19 Addition to Federal Holidays – On June 17, Juneteenth (June 19) was added to the Federal Holiday list. It was brought before the Board to discuss if it would be added to the SWCD holiday list. Board members discussed their thoughts on the matter, the established trend to follow what the Federal partners do regarding holidays, and questioned if it needed to be immediately decided.
Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Ditlevson, to table the topic until September. The motion failed with Hansen, Melby, and Klecker voting against tabling the topic.
Dan Hansen called for a vote to determine if the date would be added to the SWCD holiday list. Dave Melby, and Mike Klecker voted for the addition. Mark Ihlenfeld and Mark Ditlevson voted against. Dan Hansen voted for the addition, breaking the tie. Juneteenth will be added to the SWCD recognized holidays and the office will be closed.
2. Increased Maximum Per Diem - \$125 per day – During the last legislative session the maximum daily per diem for SWCD supervisors was raised to \$125. The Board discussed the current per diem levels and then questioned what the County supervisors per diem is set at and if there was any change for them. They requested that staff check into what the County supervisors were currently receiving and then there would be more discussion. Motion was made by Ditlevson, seconded by Melby, to table the topic until the following meeting. Motion passed by voice vote.
3. DNR Well Observation Contract – Adam Arndt presented the 2022 well observation contract for approval. There were no additions, subtractions, or other changes from 2021. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the contract. Motion passed by voice vote.
4. Fair Awards Presentation – Dan Hansen will be unavailable to present the awards to the 2020 and 2021 Conservation award winners at the fair this year. He requested that one of the other Board member take over the role of presenter. Mark Ihlenfeld agreed to present the awards.
5. Fair Booth Schedule – The Board members discussed when each would be available to spend time at the fair booth. The final schedule will be decided at the August meeting.
6. 75th Anniversary Bus Tour – September 16 – Staff presented the date for the bus tour and the plan for a social time with refreshments following the tour. There was discussion about tour stops and possible speakers. There was also discussion about who the Board would like to send personal invites out to in advance of the public tour announcement. A list was created and those invitations will be sent as soon as all details are established.

Agency Reports

Dave Copeland gave the Board an overview of the funding that was passed by the Legislature. The base funding and the Local Capacity funding for SWCDs remained unchanged. He also spoke about some new programs that will be starting in the near future.

Kelly Burke briefly reviewed the NRCS Civil Rights document and informed the Board where it can be found for further review if desired. She then gave a brief overview of the July NRCS report, see attached.

Staff Reports

Adrienne Gransee completed grant reporting for the 1st quarter and began to prepare for the annual financial audit. She also informed the Board that she would be doing nitrogen testing at the fair on August 18 and 19.

Eric Gulbransen continues to work on the county ditches as well as WCA. The ditches have been primarily inspections and with a few repairs. He informed the Board of a project being considered on the Rice county portion of JD5. He also has helped with delivering the drill. Eric informed the Board that CRAC has been discussing working on outreach to absentee landowners

Adam Arndt reported that demand for the seeders has continued to be high. He also spoke about 2 field days that the soil health team are in the process of planning. In addition he has been working to get projects laid out for construction.

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

July Bills

Cedardale Dev. Co		July Rent		\$716.40
Metronet		Internet		\$54.95
Cedardale Dev. Co		Garage Rent		\$540.00
Truax		Drill parts		\$214.60
Schlatters		Tile Probes		\$132.56
Elan		Gas	\$296.55	
		Truck	\$76.68	
		Phone	\$84.61	
		Field Supplies	\$19.85	
		Postage	\$114.00	\$591.69
SE JBP		Technical Support Hours		\$2,879.24
MN Native Landscapes		Plant Kit		\$45.00
Freeborn SWCD		Easement specialist		\$940.00
			TOTAL	\$6,114.44