



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 July 13, 2022 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	Jim Brady, County Commissioner	Mike Klecker
Dave Melby, Treasurer	Adrienne Gransee	Rick Gnemi, County Commissioner	Adam Arndt
Mark Ditlevson, Vice Chair		Jim Smith, NRCS	
Dan Hansen, Chairman			

The July agenda was reviewed, no changes were required.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Meeting Reports – Resolution Meeting – June 14 – Gulbransen, Hansen and Ihlenfeld attended this meeting. There were no resolutions presented for this year. There was a good amount of productive discussion about options for resolutions for the upcoming year. They also reported that the tour of the wollen mill after lunch was very interesting.

Local Workgroup Meeting – Gulbransen Ditlevson and Melby attended this meeting, along with Jim Smith and Teddy Moreno-Santos. There was a short discussion about the areas of concern and then each attendee had the opportunity to vote for their preferences individually.

CRWJPB – Employee meeting & Tour – July 6 – The tour consisted of 3 stops and included a presentation on septic systems, a lake management plan and a water sampling demonstration. All of those who attended said that the septic system presentation was the most interesting portion of the tour.

JD6 meeting – This meeting consisted of discussion about the history of the ditch, past maintenance, current issues and future maintenance needs.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Increased IRS Mileage Rate – 0.625 per mile – Adrienne Gransee informed the Board of the change to the IRS rate. This is an increase from the previous rate of 0.585 that was set in January 2022.
2. Fair Awards Presentation – Dan Hansen will be unavailable to present at fair awards ceremony. Mark Ihlenfeld will be presenting in his place.
3. Fair Schedule – The Board members discussed who would be able to attend to the fair booth on each night of the fair. The schedule will be finalized at the August meeting.
4. Easement Work Order – 74-21-W099 - \$2, 950 – Gransee presented the easement work order for easement checks to the board. The work order requests a digital signature. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the contract and authorize Gransee to sign and submit it. Motion passed by voice vote.
5. DNR Well Monitoring Contract – Gulbransen presented the 2023 DNR Well Monitoring Contract to the Board. The contract includes some new sites for 2023. There was discussion about the location of the sites and the compensation. This contract also requires a digital signature. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ditlevson, to approve the contract and authorize Arndt to sign and submit. Motion passed by voice vote.
6. TSA Board Meeting – July 20, 1PM – Olmsted County Campus – Gulbransen informed the Board of the annual meeting in case any were interested in attending.
7. SCFF Radio Opportunity from KRFO – Gransee presented an opportunity being offered by KRFO to have the District recognized during their annual radio coverage of the fair events. The Board discussed and decided that since KOWZ is the official radio station of the District they would pass on this offer.
8. Internet Change – Spectrum – 64.99/month – Gransee expressed displeasure with the reliability of the current internet provider and requested Board approval to switch to Spectrum. There is a slight increase in cost but that should be offset by the more reliable service. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ditlevson, to approve the change. Motion carried by voice vote.
9. Grant Final Financial Reports – Gransee presented 2 final financial reports, listed below, to the Board for signature. All funds have been expended from these grants and need to be reported to BWSR.
 - FY20 State Cost Share - \$10,609
 - FY22 Conservation Delivery - \$20,014
10. MADi Meeting – August 17-18 – Gulbransen presented the information about the Minnesota Association of Ditch Inspectors meeting. He requested Board approval to attend. Motion was made by Ditlevson, seconded by Melby, to approval Gulbransen attending and the associated costs. Motion carried by voice vote.
11. Other – Gulbransen informed the Board of an informal meeting being hosted by Bill Hartle on July 26 at 2pm. This is an annual meeting that he hosts for local farmers to socialize and discuss what is work or not working for them regarding primarily cover crops and conservation tillage.

Agency Reports

Jim Brady and Rick Gnemi gave an update for the County. They informed the Board of the mixed discussion about how to manage the jail moving forward and the requirements for running it. There was also a brief discussion about some upcoming staff changes.

Jim Smith reported that he has been receiving a number of calls regarding CRP maintenance and he has been working on projects in Dodge County. He accompanied a PR representative to the large RIM/WRP easement located at the headwaters of the Zumbro river watershed. They shot footage and did interviews for an upcoming feature through NRCS.

Staff Reports

Adrienne Gransee reported about the training that she had attended. The training was beneficial and well worth the time. She expressed an interest in redoing how QuickBooks is set up to make it more efficient. She let the Board know that she has completed as much of the grant reporting as possible at this point. Gransee also let the Board know that we have begun to get results back from the lab for the water sampling that is being completed.

Eric Gulbransen informed the Board that he is in the process of wrapping up three WCA violations. The ditches continue to keep him busy, specifically JD6. There have been 3 different plans presented for the needed repairs. No plan has been selected yet.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made by Ditlevson, 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
Tree Pro			Tubes		\$1,847.50
Adrienne Gransee			413 miles @ .625		\$258.13
Elan			Fuel	\$367.54	
			Postage	\$176.16	
			Cell Phone	\$84.14	\$627.84
				TOTAL	\$4,044.82