



STEELE COUNTY
Soil and Water Conservation District

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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 Dan Hansen at 5:00 PM on Tuesday September 14, 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 (via conference call)	Mike Klecker
Dan Hansen, Chairman	Adrienne Gransee		
Dave Melby, Treasurer	Adam Arndt		
Mark Ditlevson			

The September agenda was reviewed. No changes were made

The August minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. No changes were required. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Ditlevson, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

The August Treasurer’s Report was read by Melby. Motion was made by Ditlevson, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the August 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 Repots – Strip Till and Cover Crop Field Day – August 31 – Ihlenfeld, Melby, and Ditlevson attended this field day at Tom Polacek’s farm. The presentation showed how his yields compared to the county average, how the needed inputs had changed, and about the other signs of improved soil health. The Supervisors stated that it was a very good event with a good turnout.

Cannon River Partnership – Ihlenfeld and Melby attended this event. It included a demonstration of seeding cover crops by drone. They described the process and stated that it is best suited to small fields and could be cost prohibitive. The drone can also be used for spot spraying.

JD6 Meeting – Adam Arndt, Eric Gulbransen, and Mark Ihlenfeld attended a meeting to discuss JD6. The ditch was damaged in a previous clean out and is now going to be expensive to repair. The meeting discussed a multi-phase project plan that includes water storage as part of the solution for this ditch.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. Fair Recap – Adrienne Gransee told the Board that there were no people who brought in water samples for testing while she was at the fair booth but there were many who came to the booth and wanted to talk. It was an opportunity to answer questions and increase interest in the tree program. Ihlenfeld and Gulbransen attended the award ceremony on Tuesday and both stated that it went smoothly.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. MCIT 2022 Estimated Contribution – Gransee presented the estimated 2022 contribution, listed below. The contribution for property/casualty was increased due to extensive property damage claims in the previous year.
 - Property/Casualty – \$3,563
 - Workers Comp – \$3,234
2. Adjusted Pay Scales – The personnel committee met with the Board and presented the updated pay scales. The Board approved the new scales and they will be used when staff evaluations, COLA adjustments, and step increases are discussed in December.
3. Equipment Update – Gulbransen told the Board that they are beginning to seek bids for a new ½ ton pick-up to replace the 2008 Chevrolet. They are also beginning to gather the information about a new no till seeder. At this time they are favoring an eight foot Great Plains drill.
4. Tires – Chevy truck – Adam Arndt presented the quote for tires that he had from Car Time. The quote was \$580 for 4 tires and labor. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ditlevson, to approve the purchase. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. Cover Crop Contract – 3-21-CC, Dan Roemhildt, \$9,600 – Adam Arndt presented the contract for approval. The contract is for 80 acres of a 4 or more species mix of cover crops for the next 3 years. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Melby, to approve the contract. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. Cost Share Contract Payment – 1-20, Gary Terpstra, \$842.20 – Adam Arndt presented the voucher for payment. This project was a joint effort with EQIP, and the state cost share covered 25% of the total project cost. The project came in at a lower cost than originally anticipated and payment was adjusted accordingly. Motion was made by Ditlevson, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the payment. Motion passed by voice vote.
7. Certification of Vaccination – The Board decided to table this topic until there was more clear guidance available.
8. Area 7 Fall Meeting – September 22 – Adrienne Gransee presented the information to the Board for the meeting and requested that those interested in attending please let her know as soon as possible so that the information could be sent to those planning the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

9. Other – Open meeting law update - Adrienne Gransee presented a few updates to open meeting law that have now gone into effect. The most pertinent having to do with how many times a Board member could participate in a meeting from a location that is not open to the public and under what circumstances.

Agency Reports

Dave Copeland stated that BWSR staff are working remotely again rather than following a hybrid schedule. He also informed the Board that BWSR Academy will be held virtually again this year. Registration will be open soon.

Kelly Burke stated that there is 1 new EQIP contract. There have been no changes in CSP. CRP contracts are being completed, 67 have been finished at this time.

Staff Reports

Adrienne Gransee has continued to work with the auditor to get the annual financial audit completed. She also worked on preparing a packet for the 75th anniversary tour, which was postponed. She also has begun work on the calendar for 2022.

Eric Gulbransen has been primarily occupied with WCA and meetings regarding the county ditches.

Adam Arndt stated that he has been working from home due to the need to quarantine. He was able to complete a lot of the CRP contracts remotely.

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

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Gransee,
Administrative Assistant

September Bills

Cedardale Dev. Co		September Rent		\$716.40
Metronet		Internet		\$54.95
Elan		Gas	\$167.31	
		Fair	\$298.89	
		Postage	\$254.00	
		Cell Phone	\$84.58	\$804.78
				\$1,576.13