



**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 June 8, 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	Kelly Burke, NRCS	
Dave Melby, Treasurer	Adam Arndt		
Mark Ditlevson			

The June agenda was reviewed. No changes were made

The May minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. There were no corrections needed. 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 Ditlevson, to approve the May Treasurer’s Report. Motion was carried by voice vote.

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Meeting Report – Mark Ihlenfeld participated in the Local Work Group meeting. The meeting was open to multiple counties and the goal was to discuss and determine the priority concerns for EQIP applications in the upcoming year.

Mark Ihlenfeld also attended the RC&D meeting in Rochester. He reported that there were presenters from the Pollinator Partnership that spoke. Terri Peters from the Wabasha SWCD also spoke about a soil reward program that they are interested in starting. Ihlenfeld also stated that Olmsted is currently working on a biochar feasibility study.

2. Other – Retirement event for Jim Klecker – The Board would like to hold a retirement event to thank Jim Klecker for his many years of service on the SWCD Board. A pot luck style meal was suggested. Adrienne Gransee stated that she will look into location options as well as available dates.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Tree Program Results – Adam Arndt reported that he sold about 3000 more trees than last year and could probably have sold more if he had been able to get them from the supplier. The profit percentage is about the same as previous years. He also is planning to adjust the cost of the potted stock for next year to better match what surrounding Districts offer.
2. Fair Booth Rental - \$225 – There was discussion about what benefits the District gets from the booth. Themes for the booth were also discussed. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the cost of the booth for the 2021 Steele County Free Fair. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. Conservation Award Winners – The Board discussed the option that they were given for each category. Bill Hartle was selected for Outstanding Conservation Farmer, Lavern Ptacek for Outstanding Windbreak, and Marv & Mark Kubat for Outstanding Wildlife Conservationist. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Ditlevson, to approve the selections. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. State Cost Share Tech Option – Adrienne Gransee presented the Tech Option form to the Board for the FY21 State Cost Share grant. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the tech option. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. Greater Zumbro River 1W1P Joint Powers Agreement – Eric Gulbransen presented a brief description of the agreement that the Zumbro 1W1P is establishing. They decided to establish a joint powers agreement rather than a joint powers board. This means that no new entity is formed. Financial decisions will be made by the fiscal agent of the grant with the policy committee acting in an advisory fashion. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ditlevson, to agree to participate in this joint powers agreement. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. 2022 Proposed Budget – Adrienne Gransee presented the 2022 Proposed Budget. There was a discussion about the requested amount for the county allocation. It was decided that at this time, since other funding sources are stable, the best course of action is to keep the requested amount the same as previous years. Motion was made by Ditlevson, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the budget and submit it to the County. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. State Cost Share Project – Gary Terpstra, 1-20, \$1,984 – Adam Arndt presented the contract. The project is a class 4 waterway rebuild. Cost share is covering 25% of the cost. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Melby, to approve the contract. Motion carried by voice vote.
8. Name change for Cannon River Watershed Partnership – Eric Gulbransen informed the Board that CRWP has officially changed their name to Clean River Partners.
9. Banquet Date and Venue Options – Adrienne Gransee presented venue options for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary banquet. The Board decided that the VFW would be the best option to meet the needs of a large group. Date range has been tentatively set for the beginning of November.

**Agency Reports**

Dave Copeland said that at this time the BWSR regulations regarding meetings and work conditions are still in place. He also discussed the upcoming changes to the state cost share program. They are going to require a work plan to be completed. The work plan will replace the tech option and will also make the non-structural practices document unnecessary.

Kelly Burke informed the Board that they currently have 10 applications. Three have been obligated and five pre-approved, with 2 others waiting for approval. In addition there are four new potential applicants for the EQIP program.

**Staff Reports**

Adrienne Gransee put together the tree results report and the 2022 budget for the Board to review. She has also been looking at options for the banquet and other anniversary related activities. In addition she has been reviewing her Envirothon information in preparation for the event next spring.

Eric Gulbransen stated that WCA and the ditches have been occupying much of his time. There are a number of repairs that need to be made to the County Ditches. He also let the Board know that final work on the reroute near Ellendale is being completed.

Adam Arndt has been having a lot of demand for both of the seeders. He also reported on the 4H night that he helped organize. The number of kids that stayed to put their projects together was smaller than expected but the remaining kits were picked up by parents. They delivered approximately 40 kits this year.

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

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>Elan</b>	<b>Laptop</b>	<b>\$1,558.35</b>	
	<b>Tree Meal</b>	<b>\$188.22</b>	
	<b>Gas</b>	<b>\$216.52</b>	
	<b>Field Supplies</b>	<b>14.11</b>	
	<b>Drill</b>	<b>2.97</b>	
	<b>4-H Supplies</b>	<b>137.82</b>	
	<b>Cell Phone</b>	<b>84.61</b>	
	<b>Website Hosting</b>	<b>276.00</b>	
	<b>Office Supplies</b>	<b>8.82</b>	
	<b>Postage</b>	<b>63.14</b>	<b>\$2,550.56</b>
<b>MN Native Landscapes</b>	<b>Prairie Plants &amp; Seeds</b>		<b>\$1,810.00</b>
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,131.91</b>