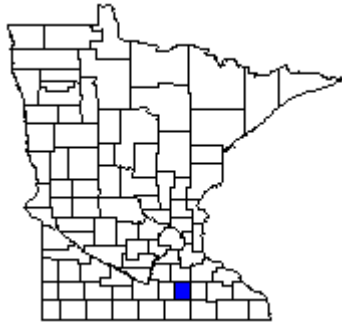


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**MINNESOTA  
 SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

The regular monthly meeting of the Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was called to order by Vice-Chairman Kyle Wolfe at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday August 6, 2019 at the Conservation Office located at 235 Cedardale Drive SE, Owatonna, MN.

<b><u>SWCD Supervisors Present:</u></b>	<b><u>SWCD Staff Present:</u></b>	<b><u>Others Present:</u></b>	<b><u>Absent:</u></b>
Mark Ihlenfeld, Reporter	Adam Arndt	Jim Smith, NRCS	Dan Hansen, Chairman
Kyle Wolfe, Vice-Chair	Eric Gulbransen	Kelly Burke, NRCS	Jim Klecker, Secretary
Dave Melby, Treasurer	Adrienne Gransee	James Brady, County Commissioner	
		Roger Wacek	

The August agenda was reviewed, no additions were made.

The July minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the minutes as written. Motion was carried by voice vote.

The July Treasurer’s Report was read by Melby. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Melby, to approve the July 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 Reports – JPB – Mark Ihlenfeld and Eric Gulbransen attended the Joint Powers Board meeting. Mark reported that the primary focus was a review of the current status of the Board. They also made a change to the Feedlot Cost Share policy. They changed the percentage to a 75% cost share in order to be able to divide the available funds between more projects.

RC&D – James Brady reported on this meeting. The major point of the meeting was a vote to become the fiscal agent for a federal grant program. The vote passed. They also did a site visit to a building that is controlled by the RC&D in order to assess what they would like to do with it.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Grant Reconciliation Financial – Adrienne Gransee presented the financial report for the FY17 Local Capacity grant now that the reconciliation is complete. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve signing the financial statement and send it to BWSR. Motion carried by voice vote.
2. FY20-21 Grant Agreement – Gransee presented the new grant agreement to the Board. The agreement is for the Conservation Delivery and State Cost Share grants. The funding level remained the same as previous years. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Melby, to approve signing the agreement and sending it to BWR. Motion carried by voice vote.
  - a. Conservation Delivery - \$20,014
  - b. State Cost Share - \$10,609
3. Presenter for Conservation Award Winners - Dan Hansen will not be available to present the awards to the Conservation Winners. Mark Ihlenfeld said that he will fill in since he has done it the last couple of years.
4. Soil Health Bus Tour – September 7 – 7:30 AM- 3:00 PM – Adam Arndt presented the informational flyer for this tour. The tour is going to visit 3 farms in different stages of their soil health journey. Each landowner will be talking about their operation and what they have been doing to improve soil health.
5. MASWCD Area Report – Eric Gulbransen presented the Legislative report to the Board. He reported that the Local Capacity funds may see an increase. There was also \$900,000 set aside for the new Lawns to Legumes program. He also stated that implementation funding for the 1 Watershed 1 Plan was increased.
6. Governance 101 – September 12-13 - \$250 registration – Adrienne Gransee requested permission from the Board to register for this training and book a hotel room for the night. The training covers statues governing SWCD’s, the roles of Board and staff, and a variety of other topics. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Melby, to approve the expenses for the registration, hotel, and meals. Motion passed by voice vote.
7. Other – Eric Gulbransen brought a concern that he received from a member of the public to the attention of the Board. The concern was regarding a motion and vote made at the May board meeting to approve three cover crop cost share contracts. The concern was that the motion was made by a Board member who was an extended member of the family to some of those who were entering into the contracts. Gulbransen reported to the Board that he had brought the situation to the attention of our BWSR Board Conservationist, as they oversee our grant funded programs. There was discussion with the BWSR representative and those farther up the chain. They concluded that there was not a problem with the Board member participating in this motion and vote, but recommended that he abstain when it was time to approve payment on the contracts. The Board also agreed that the County Attorney will be consulted for further recommendations on the situation.

Public Comments – Roger Wacek spoke about a meeting that he attended called Farming in Karst Country. He reported that the meeting was very well done and informative. He also spoke about an article that he had read about the discovery of Holy Grail cave in Fillmore County.

Agency Reports:

Kelly Burke reported that there has been 1 application approved for the Prevent Plant Cover Crop program. They are taking applications for those interested in EQIP and CSP for next year. Burke reported that she will be helping at the NRCS stand at the State Fair and also that she plans to spend 1 day a week in the Dodge county office.

Staff Reports

Eric Gulbransen reported that like many months his time has mainly been divided between attending to WCA related issues, addressing the County ditch system and attending 1 Watershed 1 Plan meetings.

Adam Arndt reported that the current ditch projects are getting completed. He also has been working on CRP contracts. Arndt told the Board that everything was set to do water sampling at the fair booth Wednesday evening and Thursday morning.

Adrienne Gransee reported on her activities of the last month. The major activities included preparing materials for the fair booth meeting with the area's employee board to begin planning for the fall meeting.

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

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Gransee,  
Administrative Assistant

August Bills

<b>Cedardale Dev. Co.</b>		<b>August Rent</b>			<b>\$716.40</b>
<b>Jaguar</b>		<b>Internet</b>			<b>\$54.95</b>
<b>DeWitt</b>		<b>Matting</b>			<b>\$1,314.29</b>
<b>Adam Arndt</b>		<b>Mileage 25@.58</b>			<b>\$14.50</b>
<b>Adrienne Gransee</b>		<b>Mileage 32@.58</b>			<b>\$18.56</b>
<b>Court Sports</b>		<b>Shirts</b>			<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Tri-M Graphics</b>		<b>Envelopes</b>			<b>\$731.50</b>
<b>Elan</b>		<b>Gas</b>		<b>\$297.76</b>	
		<b>Office Supplies</b>		<b>\$119.54</b>	
		<b>Website/Logo</b>		<b>\$70.00</b>	
		<b>Promotional Items</b>		<b>\$1,010.37</b>	
		<b>Phone</b>		<b>\$87.83</b>	<b>\$1,585.50</b>
				<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,535.70</b>