



STEELE COUNTY
Soil and Water Conservation District

235 Cedardale Drive SE
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 Mark Ditlevson at 4:00 PM on Tuesday March 14, 2023 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, Treasurer	Eric Gulbransen	Jim Smith, NRCS	
Dan Hansen, PR&I	Adam Arndt	James Brady, County Commissioner	
Dave Melby, Secretary	Adrienne Gransee	Roger Wacek	
Mike Klecker, Vice Chair			
Mark Ditlevson, Chairman			

The March agenda was reviewed, no changes were made.

The February minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Meeting Reports – Soil Health Winter Workshop – Owatonna – Feb. 21 – This event was attended by all staff as well as Dave Melby, Mark Ihlenfeld, Dan Hansen and Mark Ditlevson. The event had a good turnout with many local landowners attending. There was some discontent expressed about the speakers. It would have been good for their chosen topics to be more closely related to ag production in our area. It was also expressed that the MC did too much talking during the Custom Operator panel, not allowing the guest producers to answer questions.

Legislative Day at the Capital – March 7-8 – Adam Arndt, Eric Gulbransen, Dan Hansen, Mark Ihlenfeld, Dave Melby and Mark Ditlevson attended this event. The 7th was a briefing about what MASWCD has been supporting for this legislative session followed by a social attended by legislators, SWCD staff and supervisors. On the 8th staff and supervisors attended meeting that had been scheduled with the local representatives. The feedback that they received about the SWCD Aid bill is that they are optimistic that it will pass this year.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Farm Family of the Year - Eric Gulbransen presented the information to the Board. They discussed the possible options and what the committee seems to prioritize when they make their selection. Gulbransen requested that if someone came up with a candidate they call the office and we can submit the needed information.
2. Estimate for Logo Envelopes – Adrienne Gransee presented the Board with the cost estimate provided by Tri-M Graphics for District logo envelopes. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby, to approve the expense. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. NACD Dues - \$775 – Gransee presented the dues to the Board. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Klecker, to approve paying the NACD annual dues. Motion made by voice vote.
4. Supervisor Orientation – April 4, 9:00AM – Rochester – Gulbransen gave the information about the event to the Board. Those who were interested in attending requested details be sent to them.
5. Area 7 Employee Meeting – March 23 - \$15 registration – The Board was presented with the information for the employee meeting. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Hansen, to approve the staff going and the District covering the cost of registration. Motion passed by voice vote.

Agency Reports

Jim Smith gave the Board some details about the funding for EQIP that is going to be coming from the Inflation Reduction Act. They are also in the beginning stages of developing the new programs that will be coming. He informed that Board that the CREP rates have been increased to better align with the recent land sale rates.

Staff Reports

Adam Arndt spoke about the technical training that he attended. The major focus of the training was on selling the idea of conservation and specific practices. Arndt also spoke about the meeting he attended for the Governor's Pheasant Opener event. The District has been tasked with developing a list of the top 10 recommendations for hunting locations. He also informed the Board that tree weeks has been set for the fist week in May.

Adrienne Gransee gave the Board a brief update on Envirothon, there are currently no teams registered but there is still plenty of time before the event. She also let the Board know that BWSR has launched their new version of eLink, she will be attending a training on it in the coming week. She also let the Board know that she is beginning to prep for the fair and is open to any ideas for themes that they would like to suggest.

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

Respectfully Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adrienne Gransee".

Adrienne Gransee,
Administrative Assistant

March Bills

Cedardale Dev. Co	March Rent		\$716.40
Spectrum	Internet		\$64.99
Adrienne Gransee	Mileage 72@0.655		\$47.16
Elan	Laptop & Software	2430.65	
	Meal	49.98	
	Cell Phone	84.09	
	Website	24.85	
	QuickBooks Payroll	719.41	
	Office Supplies	312.13	\$3,621.11
Freeborn SWCD	White Cedar - BR		\$65.00
Torey's Restaurant & Bar	Soil Helth Event		\$2,597.73
		Total	\$7,112.39