



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 Dave Melby at 5:00 PM on Wednesday November 12, 2025 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, Secretary	Eric Gulbransen	Annie Gunness, BWSR	Mark Ditlevson, PR&I
Dave Melby, Chairman	Adrienne Gransee		Ian Pringle
Brad Hagen, Treasurer	Adam Arndt		
Dan Hansen, Vice Chair	Alan Krause		

The November agenda was reviewed and no changes were made.

The October minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. A correction to those in attendance was noted. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the minutes with the correction. Motion carried by voice vote.

The October Treasurer’s Report was read by Hagen. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Hansen, to approve the October Treasurer’s Report. Motion was carried by voice vote.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Meeting Reports – Cannon 1W1P – Dan Hansen reported on the meeting held November 5. The reviewed the status of grants funds, some of which have been delayed due to the Federal government shutdown. They viewed and discussed some promotional videos currently being used in Olmsted county that appear to be having a positive impact. He also stated that they reviewed the projects that have been completed.

JPB – Mark Ihlenfeld updated the Board on the status of the hiring process for the JBP. They have completed another interview and offered the Technician position to the candidate.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2026 Medical Insurance Options – The Board was presented with the four best options for medical insurance for 2026. All of the options presented have an increase in monthly premium and the annual deductible. Final decision on the plan will be made at the December Board meeting.
2. Cover Crop Contract Amendment – Adam Arndt presented the amendment to the contract. The total amount for the contract was being increased from \$12,807 to \$14,040. The change is due to a miscalculation in the rate when the contract was initially executed. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Hagen, to approve the amendment. Motion passed by voice vote.
3. MASWCD Convention – Dec 1-3, Bloomington, MN – Adrienne Gransee got a final headcount for who was planning to attend the Convention so that she could register those who will be able to attend.
4. Other – Brad Hagen Training events and travel – Brad Hagen presented three different training events that he was interested in attending. He requested approval from the Board for the District to cover registration, mileage and hotel for one of the three meetings. That one is a Soil Health event taking place in Cedar Falls, IA on December 7-9. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Ihlenfeld to approve the motion. Motion passed by voice vote, with Brad Hagen abstaining.

Agency Reports

Annie Gunness gave an update on the BWSR grants. The FY26/27 grants have been approved and disbursed and the RFI for the FY26 Buffer grant is available in eLink. Gunness also gave an update on upcoming grants such as the manure management grant and the competitive project & practices grants that will be open for application in the early spring.

Staff Reports

Adam Arndt gave the Board an update on his activities. He has spent some time away from the office due to harvest. While in the office he has been working on cover crop contracts and vouchers, as well as completing annual buffer checks throughout the county. He informed the Board about an event being held and Dean Jirousek's farm.

Alan Krause gave an update on the inter-seeding taking place in Rice county. They have done approximately 600 acres of cover crops for 9 landowners. Krause also spoke about a Rice creek presentation that was done by MPCA and gave additional details about the event taking place at the Jirousek farm.

Eric Gulbransen reported that the project on JD11 has been completed, and the one on CD5 is nearing completion. He has been working to wrap up WCA projects and paperwork as well as dealing with a disagreement between landowners in a drainage group.

Adrienne Gransee reported on her time at BWSR Academy, giving the Board a brief report on the sessions that she attended. The standout sessions were the one presented by the founder of MN Seed and the one giving details about BWSR's Living Landscape initiative.

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Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Ihlenfeld, 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

November Bills

Cedardale Development Co.	November Rent		\$836.64
Spectrum	November Internet		\$89.99
Chad Billat	Easement Services		\$1,054.00
Adrienne Gransee	424 miles @ \$0.70		\$296.80
Elan	Hotel Refund	-\$200.11	
	Gas	\$44.09	
	Cell Phone	\$89.68	
	QuickBooks Monthly Payroll	\$30.07	
	WeWorked	\$227.99	
	Meals	\$45.00	
	Field Supplies	\$6.43	\$243.15
Mike's Repair	Tires		\$283.29
Eric Gulbransen	64 miles @ \$0.70		\$44.80
		TOTAL	\$2,848.67