



**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 4:30 PM on Wednesday February 9, 2022 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	Teddy Moreno-Santos, NRCS	
Dan Hansen, Chairman	Adrienne Gransee	Jim Smith, NRCS	
Dave Melby, Treasurer	Adam Arndt	James Brady, County Commissioner	
Mark Ditlevson		Dave Copeland, BWSR	
Mike Klecker			

The February agenda was reviewed, two additional items were added.

The January minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. One spelling correction was noted. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Ditlevson, to approve the minutes with the noted change. Motion carried by voice vote.

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Meeting Repots – Cannon 1W1P JPB meeting – January 19 – Dan Hansen attended this meeting. He reported that they took care of a variety of annual needs such as reviewing and setting officers. They also reviewed the current financial standing and an overview of their activity in 2021.

Cover Crop Meeting – Blooming Prairie – January 26 – Dave Melby attended this meeting with a few of the local Steele County farmers. The 2 main speakers were also local farmers who shared their experiences with cover crops. Melby reported that it was an interesting meeting and well worth attending.

Soil Health Meeting – Albert Lea – February 9 – This meeting was attended by Dave Melby, Dan Hansen, Mark Ditlevson, Mark Ihlenfeldd, Eric Gulbransen, Adam Arndt, and several of the Steele County farmers. The topics for this meeting were less on the ground and more technical based. Those that attended reported that they appreciated getting this view as well and the speaker was very interested in her topic.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

JPB – Mark Ihlenfeld attended this meeting. They set the officers for the year and reviewed the annual designations. They looked at the annual budget and reviewed projects. They discussed the personnel policy and performed personnel reviews.

RC&D – January 24 – This meeting was attended by Mark Ihlenfeld. The meeting focused on annual and end of year reviews and discussions. They also reviewed their bylaws.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Final Financial Reports – Adrienne Gransee presented the final financial reports, listed below, for the grants that closed at the end of 2021. The reports had already been signed and submitted.
  - FY19 Local Capacity
  - FY20 Buffer Law
  - FY20 WCA
  - FY21 WCA
2. Cooperative Agreement with NRCS – Jim Smith presented the cooperative agreement to the Board. It outlines the services provided by NRCS and the services that the District provides in return. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Ditlevson, to approve, sign and return the agreement as presented. Motion carried by voice votes.
3. Day at the Capital – March 9-10 – The Day at the Capital is going to be held in person this year. Dave Melby, Mark Ihlenfeld, and Dan Hansen expressed interest in attending. Adrienne Gransee will be securing hotel rooms and contacting legislators to arrange meetings.
4. Election Filing – 4/17 to 4/30 – This items was included for the information of the Board members.
5. Peterson Audit Bid - \$3,350 – Gransee presented the bid from Peterson. There was discussion about how working with them in the past went. There was nothing negative in their past performances. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker, to accept the bid. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. Greater Zumbro River Sub-Agreement – Gulbransen presented the agreement. This agreement allows the District to utilize Zumbro 1W1P funds for work within the Zumbro watershed. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Klecker, to approve the agreement. Motion passed by voice vote.
7. NACD Dues - \$775 – Gransee presented the NACD dues for 2022. The amount is the same as past years. Motion was made by Ditlevson, seconded by Melby, to pay the dues as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.
8. Fair Booth – August 16-21 - \$225.00 – Gransee presented the agreement for the 2022 fair booth. There was discussion about the benefits that are gained from the booth. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Ihlenfeld to sign the agreement and send in the funds for reservation of the booth. Motion passed by voice vote. Mark Ditlevson abstained from voting.

**Agency Reports**

James Brady reported that Extension was hosting an Ag Horizons event on February 21 from 10am to 2 pm. He also reported on the changes in the County representatives for various committees and the upcoming building projects.

Jim Smith stated that he has been spending a fair amount of time meeting with landowners to begin looking at potential new projects.

Teddy Moreno-Santos reported that there are currently 11 EQIP applications that have been ranked and assessed that are now waiting on funding decisions. CSP currently has 3 pending applications. He also stated that the status reviews for the 2022 expiring CRP contracts have been completed.

Dave Copeland that BWSR is currently accepting grant applications for water storage projects in the Minnesota and Mississippi river basins.

**Staff Reports**

Adrienne Gransee reported that all of the grant reporting has been completed and the work plans for State Cost share and the Buffer Law grants have been submitted. She also has been working on the 2021 financial reports.

Eric Gulbransen informed the Board that WCA continues to keep him busy with 2 new potential violations. He also has been spending time working on reporting, attending field days and on some ditch work.

Adam Arndt reported on the cover crop educational event that he helped to plan. He also gave the Board an update on the tree program and how quickly things have been selling out this year.

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

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Gransee,  
Administrative Assistant

February Bills

<b>MetroNet</b>		<b>Internet</b>		<b>\$54.95</b>
<b>Cedardale Development Co.</b>		<b>February Rent</b>		<b>\$716.40</b>
<b>Elan</b>		<b>Gas</b>	<b>\$139.34</b>	
		<b>Meal</b>	<b>\$22.60</b>	
		<b>Cell Phone</b>	<b>\$84.18</b>	
		<b>QuickBooks</b>	<b>\$375.80</b>	
		<b>Office Supplies</b>	<b>\$24.40</b>	<b>\$646.32</b>
<b>MN State Auditor</b>		<b>Audit Review</b>		<b>\$124.00</b>
<b>Kath Moving</b>		<b>Furniture moving</b>		<b>\$95.00</b>
<b>DVS</b>		<b>Ford Registration</b>	<b>\$19.25</b>	
		<b>Chevy Registration</b>	<b>\$19.25</b>	<b>\$38.50</b>
<b>Truax</b>		<b>Drill</b>		<b>\$33,146.00</b>
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34,821.17</b>