



STEELE COUNTY
Soil and Water Conservation District

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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 Dave Melby at 5:00 PM on Tuesday April 8, 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	Jim Smith, NRCS	Ian Pringle
Dan Hansen, Vice Chair	Adam Arndt	Lezlie Sorensen, NRCS	
Dave Melby, Chairman	Adrienne Gransee	Vern Wilker	
Brad Hagen, Treasurer	Alan Krause	Chad Bilat	
Mark Ditlevson, PR&I			

The April agenda was reviewed and no changes were made.

The March minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. No changes were noted. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Melby, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

The March Treasurer’s Report was read by Hagen. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the March 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 – Ag Concern Meeting – Dan Hansen and Dave Melby Attended this event at the Owatonna Public Library. There was a lot of discussion about the status of the farm bill and the anticipated effects of the tariffs. The overall feeling is that there will be a decrease in funding for the Federal conservation programs. They reported that there were only a few of the local producers in attendance. The majority of the people there were from more urban areas but they had very thoughtful questions and showed genuine interest in the topic.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tree Week Assistance and Food – Adam Arndt let the Board know that the plan is have student and FFA assistance for the unloading days, similar to last year. He requested approval to provide drinks and snacks for the students, as well as lunches for those assisting during the pick-up days. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the request. Motion carried by voice vote

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Cannon 1W1P Cost Share Contract – 25-ST-001, Cover Crop, \$13,500 – Adam Arndt presented the contract to the Board. The contract will be funded through the FY25 Cannon 1W1P grant. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Hagen, to approve the contract. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. Call for Resolutions – Gulbransen let the Board know that if they had an ideas for resolutions they should get in touch with him and he would draft them for the area meeting. The date for the meeting has not been released yet but it is typically in June.
4. NRCS Local Work Group – May 14 – 10:00AM – Blooming Prairie City Hall – The meeting is being held at the same location as last year. Staff have been requested to arrive at 9:00, with Supervisors joining them at 10AM. This will be the annual opportunity for area LGUs have to speak about what they would like to see as priority concerns in the upcoming year.
5. Winter Camelina Field Walk – St. Peter – April 9 – Al Krause gave the Board some details about the history of Camelina and the details about the field walk.

Agency Reports

Jim Smith reported that Steele has 4 approved CSP Forestry contracts that will be moving forward this year. He also spoke about the Unfunded Cooperative agreement between NRCS and the District. It is anticipated that there will be changes coming to how that agreement is structured. He stated that there may be a CRP contribution agreement available again this year. Lastly, Smith gave the Board an update about the staffing changes that are anticipated within the agency as a whole, as well as the status of the funding that has been held for review.

Staff Reports

Eric Gulbransen relayed a brief BWSR update that he had been sent to him by Anne Gunness. He also spoke about a CWF grant that was received by Olmsted for a nitrate program. They currently have 2 sperate proposals that are being considered. Gulbransen reported on the results of his WCA PRAP review. It went smoothly with the exception of needing to preserve email correspondence for a longer amount of time. He also reported on a few potential WCA violations that he will be reviewing.

Adam Arndt reported on the progress of the 4H Agronomy projects. They have decided to add an additional option this year based on trees. He has also been completing ditch inspections and working on the nitrogen trial preparations with Al Krause.

Alan Krause updated the Board on the progress of the nitrogen trials. The sites that will be monitored have been surveyed. He also spoke about a Haney Master Class that is scheduled to take place August 18 of this year.

Adrienne Gransee reported on the website updates that she has been completing and the 10 year financial report that will be available at the next Board meeting. She also gave a brief update on Envirothon.

Staff Reports

Chad Bilat introduced himself to the Board. He updated the Board on his current activities that have included title work and outreach to landowners interested in an easement. He also reported that one easement has recently closed.

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

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Gransee,
Administrative Assistant

April Bills

Cedardale Dev. Co	April Rent		\$792.00
Spectrum	Internet		\$89.99
Cedardale Dev. Co	Garage		\$600.00
Elan	Parking - Legislative Days	8.00	
	Hotel Rooms	497.34	
	Gas	59.33	
	Phone	89.29	
	April Payroll Fee	30.07	
	Wix Email	29.00	
	Fertilizer	288.58	
	Postage	2.87	
	Office Supplies	16.90	\$1,021.38
DeWitt	Matting		\$553.38
		Total	\$3,056.75