



STEELE COUNTY

Soil and Water Conservation District

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Owatonna MN 55060
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The regular monthly meeting of the Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was called to order by Dan Hansen at 5:00 PM on Tuesday March 10, 2020 at the Conservation Office located at 235 Cedardale Drive SE, Owatonna, MN.

<u>SWCD Supervisors</u> <u>Present:</u>	<u>SWCD Staff</u> <u>Present:</u>	<u>Others Present:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>
Mark Ihlenfeld, Reporter	Adam Arndt	Gary Keuer, NRCS	
Dan Hansen, Chairman	Eric Gulbransen	Roger Wacek	
Jim Klecker, Secretary	Adrienne Gransee		
Kyle Wolfe, Vice- Chair			
Dave Melby, Treasurer			

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 Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the minutes. Motion was carried by voice vote.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Meeting Reports – Soil Health Team – Economics of Soil Health - This event was attended by Dan Hansen, Mark Ihlenfeld, Dave Melby, and Eric Gulbransen. They reported that the guest speakers were interesting. All expressed the most interest in the two local producers who spoke.
Soil Health Summit – Elk River – Dave Melby, Eric Gulbransen, Dan Hansen and Mark Ihlenfeld attended this meeting. Hansen spoke about a silvopasture breakout session that he attended, and both spoke about the soils session. They had positive things to say about both. They also noted that there were more small scale farmers in attendance at this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Meeting Reports Cont. – MAWQCP – Eric Gulbransen, Adam Arndt and Mark Ihlenfeld attended this meeting. The meeting group was quite small so rather than the formal meeting that had been planned it was handled as an opportunity for a group discussion. Overall it was a positive experience.

1W1P – Eric Gulbransen gave a brief update on the plan status. At this point it is looking like it may not be ready to go before the BWSR Board at their March meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Local Work Group – Board members returned their completed packets. The prioritization rankings that Adam Arndt and Kelly Burke developed were shared with the Board. Burke also discussed the new team arrangements for NRCS throughout the state.
2. Easement Delivery Work Order – 74-19-WO99 – The work order is for the completion of RIM inspections throughout the county. The District will receive \$2,800 for completion of the inspections. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the work order. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. Cover Crop Cost Share Contracts - Adam Arndt presented the cover crop cost share contracts listed below for approval. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker, to approve the contracts. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - Shane Wagner – 1-19-CC - \$12,800
 - Rod Wagner – 2-19-CC - \$12,800
4. Envirothon – May 6 – Adrienne Gransee presented the details for the 2020 Envirothon. It will be held at the Byron Sportsman and Conservation Club again this year. She asked there were any Supervisors or others who would be interested in participating in the event and received several positive responses.
5. Cover Crop C-S – Spring Planting – Adam Arndt presented an idea to the Board for discussion. He wanted their opinion on spring planting for the cover crop cost share program; as well as fall harvest. Through discussion, the Board came to the conclusion that spring planting and fall harvest were not what they had designed the program for and therefore an exception would not be made.

6. Other – Public Comment – Roger Wacek – He presented a research article on soil and ecology recovery. The article inspired discussion about what is meant by recovery and what built the soil to begin with. He also recommended a video called The Biggest Little Farm.

Staff Reports

Adam Arndt reported that he has been working with Extension on programing for the area youth. Trees are also keeping him busy at the moment.

Eric Gulbransen reported that he continues to be busy with WCA, and a variety of meetings. He also has been able to help with trees.

Adrienne Gransee stated that she has been working on Envirothon planning, as well as working with the area employee Board to plan the spring meeting.

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

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Gransee,
Administrative Assistant

March Bills

Cedardale Dev. Co	March Rent		\$716.40
Jaguar	Internet		\$54.95
Court Sports	Clothing		\$465.00
Elan			
	Gas	117.91	
	Vehicle Maintenance	333.51	
	Meals	51.00	
	Meeting Costs	439.07	
	Payroll 2020	719.41	
	Office Supplies	9.66	
	Cell Phone	88.40	\$1,758.96
		Total	\$2,995.31