



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 Dave Melby at 5:00 PM on Wednesday October 15, 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	James Brady	Brad Hagen, Treasurer
Dave Melby, Chairman	Ian Pringle	Roger Wacek	Adam Arndt
Mark Ditlevson, PR&I	Adrienne Gransee		
Dan Hansen, Vice Chair	Adam Arndt		
	Alan Krause		

The October agenda was reviewed and no changes were made.

The September minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. No corrections were noted. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Ditlevson, to approve the minutes. Motion carried by voice vote.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Meeting Reports – Area 7 Fall Meeting – This meeting was attended by Mark Ihlenfeld, Dan Hansen, Eric Gulbransen, Ian Pringle and Adrienne Gransee. Ihlenfeld reported that there were no significant changes the occurred during the area Supervisors meeting. The afternoon portion of the meeting was a tour of a Native American chert quarry. All those who attended expressed that it was an educational tour and a chance to learn more about the history of our region.

JPB – Mark Ihlenfeld gave an update on the JPB hiring developments for the open technician position. They have had limited qualified applicants, but have plans for another interview with a new candidate in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution Packet – Adrienne Gransee distributed the Resolution packets to the board members. She asked that they have their votes returned to her by October 29 so that they could be electronically submitted prior to the November 1st deadline.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. We Worked Time Tracking System - \$227.99/year – Adrienne Gransee spoke to the Board about We Worked, a web based time tracking system. The system allows for the easy creation of a variety of reports and will eliminate the double entry that is currently required to track time for various programs and activities. The staff has been using it on a trial basis and it has been going smoothly. Gransee requested approval from the Board to switch to this system beginning in 2026. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the change and the associated annual expense. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. RCPP Update – Ian Pringle updated the Board on the status of the RCPP program. The District received the second allocation, but due to the Federal employees being furloughed the District is unable to request the reports needed for contract approval and payments. The top ranking application for Strip till/No-till had all of the needed paperwork so that one was able to be approved and move forward into contract. The rest are going to have to wait until the Federal employees return.

Agency Reports

Jim Brady gave a brief update on the County activities. There is still a lot of discussion about the budget for 2026, including the large increase to the insurance premiums. Brady also reported that they are still seeking a county engineer. There have been a very limited number of applicants so they intend to just keep the position announcement open until it has been filled.

Staff Reports

Ian Pringle reported that he has been working on getting the tree program preparations completed so that the sale can begin in January. In addition to that he has been collecting seed tags and communicating with the land owners who have active cover crop contracts.

Alan Krause gave an update on his work in both Steele and Rice counties. In Rice they are working on their interseeding projects with the new equipment. He also reported that the results from the first round of testing in the nitrogen trial plots have been returned. They showed that with the addition of soil health practices it was possible to get an equivalent yield with less nitrogen inputs.

Eric Gulbransen reported that WCA and the county ditches continue to occupy a lot of his time. He also reported on the managers meeting that he attended. Insurance and the states paid leave program were common topics of discussion.

Adrienne Gransee gave the Board an update on the status of the 2026 Calendar as well as the 2024 financial audit. She also reported on the PFML meeting that she attended. She is planning to seek more information about the options for private insurance coverage to present to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

Public Input

Roger Wacek spoke about some upcoming educational opportunities in the community. The details were included in the Board packets.

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

October Bills

Cedardale Dev. Co	October Rent		\$836.64
Spectrum	Internet		\$89.99
Adrienne Gransee	134 miles @ \$0.70		\$93.80
Elan	Hotel	938.27	
	Meals	40.08	
	Gas	207.79	
	Phone	89.64	
	Quickbooks Monthly Payroll	30.07	
	Postage	3.00	
	Sign Pro	42.95	\$1,351.80
Chad Billat	Easement Services		\$1,178.00
Tree Pro	Tree Tubes		\$2,598.23
			\$6,148.46