



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 Mark Ditlevson at 5:00 PM on Wednesday July 12, 2023 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, Treasurer	Eric Gulbransen	Teddy Moreno-Santos, NRCS	
Dan Hansen, PR&I	Adam Arndt	Rick Gnemi, County Commissioner	
Dave Melby, Secretary	Adrienne Gransee		
Mark Ditlevson, Chairman			
Mike Klecker, Vice Chair			

The July agenda was reviewed, no changes were made.

The June minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Hansen, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Meeting Reports – Area Resolution Meeting – June 27, Stewartville – Mark Ihlenfeld, Dave Melby, Dan Hansen, Eric Gulbransen and Adrienne Gransee attended this event. A summary of the legislative activities over the last 7 years was presented to the group. There was also a presentation by NRCS about their new Climate Smart Agriculture approach to project funding. Five resolutions were presented with 3 being passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Le Sueur County Hazard Mitigation Grant – Letter of Support – Eric Gulbransen informed the Board of the current plans. Le Sueur County is applying for a grant to fund the creation of a flood mitigation plan. They are requesting that surrounding LGUs provide a letter of support for the project that they can include with their application. The letter would state that the SWCD was willing to provide in-kind support to be used as match for the grant if it was requested. The Board discussed the breadth of what could be requested and the staff hours that would be dedicated to this project. There was concern expressed about being able to provide the hours that could be needed. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Klecker, to approve sending the letter of support. Hansen and Melby opposed the motion. Tie was broken by Ditlevson with a vote against the letter. Motion did not pass.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. SWCD Aid Resolution – Gransee presented the resolution to the Board. The resolution laid out how the SWCD Aid funding would be used as outlined in Minnesota Statute 477A.23 sub. 4(b). Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker, to adopt the resolution. Motion passed by voice vote.
3. DNR Well Monitoring Contract – Adam Arndt presented the contract to the Board. The District will be contracted to perform 4 field visits to each well throughout the year. In return the District receives \$480 from the DNR. Motion was made by Hanse, seconded by Klecker, to approve the contract. Motion passed by voice vote.

Agency Reports

Rick Gnemi informed the Board that the 218 and 18th St round-a-bout has been put on hold due to a conflict with the railroad. He spoke about the Rose St bypass plans, and a meeting that he attended regarding JD6. The meeting was intended to be just informal and informational but many landowners who attended were quite displeased with the situation. Gnemi also reported on the expansion plans that SEMCAC has for both Steele and Mower counties.

Teddy Moreno-Santos reported on a few temporary staffing changes taking place within NRCS. He stated that they are beginning to process payments for active EQIP contracts. He also gave an update on CRP, emergency haying has been approved in Dodge and Mower counties but no news about Steele has been released yet. Processing for CRP plans will begin soon.

Staff Reports

Adrienne Gransee gave the Board an update on the preparations for the Steele County Free Fair and for the upcoming 2022 financial audit.

Adam Arndt informed the Board that the drill requests have slowed down for the season. He has also been spending his time on the SWAG water monitoring and making project site visits. The soil health team is in the process of planning another soil health field day.

Eric Gulbransen has been involved with a variety of ditch projects, including JD 6, and the pheasant opener meetings as well this month. He gave the Board an update on the Ag Water Quality Certification Program in Steele county; currently there are 11 landowners who are certified and 3 more are in progress.

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

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Gransee,
Administrative Assistant

July Bills

Cedardale Dev. Co		July Rent		\$792.00
Spectrum		Internet		\$64.99
MCIT		Auto Adjustment - 2022		\$136.00
Elan		Gas	\$203.12	
		Phone	\$84.00	
		Postage	\$5.40	
		Office Supplies	\$3.20	
		MCIT Training	\$65.00	\$360.72
			TOTAL	\$1,353.71