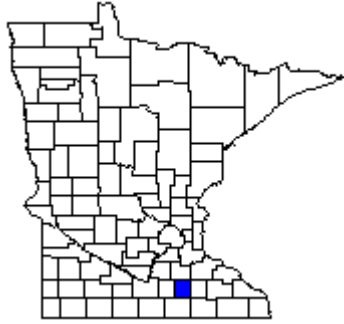


STEELE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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**MINNESOTA
SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

The regular monthly meeting of the Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Dave Melby at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday September 9, 2015 at the Conservation Office located at 235 Cedardale Drive SE, Owatonna, MN.

<u>SWCD Supervisors Present:</u>	<u>SWCD Staff Present:</u>	<u>Others Present:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>
Dave Melby, Chairman	Eric Gulbransen	Jim Brady, Steele County Commissioner	Dan Hansen, Treasurer
James Klecker, Secretary	Adrienne Justman	James Smith, NRCS	
Mark Ihlenfeld, Vice Chair	Adam Arndt	Noel Frank, NRCS	
Kyle Wolfe, Reporter			

The September agenda was reviewed; item 2, C-S Applications, was removed.

The August minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. Wolfe recommended that recognition for Dan Arndt’s final meeting be recorded in the August minutes. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Klecker, to approve the minutes with the noted change. Motion was carried by voice vote.

The August Treasurer’s Report was read by Mark Ihlenfeld. Adrienne Justman noted that a separate line item had been added to track the funds remaining from the CD as had been discussed. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Klecker, to approve the August Treasurer’s Report. Motion was carried by voice vote.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. Fair Report & Results – Wolfe reported that he had more people asking questions than he has encountered in past years. This was also noted by other supervisors. It was pointed out that next year it would be beneficial to have more information available for people to take with them. It was also discussed that having a live pollinator exhibit next year could be a good way to draw in more people.
2. Drainage and Water Quality Conference – August 13 – Adam Arndt and James Brady attended this event. They reported that there was discussion about the buffer initiative and specifically the other alternative practices option. There was also discussion about multi-purpose drainage plans the funding behind them. There were 2 projects that were reviewed.
3. Other – Ihlenfeld attended the RC&D meeting at the River Bend Nature Center – There was discussion about the goat project and the results when they were tested on different terrains and with different noxious weeds. The goal of the testing is to see if this could be a profitable venture.

OLD BUSINESS:

4. Other – Wolfe attended the Cannon River Watershed Partnership budget meeting. The decision for the upcoming year is to reduce the focus on monitoring and measuring and turn more toward activities. Two areas that they have identified are restoration of recreation areas and waste water treatment.
5. Mark Ihlenfeld attended the Executive Board of Directors meeting for Area 7. The main focus of the meeting was to finalize the agenda for the Area 7 Supervisor and Employee meeting on September 15.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2014 Flood Grant Agreement – Eric Gulbransen presented the grant agreement for the 2014 Flood Recovery Grant to the Board. There was discussion about the projects slated to be funded by this grant, specifically a stream bank project in Medford. It was also decided that Eric Gulbransen would be named Authorized Representative for all Steele County SWCD grants. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the grant agreement and designate Gulbransen as the representative. Motion carried by voice vote.
2. C-S Applications - Removed
3. Fall Newsletter – Gulbransen presented the idea of a fall newsletter to the Board. There was discussion about possible topics. Some ideas presented included a welcome for Adam Arndt, announcement of cover crop field days, information about the flood grant, information about the new buffer initiative, and reminders about the tree program.
4. SE MASWCD Area 7 meeting – September 15 – Elgin – The fall supervisor and employee meeting will be held in Elgin on September 15. The agenda was distributed to the board. The registration fee for the meeting is \$15 per person. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the cost of the registration for any interested in attending. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. Cover Crop Field day – September 16 – Brownsdale – Gulbransen presented the information about the cover crop field day being held in Brownsdale on September 16. There are a variety of topics that will be covered including mixes used and the results from soil testing on cover crop fields. There will be cover crop plots to visit as well as a presentation from a local producer who uses cover crops on his fields.
6. BWSR Academy – Gulbransen presented the information about the 2015 BWSR Academy to the Board. Adam Arndt, Adrienne Justman, and Eric Gulbransen stated that they wished to attend the training this year. The registration fee for the 3 day training is \$123.00 per person. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the cost of the registration fee and lodging for the three interested staff. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. 2016 MCIT Insurance Estimate – Gulbransen presented the follow information to the Board regarding the estimated rates for insurance through MCIT for 2016.
 - Property/Casualty - \$3,412
 - Workers Comp - \$1,871

8. WRAPS Session – Straight River Lobe – September 30 – Owatonna – Gulbransen presented the information about this meeting to the Board. It will be held in the Council Chamber at the Administration Center in Owatonna. This meeting is a time to get information about the WRAPS that is being completed and to provide feedback.
9. Governance 101 – September 16-17 – Gulbransen is planning to attend this training in St. Cloud on September 16-17.
10. Buffer Implementation Allocation - \$25,000 – Gulbransen presented the information from BWSR about the Buffer Implementation Allocation that was being offered. The Board discussed how the money could be used. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Klecker, to accept the allocation. Motion passed by voice vote.
11. Ag Water Quality Certification Program Allocation - \$6,000 – Gulbransen also presented the information regarding the Ag Water Quality Certification Allocation. There was discussion about the District's role in the program and what would be required. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Klecker, to accept the allocation. Motion carried by voice vote.
12. Outstanding Employee Award – The application for the Outstanding Employee award is due by September 21. Gulbransen recommended nominating Dan Arndt for this award. The Board agreed that it would be appropriate to do so.
13. Thank You cards – Gulbransen presented the Board with the Thank You cards sent by Emily Keck and Dan Arndt.

Agency Reports:

Jim Brady reported that there is a Southeast Minnesota Water Resources Board meeting that he plans to attend September 14. He also had the current list of tax forfeited properties that are going to be auctioned off by the county.

Jim Smith gave a brief report. The new interim Assistant State Conservationist is Gary Watson. Jim Smith has been spent his time working on composters and waterways. He reported that there have been some Equip funded cover crops seeded and there will be a new Equip sign-up coming shortly.

Staff Reports:

Adam Arndt has spent a majority of his time working on CRP contracts. He also presented information about an upcoming Aroma Berry farm tour.

Adrienne Justman reported that the majority of her time has been spent on regular office duties this month.

Eric Gulbransen presented the Board with information that had been collected by Tom Gile regarding what the other Districts in Area 7 receive from their counties for a yearly allocation. He also reported that there has been some WCA activity, 2 applications that have been presented for consideration.

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

Respectfully Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adrienne Justman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Adrienne Justman,
Administrative Assistant

September Bills

Cedardale Dev. Co	September Rent			\$619.20
Fame Awards	Dan's Plaque			\$53.69
Elan	Gas		\$197.88	
	Office Expense		\$6.00	
	Truck		\$8.00	
	Office Supplies		\$40.24	
	Fair		\$155.50	
	Luncheon		\$169.26	\$576.88
Adam Arndt	Mileage 80@.575			\$46.00
Eric Gulbransen	Mileage 118@.575			\$67.85
Adrienne Justman	Mileage 105@.575			\$60.38
Jaguar	Internet			\$39.95
				\$1,463.95