

235 Cedardale Drive SE
 Owatonna, Minnesota 55060-4417
 Telephone (507) 451-6730 Ext. 3



**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 October 12, 2016 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>
Mark Ihlenfeld, Vice Chair	Eric Gulbransen	Jim Smith, NRCS	Kyle Wolfe, Reporter
Dan Hansen, Treasurer	Adam Arndt	Sarah Middleton, Zumbro Watershed District	
Dave Melby, Chairman	Adrienne Justman		
Jim Klecker, Secretary			

The October agenda was reviewed, no changes were made.

The September minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. One spelling correction was noted in the new business Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Klecker, to approve the minutes with the correction. Motion was carried by voice vote.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. SE MASWCD Meeting – September 21 – Adam Arndt, Eric Gulbransen, Adrienne Justman, Mark Ihlenfeld, and Jim Klecker attended this meeting. The meeting began at Ed McNamara’s farm with a demonstration of the rainfall simulator and a root pit viewing and discussion about the effects of tilling and cover crops. The group then moved to the Lions Club in Goodhue for lunch and presentations from BWSR and NRCS. The retiring supervisors from the area were recognized then the group split for their individual business meetings.
2. 2017 Budget Meeting with County – Gulbransen and Ihlenfeld attended this meeting to present the District’s 2017 budget. They spoke about the new grant funds that the District is receiving through the Clean Water Fund. They also explained the reasons for the requested increase in the county allocation. The county commissioners expressed appreciation for all of the work that the District does in the county.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Meeting Reports – Eric Gulbransen attended the 1 Watershed 1 Plan orientation meeting for the Cannon River Watershed. He reported that there was a lot of information presented but it was mostly the basics of the program and very little about the actual plan for moving forward at this point.

Ihlenfeld attended the RC&D meeting in Rochester. He reported that it was mostly usual business. Linda Dahl was the speaker for the evening.

4. Other – Hansen requested an update on the situation with the increased garage rent. Gulbransen stated that he is working with the owner to see if the rent can be reduced. He is also looking into other options for storage in town.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Sarah Middleton – Zumbro Watershed District – Middleton introduced herself. She had been the Executive Director of the Zumbro Watershed District since June of this year. She informed the Board that the WRAPS is in process, She also stated that she would like to hear about tools or information that would be helpful for the District.
2. 2017 Buffer Implementation Grant - \$25,000 – Gulbransen presented the form from BWSR. There was discussion about which items they would like to pursue from the available options provided by BWSR. It was decided to choose the same as 2016 with the exception of the purchase of new equipment.
3. Hire Part-Time Position for Scanning Project – Gulbransen presented the idea of hiring Cheri Brummund, the Waseca SWCD part-time office assistant, to complete the scanning project that had been started. Due to the short time remaining it would be beneficial to the District to have someone dedicated specifically to this project. It was proposed to pay her at the same hourly rate that she is receiving from Waseca SWCD for the actual number of hours needed to complete the project. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Klecker. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. 2017 MASWCD Convention – The convention will be held at DoubleTree Hotel on December 5-6. The Conservation Farmer of the Year, Heers Family Farm, has already expressed interest in attending.
5. RC&D Field Day – October 26 – “Controlling Terrestrial Plants with Grazing Animals” – The field day will be held at Riverbend. The RC&D has been working on program using goats to control Buckthorn and that will be a focus of this field day.
6. Other – Jim Smith spoke about the NRCS Civil Rights policy. He also informed the Board that the current information in regards to the policy is posted on the bulletin boards in the entry and the break room. He stated that if anyone had questions or concerns they could be directed to either himself or Noel Frank.

Agency Reports:

Jim Smith reported that the Ultima contract employee that had been working in the office has been laid off due to the end of the contract period. He stated that he has been working on fiscal year end reporting, as well as checking on the cover crop contract fields. He has a lot of training events coming up. Smith also reported that the FSA office is accepting CRP sign-ups again on a first come first serve basis. Those interested will go on a register and have to wait for approval.

Staff Reports:

Adrienne Justman has been working on the 2017 Steele and Waseca SWCD calendars in addition to her other office duties.

Adam Arndt has completed the RIM inspections. He also has been working on the 2017 tree program. There are going to have to be some price increases due to changing prices from the distributors. Arndt also has been attending Toolkit training to keep up to speed with the changes. He also reported that those who have cover crop contracts through the District program are getting their crops planted.

Eric Gulbransen reported that he has been working a lot on WCA. He has been working a putting together a restoration order. He also has been spending a large amount of time working in Waseca. Gulbransen presented a water reuse program that the state is hoping to develop and let the Board know where they could go to comment on it.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Hansen, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM. Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Justman,
Administrative Assistant

October Bills

Cedardale Dev. Co	October Rent		\$619.20
Budach Implement Inc.	Brillion seeder		\$13,786.88
Verizon Wireless	Jetpack and Data Plan		\$107.36
Eric Gulbransen	147 Miles @ .54		\$79.38
Adrienne Justman	142 Miles @ .54		\$76.68
Elan	Academy Hotel	223.89	
	Gas	224.66	\$448.55
MASWCD Dues	2nd Half		\$1,871.74
City of Ellendale	Community Center Rental		\$50.00
			\$17,039.79