



**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 May 11, 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>
James Klecker, Secretary	Eric Gulbransen	Jim Brady, Steele County Commissioner	
Mark Ihlenfeld, Vice Chair	Adrienne Justman	Noel Frank, NRCS	
Dan Hansen, Treasurer	Adam Arndt	Jim Smith, NRCS	
Dave Melby, Chairman			
Kyle Wolfe, Reporter			

The May agenda was reviewed, no changes were made.

The April minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Hansen, to approve the minutes as written. Motion was carried by voice vote.

The April Treasurer’s Report was read by Dan Hansen. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Klecker, to approve the April 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. 6-5-For Clean Water Project – Presentations for this will be made June 2nd. Gulbransen presented potential project ideas. The Board discussed the benefits of each and decided on the top 3 that they would like the District to pursue.
2. Envirothon – May 4 – Justman attended this event. It was held at Whitewater State Park. There were a total of 12 teams this year, including one from the Metro area. Goodhue High School teams took the top 3 places in the area competition and will be progressing to the state level.

OLD BUSINESS

3. CRWP Annual Meeting – May 9 – Kyle Wolfe attended this meeting. He reported on the cover crop presentation put on by TJ Cartis. He stated that he was a good speaker, very informative and knowledgeable about the subject. Wolfe also reported that the CRWP is currently in good financial standing and will have money to put toward future goals and projects.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Equip Local Work Group Meeting – Noel Frank led this discussion. The Board established the top 3 things that they would like to see as priority concerns; water quality, soil erosion, and soil quality. They also discussed the top practices that they thought could help achieve these positive results; cover crop application on row crop fields, and vegetative buffers on surface outlets. The areas that they would like to see targeted are agricultural land and flood prone areas such as Maple Creek. The road blocks in the Equip program that they identified included the lack of flexibility and the overcomplicated nature of the program.
2. Terry Yule – Fish and Wildlife Services grant payment - \$1,952.50 – Gulbransen presented this contract for payment. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Klecker, to approve payment. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. Auditor Bid – Justman presented the audit bid from Peterson Company, LTD. They put in a bid of \$2,500 to complete the 2015 Audit. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to accept this bid. Motion was carried by voice vote. Engagement letter was signed by Chairman Dave Melby.
4. DNR Buffer Maps – Gulbransen presented the information about the Buffer Map review meeting. The meeting was held on Monday May 9. Gulbransen reported that there were very few places where corrections were going to be needed.
5. 2014 Flood Recovery Grant – Gulbransen presented the grant agreement for the newest phase of the Flood recovery grant. The District received \$225,000 to complete flood damage repair projects. Grant agreement was signed by Chairman Dave Melby.
6. SE MASWCD Resolutions meeting – June 29 – Gulbransen informed the Board of the area resolution meeting being held on June 29 and requested ideas. Some that were discussed included applying buffers to private ditches and focusing on water retention projects to reduce flooding.
7. 2017 Commissioners Budget – Gulbransen spoke to the Board about presenting the 2017 Budget to the county commissioners. There was discussion about topics to address during the presentation such as how the District brings funds into the county. It was agreed that at least one Supervisor will also attend the meeting to present and answer questions. A draft budget will be presented to the Board at the June Meeting.

Agency Reports:

Jim Brady reported that he attended a meeting of the SE Water Resources Board and that they are looking for smaller projects, specifically related to feedlots, to use their current funds.

Jim Smith stated that he has been completing lots of CRP plans. He also has a couple of waterway projects that he is working on completing. Smith stated that he is going to be gone for the month of June. He also reported that the seed houses are reporting that there is the possibility of a seed shortage this year.

Staff Reports:

Adam Arndt reported that tree pick up went very smoothly and he had very few extras this year. He is planning to contact those interested in the 2017 tree program in January. Arndt also reported on his involvement in the Blooming Prairie Teachers Day. He spoke with them about what the SWCD does and went along on the tour to point out different practices and answer questions.

Adrienne Justman attended the area Envirothon competition. And has been involved in wrapping up the 2016 tree program.

Eric Gulbransen has been pricing Brillion seeders for purchase. He attended a One Watershed One Plan meeting. The proposal is supported by Rice County but they are waiting to hear from Le Seuer. Proposals are due June 17. Gulbransen also informed that the District will be getting a new BWSR Board Conservationist, Dave Copeland, beginning on May 18.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Hansen, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm. Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Justman,
Administrative Assistant

May Bills

Cedardale Dev. Co.	May Rent		\$619.20
Jaguar	Internet		\$54.95
Tree Customers	Refunds		\$644.68
Adam Arndt	47 Miles @ .54		\$25.38
Eric Gulbransen	265 Miles @ .54		\$143.10
Adrienne Justman	105 Miles @ .54		\$56.70
Elan	Field Supplies	\$99.03	
	Gas	\$56.04	
	Tree Day Lunch	\$46.57	\$201.64
Schumacher's	Trees		\$3,021.45
Bellkato	Repair Laser		\$260.00
Dodge SWCD	MAWQCP Radio Ads		\$2,000.00
		TOTAL	\$7,027.10