



**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 June 8, 2016 at the Conservation Office located at 235 Cedardale Drive SE, Owatonna, MN.

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

The June agenda was reviewed, no changes were made.

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

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. 6-5-For Clean Water – Gulbransen reported on 2 mini rain gardens using trees in the city of Owatonna to use funding on. Board was in favor of these projects.
2. Meeting Reports – Ihlenfeld reported on the RC&D meeting. There was not a lot of new information. He did report that the goat project has been moved to River Bend where they are working to control the Garlic Mustard.

Melby attended that Freeborn Soil Health Day. Tim Rabis was a presenter. There was a discussion about water and run-off testing, cover crop fields have not been tested yet. Jamie Scott also presented. He is an Indiana cover crop specialist with a focus on profitability rather than yield. He promoted crop rotation and less activity on the soil. There was also a discussion about terminating cover crops. It was a challenge this year due to the cold wet weather. Some producers had to spray multiple times.

Wolfe reported on the CRWP meeting. He stated that they went over the finances and are looking good.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Dave Copeland, Adam Bilke – Copeland introduced himself as the new BWSR Board Conservationist for the area. He will be working with our office on BWSR grants and other suggestions. He will cover 5 counties, 5 SWCD's and 3 watershed districts.
2. Budget Review – Gulbransen presented the proposed budget for 2017. During discussion Copeland added that any increase to the county allocation in 2017 will be matched by BWSR. Frank talked about the effect of the Waseca-Steele agreement on the budget and if the commissioners would think that an increase was not needed due to the additional income from that agreement. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Wolfe, to approve the budget. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. Cover Crop Contract – The draft cover crop contract was presented to the Board. There were a few corrections that were identified during discussion. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Klecker, to approve the contract with the corrections. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. FY16 Cost Share Technical Assistance Option – Gulbransen presented the FY16 Technical Assistance form to the Board. This allows the District to use the Cost Share funds for technical and administrative costs as needed. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Klecker, to approve the use of the cost share funds in this manner. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. 1 Watershed 1 Plan letter of support – Cannon watershed, Zumbro watershed, Cedar watershed – Gulbransen presented the letter of support for all three watersheds. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Hansen, to support all three. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. Private Ditch Resolution – Gulbransen presented the resolution to the Board. There were a few small changes made during discussion. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Klecker, to approve with the changes. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. 2016 Conservation Farmer Candidates – The Board reviewed the list of candidates and nominations for the winner will be made at the July Board meeting.
8. US Bank Pledges – Gulbransen presented the information about the change to the bank pledges. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Klecker, to approve the change and return the form.
9. VRS Quote – Arndt reported on the updated quote and went over the advantages of purchasing. Data pack will need to be purchased. Frank mentioned getting data plan for 6 months when needed and not having it during the winter. Arndt will look into this. Motion to approve purchase was made by Hansen, seconded by Klecker. Motion passed by voice vote.
10. Brake Controller – Arndt presented 2 quotes for purchase and installation of the brake controller on the truck. Anhorn's bid of \$134.34 was accepted. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Wolfe.
11. Buffer mapping update – Gulbransen reported that the comment period has closed. There were very few changes made to the Steele map.
12. SE MACDE Area 7 Resolution Meeting – 6/29 – Stewartville – Gulbransen presented the agenda. He plans to attend; Ihlenfeld intends to as well.

Agency Reports:

Noel Frank reported that Steele County currently has 4 certainty application completed through Equip. He also stated that there are 2,700 between Steele and Waseca counties, approximately 400 of those will need to be completed this year. Frank has been working on easement violations. The letters were sent to producers by the Saint Paul office.

Jim Brady had nothing to report at this meeting.

Staff Reports:

Adam Arndt reported that work has begun on CRP contracts; he has been surveying waterways for summer construction. He also stated that it has been a busy month for the no-till drill.

Eric Gulbransen has been working on the MCC grant St. Olaf project in Waseca. HE stated that he would like to use the District sprayer for this project. He stated that the District may need to pay for tile investigation on the Springer easement.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Hansen, to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm. Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Justman,  
Administrative Assistant

June Bills

<b>Cedardale Dev. Co</b>	<b>June Rent</b>		<b>\$619.20</b>
<b>Jaguar</b>	<b>Internet</b>		<b>\$54.95</b>
<b>Wolcyn</b>	<b>Trees</b>		<b>\$22,227.00</b>
<b>Tri-M Graphics</b>	<b>Newsletter</b>		<b>\$1,020.19</b>
<b>Schlatters Inc.</b>	<b>Tile Probes &amp; Tips</b>		<b>\$358.05</b>
<b>Eric Gulbransen</b>	<b>175 miles @ .54</b>		<b>\$94.50</b>
<b>Adrienne Justman</b>	<b>70 miles @.54</b>		<b>\$37.80</b>
<b>Surplus Services</b>			<b>\$18.50</b>
<b>Elan</b>	<b>Checks</b>	<b>177.15</b>	
	<b>Office Supplies</b>	<b>39.79</b>	
	<b>Stamps</b>	<b>94</b>	
	<b>Gas</b>	<b>155.89</b>	<b>\$466.83</b>
<b>Waseca SWCD</b>	<b>trees</b>		<b>\$400.00</b>
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$25,297.02</b>