

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 February 8, 2017 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, Chairman	Eric Gulbransen	Jim Smith, NRCS	
Dan Hansen, Vice Chair	Adam Arndt	Roger Wasek	
Dave Melby, Reporter	Adrienne Justman		
Jim Klecker, Secretary			
Kyle Wolfe, Treasurer			

Dave welcomed Roger Wasek to the meeting.

The February agenda was reviewed, no changes were made.

The January minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Wolfe, to approve the minutes. Motion was carried by voice vote.

The January Treasurer’s Report was read by Kyle Wolfe. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Klecker, to approve the November Treasurer’s Report. Motion was carried by voice vote.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Capacity Budget – Gulbransen presented a draft budget for the 2017 Local Capacity Building grant. The Board discussed the benefits of each idea. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Hansen, to approve the proposed budget.
2. Updated 2017 Budget – Justman presented the updated 2017 budget to the Board. The budget reflected the changes to expenses including updated personnel expenses and rent. It also reflected the changes to income including changes to the income from the Waseca-Steele agreement and updated grant totals. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Klecker, to approve the budget.
3. CREP Update – The CREP program has been signed and the sign-up will start soon, possibly in April. The State funding is currently pending. Staff will be receiving training for the program.

**OLD BUSINESS**

4. Other – CRWP – Ihlenfeld reported that they are looking to recruit more farmers to hold positions on the Board.

RC&D – Ihlenfeld stated that there was more discussion about combining with the JPB and the SE MN Water Resources Board. RC&D would probably be the last one to join the group.

JPB – Ihlenfeld also reported on the JPB meeting. They reviewed the budget. It was discussed that the dues could increase an additional \$1400.00. Most of those funds would be used for grant match.

Waseca Meeting – The Board intends to plan a meeting with the Waseca Board at the beginning of March to discuss the future of the agreement for services.

March Meeting Date – There was discussion about changing the meeting date for March. It was decided to hold the Meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup> and a final meeting date would be decided at that time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. MASWCD Day at the Capital – March 20-21 – Gulbransen let the Board know about the upcoming event. It was decided that Ihlenfeld, Melby, Arndt, and Gulbransen would attend. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Klecker, to cover the cost of registration and lodging. Motion carried by voice vote.
2. SWCD Board Member Refresher Training – Feb 22 – 9:00-12:00 – Gulbransen just presented this as an informational item. He requested that any supervisor interested contact him for more details.
3. 1 Watershed 1 Plan Policy Meeting – March 1 – Rice County Government Center – Hansen will be attending this meeting as the representative for the Steele County SWCD.
4. Surplus Services Renewal – Gulbransen presented the renewal form. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker, to approve renewing the District's agreement. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. U of M Extension Farm Family of the Year – Possible candidates were discussed by the Board. Matt and John Schmidt were selected as the SWCD nomination.
6. Walk-in Access Program – Arndt presented the information about the DNR Walk-in Access program to the Board. He requested that the Board approve the agreement so that the District can enroll interested landowners in the program. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby, to approve the agreement. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. Dues – Dues were presented to the Board. There was discussion about the benefits received from each organization. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Melby, to approve paying the dues. Motion carried by voice vote.

- RC&D - \$300, Envirothon - \$175, NACD - \$775, SW SWCD JPB - \$1000

**NEW BUSINESS:**

8. Local Capacity Grant Agreement – Justman presented the grant agreement. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the grant agreement. Motion carried by voice vote.

Roger Wasek spoke about the benefits of No-Till farming and a meeting that he had attended. He also spoke about the changes that will be taking place at the ethanol plant in Claremont. The new expansion is going to utilize a combined heat and power system. He also spoke about the improvements that have been made in the production of ethanol.

Agency Reports:

Jim Smith reported that client gateway is being heavily promoted by NRCS. This system will allow producers to do things such as sign documents electronically and receive updates about their applications and contracts.

Staff Reports:

Adrienne Justman has been focused on completing grant reporting in both Steele and Waseca. Justman also completed the updated 2017 budget and is working on the 2016 Financial Reports.

Adam Arndt reported that there have been a lot of tree orders coming in. He has been responding to buffer questions and working with Gulbransen to complete the Local Capacity budget.

Eric Gulbransen reported that he has been working a lot on the Capacity budget. He also has attended meeting regarding the flooding issue in New Richland.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Hansen, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 PM. Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Justman,  
Administrative Assistant

February Bills

<b>Le Sueur County Abstract Company</b>		<b>Moore - easement recording</b>		<b>\$805.00</b>
<b>Le Sueur County Abstract Company</b>		<b>Springer - easement recording</b>		<b>\$2,876.00</b>
<b>MCIT</b>				<b>\$5,554.00</b>
<b>AgriNews</b>		<b>Subscription</b>		<b>\$36.82</b>
<b>Adam Arndt</b>		<b>Workshop Fee</b>		<b>\$20.00</b>
<b>Wireless World</b>		<b>Jetpack</b>		<b>\$107.36</b>
<b>Elan</b>		<b>Postage</b>	<b>\$81.27</b>	
		<b>Office Supplies</b>	<b>\$18.80</b>	<b>\$100.07</b>
<b>Minnesota State Auditor</b>		<b>Audit Review</b>		<b>\$165.00</b>
<b>Adrienne Justman</b>		<b>70 miles @ .535</b>		<b>\$37.45</b>
<b>Eric Gulbransen</b>		<b>229 miles @ .535</b>		<b>\$122.52</b>
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,824.22</b>