

235 Cedardale Drive SE  
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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 Mark Ihlenfeld at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday April 11, 2017 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>
Mark Ihlenfeld, Chairman	Eric Gulbransen	Jim Smith, NRCS	
Dan Hansen, Vice Chair	Adam Arndt	Alan Kraus, CRWP	
Dave Melby, Reporter	Adrienne Justman		
Jim Klecker, Secretary			
Kyle Wolfe, Treasurer			

The April agenda was reviewed, no changes were made.

The March 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 March Treasurer’s Report was read by Wolfe. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker, to approve the March 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.

Alan Kraus is the Ag Program Assistant for Cannon River Watershed Partnership. He is new to the position and has just completed his first 90 days. He stated that he has a background in dairy farming and served 13 years as a County Supervisor in Wisconsin. He spoke about some of the projects that CRWP has been working on including the 6-5-For Clean Water program and their work on seeding cover crops into corn at an early stage. Kraus stated that CRWP plans to make cover crops a priority item.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Day at the Capital – Mark Ihlenfeld, Dave Melby, Eric Gulbransen, and Adam Arndt attended he MASWCD Day at the Capital event. They met with Senators Sparks and Jasinski, as well as Representatives Petersberg, Bennet and Daniels. The primary points of discussion with all of the Legislators were the need to maintain stable funding for the Districts and the need to fund the CREP program.

**OLD BUSINESS**

2. Meeting Reports – Eric Gulbransen reported on the Managers meeting that he attended. They are looking at options for area wide services that would replace what is currently being offered by the NRCS. GIS is one of the major items that they are investigating.

Gulbransen also attended the Cannon 1 Watershed 1 Plan meeting. They reviewed the proposals from 5 different consultants and chose the top 3 candidates. Interviews will be held next week and the recommendation will be sent to the Policy committee.

Kyle Wolfe attended the Cannon River Watershed Partnership meeting. He reported that the executive director position is currently open. The CRWP is going to reexamine their priorities to ensure that they are employing people that fit with their mission. They believe that they should be focusing on more community engagement and want to hire people with the skills to fit that idea.

Mark Ihlenfeld reported on the ongoing discussions between the SE MN Water Resources Board, JPB and RCPP about sharing an executive administrative position.

Ihlenfeld also reported on the RC&D meeting. The need to be more involved was discussed. Without increased involvement there may need to be a significant change to the RC&D.

Ihlenfeld also attended a soil health meeting in New Prague. He stated that the speakers were very good; well informed. He also thought that the farmer led discussion panel was well done and informative.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. 2016-2017 Annual Reports – Justman presented the 2016 Annual Report, the 2016 Financial Report, the 2017 Budget and the 2017 Plan of work to the Supervisors. Changes and highlights were discussed in each document. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Melby, to approve the documents. Motion carried by voice vote.
2. Steele County Water Plan Amendment Adoption – Gulbransen presented the Water Plan Amendment to the Board. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker, to approve the adoption of the amendment. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. MN Extension 4H Exploring the Environment Champion – The Board decided to donate \$25 toward the award again this year. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Hansen. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. Part-time tree assistance – Adam Arndt requested that the Board approve hiring a part-time temporary person to assist him during tree week. The pay would be \$15 per hour. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Wolfe, to approve hiring and pay rate. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. Amendment to United Prairies Security agreement – Justman presented an amended Security agreement from United Prairie bank. The amendment was needed due to the increase in grant funds that the District has received, primarily the flood relief project grants. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Klecker, to approve and sign the amendment. Motion carried by voice vote.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

6. MASWCD Resolutions Area Meeting – June 29 – Stewartville Legion – Gulbransen presented this information to the Board and requested that if they have any suggestions for resolutions that they would like to submit they should contact the office.
7. Other – Upcoming Meetings – Gulbransen presented a variety of upcoming meetings including one for the SE Water Resources Board and a training for Individual Grant Funding.  
Gulbransen reported that the NRCS annual summary is available for any interested in looking through it. He also informed the Board that Russ Guse is acting as the Temporary Ditch Inspector for Steele County. There was a discussion about if the District wanted to take on this role.

Agency Reports:

Jim Smith Reported for NRCS. He stated that that Equip pre-approval list has been released. He has been spending his time completing site reviews for CRP. He also informed the Board that a \$300 cap on CRP has been enacted.

Staff Reports:

Adrienne Justman has been working to assemble the annual reports. She also attended the spring area meeting and has been assisting with getting ready for Envirothon.

Adam Arndt reported that he has been more involved with the soil health team lately. He has been quite busy with trees as pick-up day approaches. He also spends a fair amount of time answering buffer questions.

Eric Gulbransen has been assisting with trees. He has been involved with a fair amount of WCA this month.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Hansen, to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 PM. Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Justman,  
Administrative Assistant

April Bills

<b>Cedardale Dev.</b>	<b>April Rent</b>		<b>\$716.40</b>
<b>Jaguar</b>	<b>Internet</b>		<b>\$54.95</b>
<b>Elan</b>	<b>Office Supplies - New filing system</b>	<b>723.09</b>	
	<b>Gas</b>	<b>84.69</b>	
	<b>Legislative Day Hotel</b>	<b>403.10</b>	<b>\$1,210.88</b>
<b>Eric Gulbransen</b>	<b>Mileage - 280 Miles @ .535</b>		<b>\$149.80</b>
<b>Pitney Bowes</b>	<b>Postage</b>		<b>\$300.00</b>
<b>USPS</b>	<b>Bulk Mail Permit</b>		<b>\$225.00</b>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,657.03</b>