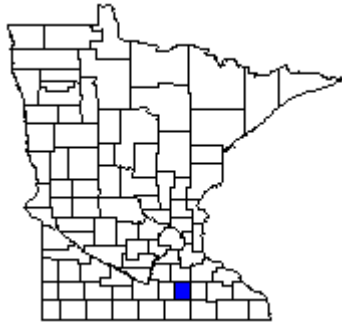


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**MINNESOTA
 SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

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 May 9, 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	James Brady, County Commissioner	
Dan Hansen, Vice Chair	Adam Arndt		
Dave Melby, Reporter	Adrienne Justman		
Jim Klecker, Secretary			
Kyle Wolfe, Treasurer			

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 Melby, seconded by Hansen, to approve the minutes as written. Motion was carried by voice vote.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. SE Envirothon – May 3 – Justman reported on the area Envirothon competition. There were 8 teams and one alternate team from 3 different schools. Goodhue high school teams took the top 3 places and will be participating in the State competition on May 15th at Ironwood Springs Ranch in Stewartville.
2. Meeting Reports – Dan Hansen reported on the Cannon 1 Watershed 1 Plan meeting that he attended. The policy committee reviewed the recommendation for the consultants that were interviewed and they choose to hire Emmons & Oliver Resources Inc. There were representatives from the consultant firm at the meeting so they introduced themselves and gave a brief background of the firm. The kick-off meeting will be held May 17 from 4-7 at South Central College. The meeting will be open to the public and the culsantant will be there to answer questions. Each of the SWCD’s presented a highlight of their county; showcasing the issues, achievements, and unique features.

Kyle Wolfe reported on the CRWP meeting that he attended on May 8. They discussed the program using goats to control invasive plants. They also discussed where they fit now that the 1 Watershed 1 Plan program is underway. Wolfe informed the Board that Kristi Percel is currently the Interim Executive Director. They also did a brief recap of the past year and reviewed the budget.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Other – Eric Gulbransen spoke to the Board about the need to submit the other waters recommendations to BWSR by July 1. There was discussion about setting up a meeting with other interested parties in the county to review the possible other waters.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. County Ditch Inspector Position – Gulbransen reported back to the Board what he has found out about the position of County Ditch Inspector. There was discussion about what the county currently pays and what other SWCD's are charging for providing this service. The benefits, such as increased landowner contact and more chances to promote projects and programs, were discussed. The Board asked James Brady to find out what the average number of hours per month this position requires.
2. RC&D Project Proposal – Gulbransen presented an agreement between RC&D, local SWCD's, and the University of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach Center. The agreement stated that all parties agree to work cooperatively to further a study of the environmental and economic impacts of cover crops. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Wolfe, to agree to participate and sign and return the proposal. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. Sign and Brillion Decal Funding – The Board had requested that staff look into getting the sign out front replaced. After checking it was decided that the most efficient way would be for the District to arrange the replacement and cover the cost. There was discussion about where the funds could be taken from. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Wolfe, for staff to get estimates, pick the best option, and to use funds from the Local Capacity FY16 grant for the replacement of the sign. Motion passed by voice vote.
4. Cover Crop Cost Share Policy – Adam Arndt presented a slightly altered Cover Crop Cost Share policy to the Board. The new policy has a 3 year maximum in place and that would go retroactive to the 2016 contracts. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Melby, to approve this change to the policy. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. Cost Share Project Approvals – Arndt presented the following cost share contracts for approval. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Hansen, to approve and sign the contracts. Motion passed by voice vote.
 - 2(16) Waterway, Total Cost - \$1,100, C-S \$825
 - 7-16-CC, 80 Acres, \$3,200
 - 6-16-CC, 80 Acres, \$3,200
6. 2017 Cost Share Tech Option – Gulbransen presented the T/A option for the FY17 Cost Share grant. This gives the District the options to use the funds to cover time spent assisting with Federal projects as well as using funds toward landowner projects. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Wolfe, to approve the T/A Option. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. Trailer Update – Gulbransen looked at a rebuilt trailer to use for the new tree removal equipment. It would need about \$100 in alterations to be ready to use. Melby stated that he would stop out and take a look at the trailer before purchase.

NEW BUSINESS:

8. Other – 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.

Gulbransen reported that the 2018 Budget will be due to the county by June 16.

Gulbransen also informed the Board that the LeSeuer Watershed District is planning a meeting with Representative Walz to discuss issues with flooding and policy wide solutions that could be put in place at a federal level to help reduce the occurrences.

Agency Reports:

James Brady reported that they have received word that there will be \$100,000 going to subsidize a project on Crane Creek that was started last fall. Brady also reported on the SE Minnesota Water Recourses Board and the possible collaboration with JPB.

Staff Reports:

Adrienne Justman has been assisting with getting the 2017 tree program wrapped up for the year. She also assisted with the area Envirothon competition.

Adam Arndt reported that the tree program for 207 has been a successful one and the complete summary will be available at the next board meeting. Arndt stated that he delivered the Brillion to the first landowner for use. He also stated that a waterway that he has been working on will begin construction soon.

Eric Gulbransen has been working on WCA is Waseca. He stated that staking for the Medford streambank project is going to begin. The contractor has been hired and work will begin in June/July.

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

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Justman,
Administrative Assistant

May Bills

Cedardale Dev. Co.	May Rent		\$716.40
Jaguar	Internet		\$54.95
Cedardale Dev. Co.	Rent Difference Jan-March		\$291.60
Cedardale Dev. Co.	Garage Rent April-June		\$480.00
Eric Gulbransen	140 miles @ .535		\$74.90
Adam Arndt	25 @ 535 & Reimbursement		\$18.74
Olmsted SWCD	Seed Packets		\$356.82
Elan	Employee Expenses	\$126.77	
	Field Supplies	\$1,830.28	
	Office Supplies	\$129.66	
	Gas	\$62.23	\$2,148.94
Schumachers	Trees		\$9,283.75
Wolcyn Tree Farm	Trees		\$25,412.25
Lincoln Oaks	Trees		\$212.50
LeRoy Hartle	Tree Refund		\$21.47
		TOTAL	\$39,072.32