



**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 Vice Chair Dan Hansen at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday July 11, 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	Noel Frank, NRCS	
Dave Melby, Reporter	Adrienne Gransee	Jim Smith, NRCS	
Jim Klecker, Secretary			
Kyle Wolfe, Treasurer			

The July agenda was reviewed, no changes were made.

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

The June Treasurer’s Report was read by Wolfe. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker, to approve the June 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. Resolution Meeting – Gulbransen attended the area resolution meeting in Stewartville. There were 5 resolutions presented and 4 that passed. The meeting also consisted of a legislative update, a discussion about the current CREP program. There seems to be little interest from landowners in CREP at this time. They also discussed the 25 by 25 meeting that is planned for July 31st. Jim Gephart and Justin Hansen gave a presentation on Alternative Practices for buffers and then there was a brief soil health/cover crop panel discussion.

Mark Ihlenfeld arrived at this time and took the lead of the meeting.

2. Meeting Reports – Kyle Wolfe reported on the CRWP meeting that he attended. He stated that they are financially in good shape and will be hiring someone to fill a waste water management position. The individual that they hired for the community engagement position will be starting soon.

Noel Frank reported on the Fillmore SWCD75th anniversary event that he attended. He reported that they had a tour, dinner and some very good presenters present for the evening.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Operational Agreement – NRCS/SWCD – Noel Frank presented the plan for the operational agreement to the Board. The plan included a description of the services and equipment provided to the District from NRCS and a plan for services that the District provides to NRCS that are of equal value. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Hansen, to approve sign and submit the agreement. Motion carried by voice vote.
2. 2018 Buffer Cost Share Grant Agreement – Gulbransen presented the grant agreement for the FY18 Buffer Cost Share grant. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Hansen, to sign and submit the agreement to BWSR. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. Flood Recovery Cost Share Contract Amendments – Arndt presented the contracts listed below for amendments. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Klecker, to approve the amendments. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - 2(14)FCP2 – Increase by \$484.02
 - 1(14)FCP2 – Increase by \$1,827.87, Change Phase
 - 3(14)FCP2 – Increase by \$1,307.57, Change Phase
4. Flood Recovery Cost Share Payments – Arndt presented the contracts listed below for payment. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Wolfe, to pay these contracts.
 - 2(14)FCP2 – Total \$13,383.15 C-S \$10,037.36
 - 1(14)FCP2 – Total \$16,357.18 C-S \$12,267.89
 - 3(14)FCP2 – Total \$14,440.96 C-S \$10,830.72
5. Flood Recovery C-S Contract Approvals – Adam Arndt presented the contracts listed below for approval. These 6 contracts are all related to a repair needed in one area. The plan is to begin the project early August. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Klecker, to approve and sign the contracts. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - 4(14FCP2) – C-S \$34,600
 - 5(14FCP2) – C-S \$22,400
 - 6(14FCP2) – C-S \$20,500
 - 1(14FCP3) – C-S \$15,750
 - 2(14FCP3) – C-S \$17,000
 - 3(14FCP3) – C-S \$6,000
6. Local Water Plan Adoption Resolution – Gulbransen presented a resolution to the Board. The resolution stated that the District will adopt the Local Water Plan as their plan. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Melby, to approve the resolution. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. Soil Health Field Day Assistance Payment – Gulbransen informed the Board that the \$1,000 that was planned for Field Day assistance would be sent to Fillmore SCD to help cover the cost of the field day that they are planning. The funds will be put toward a smoke demonstration that gives a visual sign of the difference between conservation and conventional soil management techniques.
8. Outstanding Conservationist Selection – Gulbransen presented the list of candidates to the Board. After discussion it was decided to offer the awards to the following people
 - Outstanding Conservation Farmer – Thomas Polacek
 - Outstanding Windbreak – Steve Krumm
 - Outstanding Wildlife Conservationist – Curtis Volkman

9. 2017 Steele County Free Fair – Theme – Windbreaks, Benefits and Restoration – Gransee presented the idea of using Windbreaks as the theme for the fair booth. The Board suggested also working invasive species into the booth. Gransee also presented the rental agreement for the booth. He fee for the week is \$115. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Klecker, to sign the agreement and pay the fee. Motion carried by voice vote.
10. FY18 Local Capacity Work Plan ideas – Gulbransen requested that the Board begin to think about how they would like the District to use the FY18 Local Capacity grant. Ideas that were discussed include continuing some of the current programs, establishing a cost share program for buffers around surface intakes, and the purchase of a drone.

Agency Reports:

James Brady reported that the county has decided to be the enforcement official for the Buffer Law in Steele County. He also stated that Dennis Grunwald is retiring and the party will be held on July 13th from 2-4 PM. Brady reported that the SE MN Water Resources Board hired a new Admin. He also let the Board know that there is a Zumbro River Watershed Partnership meeting being held on July 13.

Jim Smith reported for NRCS. He stated that his supervisor, Tim Wilson, will be leaving to take a State Conservationist position in Utah. He stated that work on a new WRP easement has been started. Smith reported that the EQIP sign up will begin soon. He also stated that he has been working on a lot of CRP and doing easement monitoring.

Staff Reports:

Adrienne Gransee has been working on a spread sheet that will help the District track staff hours spent on Cost Share projects more efficiently. She also completed the Special District Reporting and determined the billing rates to use for grant reporting.

Adam Arndt reported that he has been focused that he has been working on CRP. He also said that there are a couple of waterways ready to begin construction. He has been completing survey work for future projects and participating in the Soil Health team events. He has attended a couple of cover crop soil health field days recently. Arndt has also been tracking the progress of the streambank projects that the District has been involved with.

Eric Gulbransen has presented a report from the Freshwater Society. He also spoke about 3 letters to the Editor that were written for the local paper addressing environmental concerns.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made at 9:10 PM by Klecker, seconded by Hansen, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Gransee,
Administrative Assistant

July Bills

Cedardale Dev. Co		July Rent		\$716.40
Jaguar		Internet		\$54.95
Cedardale Dev. Co		Garage Rent		\$480.00
Eric Gulbransen		Mileage 70@.535 & Reimbursement		\$52.45
IRS		PICCORI Fee		\$13.56
House Chevrolet		Oil Change		\$45.83
DeWitt		Matting		\$1,695.09
Sign Pro		Office Sign		\$644.25
Elan		Office Supplies	\$17.66	
		Gas	\$118.02	\$135.68
			TOTAL	\$3,838.21