



STEELE COUNTY
Soil and Water Conservation District

235 Cedardale Drive SE
Owatonna MN 55060
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www.steeleswcd.org

The regular monthly meeting of the Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was called to order by Mark Ditlevson at 5:00 PM on Wednesday May 10, 2023 at the Steele County SWCD Office, 235 Cedardale Drive SE, Owatonna MN, 55060.

<u>SWCD Supervisors Present:</u>	<u>SWCD Staff Present:</u>	<u>Others Present:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>
Mark Ihlenfeld, Treasurer	Eric Gulbransen	Dave Copeland, BWSR	Mike Klecker, Vice Chair
Dan Hansen, PR&I	Adam Arndt	James Brady, County Commissioner	Adrienne Gransee
Dave Melby, Secretary		Rick Gnemi, County Commissioner	
Mark Ditlevson, Chairman		Teddy Moreno-Santos, NRCS	

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 presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Meeting Reports – Envirothon – May 3 – Byron Sportsman and Conservation Club – Dave Melby and Dan Hansen served as judges at Envirothon this year. Melby gave the Board an over view of the topic, presenting plans to help a small community mitigate climate change. He also went over the scoring process for the oral presentations done by the Senior teams. Hansen complemented the Goodhue advisor on his teams preparedness for the event and informed the Board that there were a total of 79 kids that participated.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2023 Conservation Award Candidates – Eric Gulbransen informed the Board the they are beginning to make the list of award candidates for 2023 and requested that members let him know if they have someone that they would like included for consideration. Voting will take place at the June meeting.
2. Resolution – Gulbransen requested that the Board let him know if there is a resolution that they would like to have presented at the Area meeting on June 27.

NEW BUSINESS:

3. LeSeuer Watershed JPA – Gulbransen spoke with the Board about if they wanted to be part of the JPA for the LeSeuer watershed when the time comes. The Board expressed that at this time they are in support of signing on to the LeSeuer Watershed JPA.
4. Cover Crop Contract Approvals – Adam Arndt presented the 2 contracts listed below for approval. Both contract holders have previously participated and will be expanding from a single species to a multi-species cover crop mix. The funding for both will be coming from the FY23 Local Capacity Grant. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Hansen, to approve the contracts.
 - 1-23-CC, \$14,400, 80 Acres
 - 2-23-CC, \$28,800, 160 Acres
5. Promotional Items – Pens, Keychains, Can Coolers – Gulbransen presented the information for new promotional items. These items will be used to promote at events such as the Steele County Free Fair and various field days. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the purchase of 500 of each of the three promotional items. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. Other – Mark Ihlenfeld brought up the signs on the county lines. The one on the Waseca side is missing but the frame is still standing. The one on the Dodge side is no longer there. Dave Copeland said that NACD used to make the signs. Eric Gulbransen said that he would check in to it.

Dan Hansen gave an update on the Cannon River Watershed dues. There is going to be a vote in August on if they should leave it at the current rate or change it to 90% of the current rate, which would be \$4,500.

Mark Ihlenfeld also informed the Board that Paul Heers, Freeborn District Supervisor, has unexpectedly passed away. His duties as Treasurer for the Area will be transferred back to Mark Ihlenfeld.

Agency Reports

James Brady stated that the County has hired a nurse for case management. The county has also been performing various preventative maintenance tasks. The property concerns for the round-a-bout by the school have been resolved and bids will be going out shortly.

Dave Copeland informed the Board that the LeSeuer JPB plan has been submitted to BWSR and is now out for its 90 day comment period. He reported that grant funds that have been returned will be redistributed after BWSR has decided the best way to do so. Copeland also stated that there are only 5 or 6 watersheds left for 1W1P planning in the state.

Teddy Morano-Santos gave a report for NRCS. There are 4 EQIP contracts that funds have been obligated for. Status reviews have been completed on 35 CRP contracts. Five CSP applications were submitted, but none received funding. He also stated that they have had 2 sign-ups for the IRA EQIP/CSP at this point. Moreno-Santos visited the FFA convention doing outreach for students. Jim Smith has been primarily focused on field work throughout the surrounding counties.

Staff Reports

Adam Arndt gave the Board an update on the tree program pick-up. He told the Board about the upcoming 4H Agronomy night in which he will be participating. Arndt also informed the Board that Water sampling for the summer has begun and he has had calls for the drills this spring.

Eric Gulbransen Spoke to the Board about doing volunteer water sampling, primarily for clarity, twice a month. He also reported that raising the rates for the cover crop cost share was a good decision and approved of by the crop scouts. Gulbransen also cautioned those present to be cautious of deer ticks this season as they are already abundant.

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

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Gransee,
Administrative Assistant

May Bills

Cedardale Dev. Co.	May Rent		\$792.00
Spectrum	Internet		\$64.99
Elan	Gas	\$164.45	
	Anhorn's	\$95.50	
	Cell Phone	\$84.00	
	Meal	\$25.00	\$368.95
Mower SWCD	Northern White Cedar		\$65.00
Schumacher	Trees & Shipping		\$14,745.00
Mitch Hansen	Tree Hours 21 @ \$15		\$315.00
Leslie Sorensen	Tree Hours 13.5 @ \$15		\$202.50
Dan Arndt	Tree Hours 10.5 @ \$15		\$157.50
Randy Anderson	S/O Red Oak Refund		\$289.91
Jon Coulter	1/2 bundle White Cedar Refund		\$28.99
Lou Ellen Stolz	1 bundle Red Cedar Refund		\$45.10
		TOTAL	\$17,074.94