



STEELE COUNTY
Soil and Water Conservation District

235 Cedardale Drive SE
Owatonna MN 55060
507-451-6730 Ext. 3
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 June 14, 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	Jim Smith, NRCS	
Dan Hansen, PR&I	Adam Arndt	Rick Gnemi, County Commissioner	
Dave Melby, Secretary	Adrienne Gransee		
Mark Ditlevson, Chairman			
Mike Klecker, Vice Chair			

The June agenda was reviewed, no changes were made.

The May minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Meeting Reports – There were no meetings to report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review Local Work Group Votes – Jim Smith distributed the LWG packets to the Board members. He reviewed each section with the Board and answered questions as they were presented to him. There was a lot of discussion about the local concerns that the Board would like to see addressed in the future.
2. Conservation Award Winners – The Board reviewed the candidate list for the 2023 Conservation awards. There was discussion about the candidate in each category until the final winners were chosen. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Hansen, to present awards to the candidates as discussed and listed below. Motion passed by voice vote.
 - Outstanding Conservation Farmer – Dan Morgan
 - Outstanding Windbreak – Mark Oeltjenbruns
 - Outstanding Wildlife Conservationist – Rick Hafstad

NEW BUSINESS:

3. 2024 Proposed Budget – Adrienne Gransee presented the proposed 2024 budget to the Board. She presented the standard annual budget as well as a detailed budget including actual expenses for previous years. There was discussion about how the budget compared to past years and if there was the need to request an increase from the County. It was decided that at this time an increase was not needed. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby, to accept the budget as presented and submit it to the County. Motion passed by voice vote.
4. No-till/Strip Till Contract Payments – Adam Arndt presented the contract listed below for payment through the FY22 Local Capacity Grant. All have been completed and site visits finished. Motion made by Hansen, seconded by Klecker, to approve the payments. Motion passed by voice vote
 - 1-NT, \$8,000
 - 1-ST-21, \$5,200
 - 2-ST-21, \$5,200
5. 2023 Tree Results – Adam Arndt presented the tree results to the Board. The profit percentage was less than previous years. Arndt explained that the cost from our suppliers went up more than what was anticipated when he set the prices in the fall. The prices for the 2024 tree list will be adjusted to be better in line with the costs from the suppliers.
6. SWCD Aid and Legislative Update – Eric Gulbransen gave the Board an update on the new State provided funding, SWCD Aid. The total amount received for 2023 and 2024 will be \$161,000. The funds will be sent from the State in July and December of each year.
7. Staffing Changes – Open Position – Adam Arndt spoke with the Board and let them know that he was planning to switch to a part-time position by the end of the summer. With the change the office will need to hire a new District Technician. There was discussion about the next steps needed and setting a date for the Personnel committee to meet. A Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby, to give the Personnel committee the authority to approve the job description and pay scale so that the advertisement could be released as soon as possible. Motion carried by voice vote.
8. Are 7 Resolution Meeting – June 27 – Eric Gulbransen reminded the Board about the Area resolution meeting and got a head count of who was planning to attend.

Agency Reports

Rick Gnemi gave the Board an update on the progress of the round-a-bout that is being installed near the new high school. He stated that it is significantly over the anticipated budget but construction appears to be running on schedule.

Staff Reports

Adam Arndt gave the Board an update about the plans being discussed for the next Soil Health Winter Workshop. They are currently discussing topics to cover at that event. Arndt also reported on the 4-H agronomy night that he assisted with. They distributed 74 project kits to the 24 kids that attended. He also informed the Board that there were repairs that were going to be needed on the tree planter.

Eric Gulbransen provided the Board with an update on the progress of the planning of the Pheasant opener in the fall. They have developed a short list of possible sites that are now being investigated as options for hunting land.

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

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Gransee,
Administrative Assistant

June Bills

Cedardale Dev. Co	June Rent		\$792.00
Spectrum	Internet		\$64.99
Cedardale Dev. Co	Garage Rent		\$600.00
Tech Sales Co.	Water Monitoring Equipment		\$1,497.14
MNL	Native Plants and Seeds		\$1,917.61
Court Sports	Logo Clothing		\$803.00
Elan	Meals	\$355.98	
	Educational	\$110.23	
	Gas	\$174.49	
	Phone	\$84.00	
	Promotional Items	\$1,744.73	
	Office Supplies	\$76.98	
	Website Annual Fee	\$324.00	\$2,870.41
		TOTAL	\$8,545.15