



STEELE COUNTY
Soil and Water Conservation District

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The regular monthly meeting of the Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was called to order by Kyle Wolfe at 5:00 PM on Tuesday February 9, 2021 via conference call.

<u>SWCD Supervisors Present:</u>	<u>SWCD Staff Present:</u>	<u>Others Present:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>
Mark Ihlenfeld, Reporter	Eric Gulbransen	Dave Copeland, BWSR	Dan Hansen, Chairman
Kyle Wolfe, Vice-Chair	Adrienne Gransee	Kelly Burke, NRCS	
Dave Melby, Treasurer	Adam Arndt	James Smith, NRCS	
Mike Klecker			

The February agenda was reviewed, no changes were made.

The January minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. There were no corrections needed. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by roll call vote.

The January Treasurer's Report was read by Melby. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the January Treasurer's Report. Motion was carried by roll call 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 – RC&D – Mark Ihlenfeld attended this meeting in Rochester. He reported that they reviewed the financial and projects from the last year. He also discussed where they are in the process of hiring a new person. At this time they have the candidates narrowed down to one and are planning to negotiate a contract.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. NRCS Civil Rights Review – Kelly Burke reviewed the Civil Rights Responsibilities checklist and asked that each Board member initial and sign after they had an opportunity to thoroughly review the material.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Annual Dues – The annual dues, listed below, were presented to the Board. There was discussion regarding the Cannon 1W1P dues and potentially having that covered by the county in the future. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve paying the dues. Motion carried by roll call vote.
 - Envirothon - \$175
 - JPB - \$3000
 - SE MASWCD - \$500
 - NACD - \$775
 - Cannon 1W1P - \$5000

3. Final Financial Reports – Gransee presented the financial reports listed below for the grants whose funds have been fully expended. There was discussion about the returned grant funds and how to utilize more of those grants in the future. It was requested that the Board grant Eric Gulbransen approval to sign the reports so that they could be returned to BWSR more quickly. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Klecker, to grant Gulbransen the authority to sign the forms and have them returned to BWSR. Motion passed by roll call vote.
 - FY17 Local Capacity Grant
 - FY18 Local Capacity Grant
 - FY18 State Cost Share Grant
 - FY19 State Cost Share Grant - \$7,985.00 Returned
 - FY20 Conservation Delivery Grant
 - FY21 Conservation Delivery Grant

4. Pay Equity Report – Gransee shared the Pay Equity Report with the Board. The information will be submitted to the State for review and will be made available to those who are interested in receiving it. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby, to approve the report and have it submitted as presented. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Agency Reports

Dave Copeland said that due to the positive reception of the virtual BWSR Academy they are planning to do a “Spring Training” He said that we should see more information about it in the next few weeks.

Kelly Burke gave the Board the current status of the various NRCS programs (see below). She also stated that the team has been developing ranking questions. She has received a variety of applications for practices including cover crops, strip-till, waterways, and a high-tunnel.

Jim Smith stated that he has been completing as-builts for recent projects and assisting Kelly with the applications.

Staff Reports

Adrienne Gransee reported that a significant amount of her time has been spent completing the annual grant reporting and making the required financial adjustments for the end of the year,

Eric Gulbransen stated that WCA has continued to be active. He has also been working on his time reporting and designs for a waterway and a stream bank repair. He informed the Board that the virtual 4H awards went smoothly, and he was able to give them an update about why the calendars were so late arriving this year.

Adam Arndt has been occupied with the tree program, about ½ of the trees have already been sold. He has also been completing training and reaching out to people with potential projects. Cover Crop contracts have also taken up part of his time.

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

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Gransee,
Administrative Assistant

February Bills

Jaguar		Internet		\$54.95
Cedardale Development Co.		February Rent		\$716.40
Elan		Cell Phone		\$88.33
MCIT		2021 Insurance		\$6,647.00
			Total	\$7,506.68