



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 12, 2024 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	Adam Arndt
Dan Hansen, Secretary	Ian Pringle	Rick Gnemi, County Commissioner	
Dave Melby, Vice Chair	Adrienne Gransee	James Brady, County Commissioner	
Brad Hagen, PR&I			
Mark Ditlevson, Chairman			

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

The June Treasurer’s Report was read by Ihlenfeld. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Hagen, to approve the June 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 – Area Resolution Meeting – Stewartville – Mark Ditlevson, Dan Hansen, Mark Ihlenfeld and Eric Gulbransen attended this meeting. There was one resolution presented. It had been submitted by Rice SWCD and was written regarding the importance of co-location for NRCS and SWCD.

Mark Ihlenfeld reported on the JPB meeting that he attended. It was their semi annual meeting and focused primarily on budget review and discussion about projects.

Brad Hagen and Mark Ditlevson attended the Governance 101 event. They both felt that the event was well worth attending. The information presented was useful and interesting. They covered topics such as Open Meeting Law, Board Staff Relationships, and identifying the District’s mission, vision and goals.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. SWCD Logo Apparel – Gransee will be ordering new logo apparel for the Board and asked that they provide her with their preferred styles and size information so that she can place the initial order with Court Sports & More.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. DNR Well Monitoring Contract – Gransee informed the Board that the District has been contracted to perform well monitoring for the DNR for another year. The contract was already digitally signed.
3. Cost Share Contract – 24-2, Grassed Waterway, \$4,425.00 – Pringle presented the grassed waterway contract to the Board. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the contract. Motion passed by voice vote.
4. Office Furniture – Standing Desk & Chair – Gransee presented the information regarding the standing desk converter and chair that she wished to order for the office. There are funds set aside in the FY23 Local Capacity grant to cover office furniture upgrades. Motion was made by Hagen, seconded by Hansen, to approve the purchases. Motion passed by voice vote.
5. Well Sealing Contract – WS-1-24, \$2,675.00 – Pringle presented this contract that will be funded through the Cannon 1W1P grant. The watershed is able to cover this well sealing project at 100% so there will be no need to land owner contribution. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the contract. Motion passed by voice vote.
6. Other – Brad Hagen told the Board about a landowner that contacted him seeking suggestions for a new crop to add to his rotation. The landowner ended up planting buckwheat this year. They are also moving to a no-till system in addition and adding small grains and cover crops to their operation. Hagen was pleased to see someone making a significant change to a more sustainable farming method.

Agency Reports

Jim Smith informed the Board that strip-till payments are being processed. He also talked about an interview that he gave regarding the Armstrong wetland project. It will be part of a promotional video released in the near future. Smith said that easement checks will begin soon and that CSP applications are in the final stages.

James Brady gave the Board an update on the positions that have been filled at the County level. The Administrator and the Assessor positions are now filled and there will be a new attorney starting shortly. The County is still trying to fill the open County engineer position.

Staff Reports

Eric Gulbransen informed the Board that he currently is working on 6 WCA applications and there is a new possible violation that he will be looking into. The county ditches have also been demanding more of his time this month, including a very large tile failure that he is in the beginning stages of addressing.

Ian Pringle spoke about his most recent trainings, including completing the wetland delineation certification. He will continue training for that on the job. In addition to training, he said that he has been completing CRP plans and on site inspections. Pringle informed that Board that he will be at a week long Conservation Planning training at the end of July.

Staff Reports

Adrienne Gransee reported about the Administrative conference that she attended in Baxter. The session that stood out the most was regarding the future of QuickBooks as the primary accounting option for SWCDs. She also brought samples of the fair posters to share with the Board.

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

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Gransee,
Administrative Assistant

March Bills

Cedardale Dev. Co	July Rent		\$792.00
Spectrum	Internet		\$89.99
Adrienne Gransee	386 miles @ 0.67		\$258.62
Elan	Meals	\$313.71	
	Gas	\$339.06	
	Monthly Payroll	\$25.77	
	Phone	\$87.21	
	Supplies	\$42.95	\$808.70
		TOTAL	\$1,949.31