STEELE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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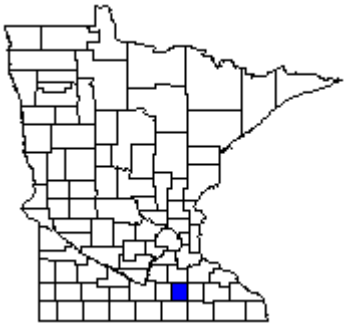

MINNESOTA
SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The regular monthly meeting of the Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Mark Ihlenfeld at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday January 9, 2018 at the Conservation Office located at 235 Cedardale Drive SE, Owatonna, MN.

SWCD Supervisors Present:	SWCD Staff Present:	Others Present:	Absent:
Mark Ihlenfeld, Chairman	Eric Gulbransen	James Brady, County Commissioner	
Dan Hansen, Vice Chair	Adam Arndt	Deb Hermel, NRCS	
Jim Klecker, Secretary	Adrienne Gransee	Jim Smith, NRCS	
Kyle Wolfe, Treasurer		Roger Wazek, Community Member	
Dave Melby, Reporter			

The January agenda was reviewed, no changes were made.

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

The December Treasurer's Report was read by Wolfe. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Klecker, to approve the December Treasurer's Report. Motion was carried by voice vote.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. 2018 Calendar – Gransee reported that the calendar has been delivered and the extras will be arriving to the office shortly. Due to some problems over the last couple of years the District will be looking into other options for the printer for the 2019 Calendar.

2. Other – Gulbransen reported on the final meeting with the landowners of the Medford streambank repair project. The landowners were very pleased with the changes that the Board had adopted to their contracts and are happy with the results of the repair.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Committees and Appointments –
   - Personnel – Ihlenfeld and Melby
   - Budget and Planning – Wolfe and Hansen
   - SE Joint Powers Board – Ihlenfeld
   - RC&D – Ihlenfeld – No At Large member
   - Zumbro Watershed Partnership – Hansen
   - County Water Plan Repreentative – Wolfe
   - Cannon River Watershed Partnership – Wolfe
   - Cannon 1 Watershed 1 Plan – Hanson
   - Cedar 1 Watershed 1 Plan – Hanson

2. Annual Approvals and Designations – Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker, to approve the designation as listed below. Motion carried by voice vote.
   - Primary Financial Institution – United Prairie
   - Official Newspaper – Owatonna Peoples Press
   - Official Radio Station - KOWZ

3. 2018 Supervisor Compensation and Mileage – Gransee reported to the Board that the limits for supervisor per diem had not been changed for 2018. The IRS mileage rate has been increased to .545 per mile. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker, to keep the per diem as is and to follow the IRS set mileage rate. Motion carried by voice vote.

4. Buffer Cost Share Policy – Arndt presented the cost share policy for the Buffer Cost share grant. The seeding requirements will follow the NRCS standards. This cost share is meant to assist landowners with establishing needed buffers along waterways. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Klecker, to approve the policy presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

5. Additional Duties from County – Gulbransen presented the information that he has from the County about what duties they are hoping the District would consider taking over. The exact amount of work hours that are going to be required are still a little unclear since there is no guidance on what will be required for the water plan once 1 Watershed 1 Plan is compete for the Cannon and the Cedar. The Board decided that the next logical step was to plan a meeting with county representatives. The date was set for February 2nd at 9 AM.

6. JPB Meeting – January 31 – People's Co-Op, Oronoco – 9:30 AM – Gulbransen and Ihlenfeld intend to attend this meeting.

7. Other – Roger Wazek presented a letter to the editor that spoke about the outlook of the conservation agencies. He spoke about what he would like to see the focus of the agencies be in regards to future plans.

Agency Reports:

Deb Hermel introduced herself. She will be the acting DC for the next few months. She stated that the continuing resolution runs out on January 19th.

James Brady reported on the weed management meeting that he attended. They have a grant for up to $30,000 to use on noxious weed control. There was discussion about the best times to mow and the options for chemical control. He also reported on the SE MN Water Resources Board meeting. There was business as usual and discussion about the collaboration with other agencies.

Jim Smith informed the board that Curtis Elke is currently the acting State Conservationist. He stated that the office will be undergoing a civil rights review sometime in the next 3 months. He stated that the proposal for a new building is posted and that NRCS is looking for possible options. He also reported that he has been working on and reviewing EQIP applications.

Staff Reports

Adrienne Gransee reported that she has been working on getting arrangements made for the Envirothon. She also spent her time finalizing the calendar and beginning grant reporting.

Adam Arndt has been spending his time of buffers, tree sales and preparing for a Soil Health meeting on January 23. He will be moderating the afternoon session of the meeting.

Eric Gulbransen reported on the meeting that he attended with the Waseca county representatives. They are looking at sharing duties and possibly housing the SWCD in a county building. He also informed the Board that the T/A portion of grants has changed. The District will no longer report it as a simple percentage. All T/A funds will be tied to actually hours worked.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made at 8:25 PM by Klecker, seconded by Hansen, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Adrienne Gransee

Adrienne Gransee,
Administrative Assistant

January Bills

Tri-M Graphics		**2018 Calendar Postage**		**$1,615.95**
Elan		**Meals**	**$76.00**	
		Office Supplies	**$8.24**	**$84.24**
Jaguar		**Internet**		**$54.95**
Cedardale Development Co.		**January Rent**		**$716.40**
Adrienne Gransee		**Mileage 115 @ .545**		**$62.68**
Eric Gulbransen		**Mileage 235 @ .545 & Reimbursement**		**$144.08**
Agri-News		**1 Year Subscription**		**$36.82**
Court Sports		**Clothing**		**$369.00**
Cedardale Development Co.		**1st Quarter Garage Rent**		**$495.00**
			Total	**$3,579.11**