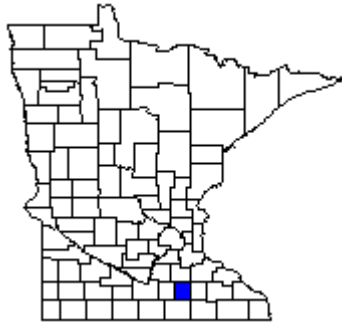


STEELE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

235 Cedardale Drive SE
 Owatonna, Minnesota 55060-4417
 Telephone (507) 451-6730 Ext. 3


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 April 10, 2018 at the Conservation Office located at 235 Cedardale Drive SE, Owatonna, MN.

<u>SWCD Supervisors</u> <u>Present:</u>	<u>SWCD Staff</u> <u>Present:</u>	<u>Others Present:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>
Mark Ihlenfeld, Chairman	Adam Arndt	James Brady, County Commissioner	
Dan Hansen, Vice Chair	Adrienne Gransee	Jim Smith, NRCS	
Jim Klecker, Secretary	Eric Gulbransen	Justin Ross, NRCS	
Kyle Wolfe, Treasurer		Roger Wacek, Community Member	
Dave Melby, Reporter			

The April agenda was reviewed, no changes were made.

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

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Meeting Reports – Cannon River 1 Watershed 1 Plan – April 7 – Faribault – Dan Hansen attended this meeting. They received a progress update from the consultant. The committee decided to form a Joint Powers Entity. The requirements of the entity allow for the maximum amount of transparency with the public. There was also discussion about the steps that will be taken moving toward the October completion date.

Cannon River Watershed Partnership – March 26 – Northfield – Kyle Wolfe attended this meeting. He reported that the organization is still facing a financial struggle and are seeking additional funds. Wolfe informed the Board that the annual meeting will be held on May 10 in Northfield. He also stated that they plan to move to a member directed Board and will be reducing the Board down to 13 people.

OLD BUSINESS Cont:

1. Meeting Reports – RC&D – Mark Ihlenfeld attended this meeting. There was a presentation on Cernza by Don Weiss from the University of Minnesota. After that it was usual monthly business.

The Soil Guy, Ray Archuleta – Faribault – Eric Gulbransen and Adrienne Gransee attended this event. The speaker was very informative and presented a view on soil health that varied from what is typically seen. He spoke about viewing the land as a complete system and caring for it as such.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2018 Annual Plan of Work – Gulbransen presented the updated plan of work. The updated plan includes the additional duties that the District will be taking over for the county as well as updated goals in other areas. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Melby, to approve the plan. Motion passed by voice vote.
2. Easement work order contract – Gulbransen presented an easement work order contract to the Board. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Hansen, to approve the work order. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. Part-time tree assistance - \$15/hour – Adam Arndt requested that the Board approve hiring 1-2 people at \$15/hour to assist him during tree week. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Klecker, to approve this request. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. Soil Health Update – Adam Arndt gave the Board an update on the Freeborn area soil health team activities. They extended an offer to Mower and Dodge to join the team. After discussion both Districts declined the invitation. They are looking for more sponsors for future field days. Arndt also gave the Board the dates of the next upcoming meeting, April 19 and May 17.
5. Fair Booth – Adrienne Gransee presented the contract for the Fair booth rental for the 2018 Steele County Free Fair. The rental rate had increased slightly to \$130. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby, to approve the contract and authorize paying the rental fee. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. Extension Exploring the Environment Champion - \$25 contribution – Gransee presented the information for the Extension program for the year. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Klecker, to approve the contribution. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. Other – Eric Gulbransen presented a brief report from Chad Billot about what he has been working on for the past month. There are currently 9 easements that he is working on. Gulbransen also informed the Board that the request for resolutions will be coming so it would be a good idea to begin thinking about what they would like. He informed the Board that there are updated legislative and MASWCD reports available. He also reported to the Board on the progress of the Biennial Budget Request. The last announcement is that the new Waseca SWCD manager begins work on Monday, April 16.

Agency Reports:

Justin Ross introduced himself to the Board. He is the current Acting District Conservationist for the Steele/Waseca office until the end of July. He presented a report to the Board with his activities for the time that he has been in the office.

Jim Smith reported that he has been reviewing CRP seed plans. He also has been working on management plans for easements.

James Brady arrived late in the meeting. He reported that the County Board passed the WCA resolution to authorize the District to assume the remainder of those duties. He also reported that the Noxious weed control grant was received and they are getting plans and equipment in place for the project.

Staff Reports

Adam Arndt reported on the presentation that he gave to Tim Larson's class in Medford. He spoke about what we do and they had a question and answer time about the Envirothon current event topic. He also reported on the Area employee meeting that he attended.

Adrienne Gransee reported that the majority of her time has been spent planning the Area employee meeting and getting everything lined up for Envirothon. There are currently 21 teams registered.

Eric Gulbransen reported that he will be appearing on April 20 at a hearing related to WCA activity that he has been involved in. He also informed the Board that Pete Fryer was going to be absent due to medical reasons. He told them that they have planned a lunch with representatives from the local canning company on April 17. He requested that the Board approve offering a contribution toward the rental of the cattle barn that we use for tree pick up. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Wolfe, to offer a \$400 contribution. Motion passed by voice vote.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made at 8:55 PM by Klecker, seconded by Wolfe, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Gransee,
Administrative Assistant

April Bills

Cedardale Dev.	April Rent		\$716.40
Jaguar	Internet		\$54.95
Elan	Meals	40.38	
	Postage	2.05	
	Gas	28.43	
	Hotel	458.17	\$529.03
Eric Gulbransen	Mileage 70 @ .545		\$38.15
Goodhue Co. SWCD	Tree tubes		\$240.00
USPS	Bulk Mail Permit		\$225.00
Verizon			\$54.95
Cedardale Dev.	Garage Rent		\$495.00
DeWitt	Matting		\$846.57
		Total	\$3,200.05