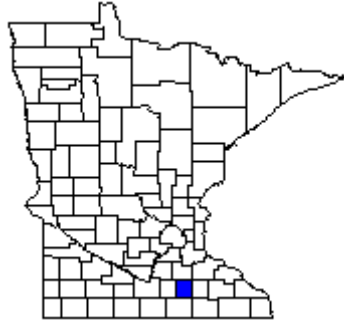


STEELE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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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 Dan Hansen at 7:05 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9, 2011 at the Conservation Office located at 235 Cedardale Drive SE, Owatonna, MN.

<u>SWCD Supervisors Present:</u>	<u>SWCD Staff Present:</u>	<u>Others Present:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>
Dan Hansen, Chrnm.	Dan Arndt, Manager	Bruce Kubicek	James Klecker, Reporter
Kyle Wolfe, Vice-Chrnm.	Eric Gulbransen	Jim Smith, NRCS	
Dave Melby, Sec.	Sue Condon, SWCD		
Mark Ihlenfeld, Treasurer			

The February agenda was reviewed and stays as it stands.

The January minutes were sent to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. Rewording of the organization of board officers should read: "Officers to rotate positions every two years as of 2011". Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Wolfe to approve the minutes with the correction to clarify. Motion was carried by voice vote.

The January Treasurer's Report (see attached) was read by Ihlenfeld. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Melby to approve the January Treasurer's Report. Motion was carried by voice vote.

Bills: (see attached.) Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Wolfe to approve paying the bills as listed. Motion was carried by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. SE JPB Meeting, Jan. 31st: Ihlenfeld attended (he is no longer chairman) Wages were discussed. The SE JPB wages are primarily acquired from the Clean Waters Fund. The wages for 2011 will include a 1% cost of living increase with steps increases. With a new two year grant acquired from the Clean Waters Legacy Fund in the amount \$161,615, the SE JPB now has two technical positions in nutrient management. There will be stationed a Feedlot Technician in both the Rice and Fillmore Districts. New CAD software and training will be needed this year.
2. "One Water Management Strategy Meeting, Feb. 2nd: Arndt and Melby attended the meeting. CRWP and MN Pollution Control Agency are working on creating one plan for all agencies to manage the Cannon River Watershed. This plan will be done by June 2011. Ihlenfeld attended the Planning and Zoning meeting on Feb. 8th. Discussed were the septic systems in Steele County. There were 15 upgrades in Steele County last year..
3. 2009 Audit Report: Arndt handed out the report. Maiser sent copy to state auditor and BWSR. Discussion followed. Wolfe questioned what prompts an audit and suggested a resolution to change it.

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4. Other: Commissioner Kubicek reported on attending an RC & D meeting. Dues will not be increased this year. RC & D is looking into a program to control invasive species with goats. It is being tried on land near Rochester. EQIP money was used for fencing.

Hansen read a Thank You letter which was sent to Don Boluin for the new NRCS copier in our office.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Steele County Farm Family of the Year nominations: Brad Carlson, Extension, is asking for nominations for the 2011 Steele County Farm Family of the Year from the board. Arndt read the criteria. Discussion followed. Deadline is March 1st. Supervisors will call office if someone comes to mind.
2. Dues: Discussion. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Ihlenfeld to pay all the dues, with the exception of only paying ½ of the dues to MASWCD now with the remainder to be paid in July. Motion was carried to pay the following: Hiawatha RC & D = \$300; MASWCD - \$1397.50 (with 2nd ½ paid in July); SE MASWCD = \$775; NACD = \$775; CRWP \$35; SE JPB = \$500; MN. Volunteer = \$25; Envirothon – 2011 = \$175.
3. Annual Report Review/ Annual Financial Report: Arndt handed the reports to supervisors to review and to table the vote to accept until the March board meeting. The reports are due to the state on March 15th.
4. BWSR State Cost-share Technical Assistance Option: Arndt stated that BWSR has approved the use of State Cost Share funds for technical assistance. Conditions for approval includes: 1. Federal funds or other non-state funds will be leveraged and they couldn't do the project otherwise; or, 2. Funds are to be used on a project(s) that is State Cost Share Program or EQIP eligible and their 2009 Financial Report indicates less than 18-months operating capital in their fund balance. Arndt stated that the District does meet the criteria and that the funds will be used for Gulbransen's wages. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Melby to apply for this. Motion was passed.
5. Dave Severson's retirement party, Feb. 25th: Will be held at the Administration Center from 2:30 – 4:30. He has been with the county for 38 years. District will send a card.
6. Legislative Day, Feb. 28th – March 1st: Melby and possibly Wolfe will be attending. If Wolfe cannot attend Arndt will go. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld to approve any expenses. Motion was carried.
7. Other: None.

Agency Reports: Smith stated that there is an EQIP sign up ending March 4th in process. There will be a general CRP sign-up in March.

Kubicek reported that the Wetland Preservation Program (used to reduce taxes on wetland) was passed by the commissioners. SWCD will assist with administration of the program. Drainage on county ditches was discussed. Tabled.

Gulbransen reported E-link reporting was done. Tree Day will be Feb. 11th. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Wolfe to approve the cost of any refreshments needed for the day. Motion was carried.

Arndt reported the legislature approved funding for a RIM/WRP signup for flood damaged sites..

Ihlenfeld stated that the spring MASWCD meeting is being planned. One of the training sessions will be on how to talk to the media. Any other suggestions, please contact Ihlenfeld.

Wolfe suggested sponsoring a tree class with the Owatonna Community Education. Tabled

Motion was made to adjourn by Wolfe, seconded by Melby at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Sue Condon, District Administrative Secretary