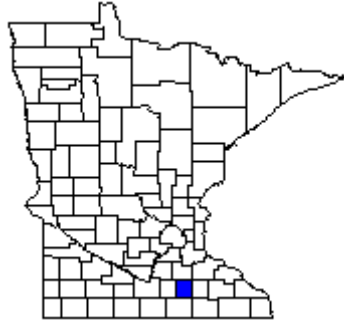


STEELE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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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 6:58 p.m. on Thursday, March 10, 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, Chrmn.	Dan Arndt, Manager	Bruce Kubicek	James Klecker, Reporter
Mark Ihlenfeld, Treasurer	Eric Gulbransen	Jim Smith, NRCS	Kyle Wolfe, Vice-Chrmn.
Dave Melby, Sec.	Sue Condon, SWCD	Jeff Koster, Hiawatha RC & D	

The March agenda was reviewed and stays as it stands.

The February minutes were sent to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. Rewording of the minutes was reviewed by Condon. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Melby to approve the minutes with the correction to clarify. Motion was carried by voice vote.

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Tree Day, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>: Gulbransen reported that the day went very well. There were about 30 people. In the Ellendale area, where last year’s tornado took out some farmstead windbreaks, there have been 3-4 people interested in EQIP windbreaks for 2012.
2. Legislative Day, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>-March 1<sup>st</sup>: Melby and Arndt attended. They met with four Legislators. The 2011 District calendar was handed out. Discussed were funding, projects and the redistricting due to the 2010 census. This will be done before the 2012 elections.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Hansen welcomed Jeff Koster, Hiawatha RC & D Coordinator, from the Rochester Field Office. Koster presented and reviewed the Hiawatha RC &D Annual Reports. The RC & D meeting is held quarterly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday. Discussion followed.

1. 2010 Annual Report/Financial Report Review: Arndt handed out the final reports. They are due by March 15<sup>th</sup>, both on the Web site and e-mailed to the appropriate BWSR staff. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld to approve the reports. Motion was carried.
2. Clean Water Buffer Incentive Sign-ups: Arndt presented VBS-2010-15 C. Johnson - .3 ac contract and VBS-2010-16 M Johnson – 2.9 ac contracts to the board. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Melby to approve the two contracts. Motion was carried.
3. Condon presented the 2011 Soil Stewardship Week (April 24<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011) theme, “Forests for People, More Than You Can Imagine!” Discussion followed. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld to purchase the 11 teacher’s guides and one CD. Motion was carried.
4. Steele Co. SWCD By-Laws: Arndt handed out a draft of the by-laws for the district. It will be tabled until next month.
5. Other: Ihlenfeld stated that he could get more barrels for the district. Arndt stated that Matt Durand is now handling all rain barrels.

Commissioner Kubicek stated that the new county administrative, Riaz Azziz will on staff March 15<sup>th</sup>. The county is also interviewing people for the position of county assessor, as Purdie will be retiring March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Smith reported that there will be a General CRP sign-up starting March 14<sup>th</sup> until April 15<sup>th</sup>. The rental rates per soil type have increased and there will be incentives for sign-up. He also reported that there are 12 EQIP clients, which includes 4 large tree windbreaks in the Ellendale area, as a result of the tornado of 2010.

Gulbransen reported that the district has sold approximately \$35,000 worth of trees, with 30% paid for.

Arndt read the thanks you’s from MN. Volunteer and the Cannon River Watershed Partnership for our 2011 contributions.

Condon reported that she has been busy working on the annual reports and updating the web site.

Motion was made to adjourn by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Sue Condon, District Administrative Secretary