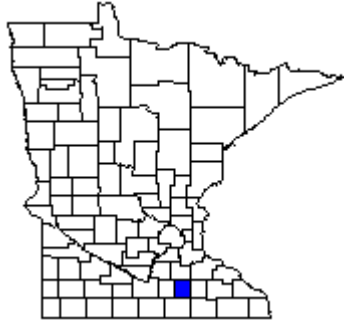


STEELE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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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 7:10 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11, 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, Co. Commissioner	
Mark Ihlenfeld, Treasurer	Eric Gulbransen		
Dave Melby, Sec.	Sue Condon		
Kyle Wolfe, Vice-Chrmn.			
James Klecker, Reporter			

The May agenda was reviewed and stays as it stands.

The April minutes were sent to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Wolfe to approve the minutes. Motion was carried by voice vote.

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. 2011 Tree Distribution: Gulbransen reported the day went well with over 15,000 trees being distributed. The SEMCAC volunteers helped with the sign-in table. We received trees from 3 nurseries and 2 SWCDs.
2. Tree Planting Day with St. Isidore students, April 27<sup>th</sup>: Arndt reported that there were 30-35 students and teachers that participated in planting a small windbreak at the school. Plantra donated the tree tubes for the oak trees. Supervisor Melby and staff: Arndt, Frank, Gulbransen, Smith and Waldschmidt helped in this effort to teach the students about the proper way to plant trees. The students sent a homemade thank you to staff. Melby thanked the staff and hoped that the staff will assist a school each year.
3. SE MN Area Envirothon: the Medford High School team won 3<sup>rd</sup> place to reserve a place to go on to state competition at Spirit Mountain in Duluth. The area committee gave them \$125 to use towards expenses. After discussion, motion was made Wolfe, seconded by Ihlenfeld to match and donate \$125 to the Medford team for attending the State event. Motion was carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Legislative Up-date: Arndt reviewed the conservation bills now being reviewed by state legislative committees. MASWCD has suggested writing letters to our congressmen to help preserve our funding.
2. State Cost-share Application: 2-10 FC, McGuire, Structure repair – estimated cost \$2,400. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Wolfe to approve this flood project and encumber said amount. Motion carried.
3. Wetland Preservation Area Resolution: Arndt reviewed the program with the supervisors. The county just adopted a resolution to approve the program and to allow part of the administration to go to the District. This wetland preservation area program will allow lower taxes on wetlands in the county, with the state reimbursing the county for any lost revenue from the real estate taxes. Discussion. District will be the initial contact agency for the program. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Ihlenfeld to adopt the resolution that delegates administration to the District. Carried by voice vote.
4. Phase XI Farm Bill Assistance Grant, July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012: Arndt presented the Farm Bill Assistance grant that has funded Danielle Waldschmidts position. The Buffer Incentive Program Grant administration and technical funding will help pay Danielle's salary. Our cost will be approximately \$10,000 a year, with Waldschmidt here 2 days a week. Discussion. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Wolfe to continue this arrangement with Rice Co. SWCD in the sharing of the Farm Bill Technician. Motion carried.
5. 2010 state audit: A letter was received from BWSR stating that we needed a 2010 audit. Board questioned the need as a 2009 audit was just completed. Condon will look into this.
6. Call for 2011 MASWCD Resolutions: The area supervisor's meeting for resolutions will be on June 14<sup>th</sup> at the Eagles Club in Rochester from 9-12 a.m. Discussions followed for resolutions. Resolutions tabled until next month.
7. Brad Carlson is leaving as County Extension Educator: As of June 1<sup>st</sup> Carlson will be in a new position with the Extension Service as an ag production water quality specialist. Commissioner Kubicek commented that the county will be looking for a replacement for Rice and Steele Counties Extension Service Educator.
8. Others: Ihlenfeld stated that the funding for the Hiawatha RC & D office has been cut from the NRCS budget, but that the RC & D board still has program project monies left and will be utilizing it.

Agencies: Commissioner Kubicek reported that the Crane Creek inspection tour was done on May 9<sup>th</sup>. The Farm Family of 2011 is Tom Wencil & family. Kubicek attended the SE MN Resources Board on May 9<sup>th</sup>, presented a resolution that funding was going to grant writers and not to the program funding.

Arndt stated that today was Smith's last day with the NRCS for one year. He has a year of deployment with the National Guard in Kuwait.

Arndt stated that he gave a presentation on May 10<sup>th</sup> to the Owatonna Leadership Organization.

Condon reported that June 30<sup>th</sup> the Owatonna sales tax will cease.

Gulbransen reported – being busy with trees, flood projects and a lot of miscellaneous.

Motion was made to adjourn by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Klecker at 8:38 p.m. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be June 8th.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Sue Condon, District Administrative Secretary