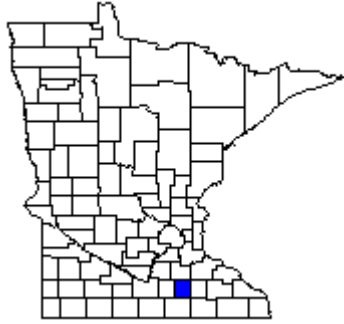


STEELE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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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 7:03 p.m. on Wednesday, June 8, 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 June agenda was reviewed and stays as it stands.

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

The May Treasurer’s Report (see attached) was read by Ihlenfeld. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Wolfe to approve the May 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. 2010 Steele Co. SWCD State Audit: Condon reviewed this with state BWSR financial representative and determined that the District does not need to have an audit done as we just had one done for 2009.
2. Cannon River Watershed – Straight River Lobe Mtg., May 16th: Arndt and Gulbransen attended this training on how to identify problems and strategies for solving problems in the Lobe of the Cannon River Watershed, which is the Straight River. They will also be looking closely at the TMDL’s of the Straight River. It was sponsored by the CRWP strategy committee.
3. Other: Kubicek reported that the RC & D Executive Committee met on June 8th. They discussed how to pay bills and how to continue with the encumbered projects. Roger Lanzmeir may come back to help RC & D for 2 to 3 days a month.

Note: John Nicholson, Area Conservationist retired May 31, 2011.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tree Program Evaluation/Native and Non-Invasive Plants: Gulbransen reported on the outcome of the 2011 tree program year. There were over 15,000 conservation trees and shrubs sold. He stated that next year there will be 5-6 EQIP windbreaks being planted. Supervisors continue to see the value of the District tree program.
2. State Flood Cost-share Requests: Request to encumber \$3,375 for a side inlet #3(10) FC for Pirkel. Discussion. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Ihlenfeld to approve the encumbrance. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. FYI – MN River BCAP Project Proposal: Linda Meschke from the MN River Bio-Mass Project asked if we would like to be part of the proposed project which will include 17 counties in the south central part of Minnesota. This project would include a new facility in Madelia. The plant would handle converting bio-mass to steam and would be completed by 2015. The project would include payments similar to CRP. Discussion followed.
4. Steele Co. SWCD By-Laws: Arndt passed out draft of the By-Laws. Discussion followed. Changes were suggested. Moved to pass the By-Laws as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. Gulbransen presented annual DNR Well Agreement: the agreement would be from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. Motion was made by Melby to sign the agreement, seconded by Ihlenfeld. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. 2011 Outstanding Conservationist Nominations: Arndt explained the need of nominations by the July 13th board meeting. Tabled until next month when supervisors will bring in nominations.
7. Arndt presented the resolution “Frequency of the SWCD audits” to be presented at the SE MASWCD on June 14th at the Eagles Club in Rochester. Discussion followed. Motion to submit resolution by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Melby. Motion carried.

Agencies: Commissioner Kubicek reported that the county and city of Owatonna will be doing a study of the hydrology of Maple Creek. The funding may be available for up to 2 units to be placed on Maple Creek to measure the velocity and the turbulence.

Gulbransen reported that the district has approximately 400 acres to spray for trees in the federal programs and the Co-op Weed Management Grant (on RIM acres).

Arndt read a thank you from Medford teacher Tim Larson and the Medford High School Envirothon team for the donation of money towards travel and competing in the state Envirothon Competition in Duluth.

Arndt also reported that we have had the Truax drill for 14 years and that most of this year’s CRP contracts are being seeded with it.

Motion was made to adjourn by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Klecker at 8:55 p.m. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be July 13th.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Sue Condon, District Administrative Secretary