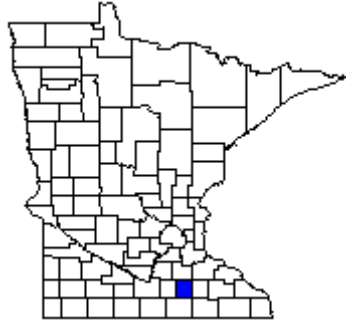


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**MINNESOTA
 SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

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 8, 2012 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	Bruce Kubicek, Commissioner	
Mark Ihlenfeld, Treasurer	Eric Gulbransen		
Kyle Wolfe, Vice-Chrmn.	Sue Condon		
Dave Melby, Secretary			
James Klecker, Reporter			

The February agenda was reviewed and approved.

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

The January Treasurer’s Report (see attached) was read by Ihlenfeld. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker to approve the January 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. SE JPB Meeting, Jan. 31st: Ihlenfeld attended this meeting. The personnel committee meet (Ihlenfeld is on this committee). Discussed were salaries for the coming year. It was decided that there would be no cost-of-living increase, but Pete Fryer advanced 1 step in the salary schedule. Kate Busse is now a certified licensed Engineer which increased her salary and position on the salary schedule. The JPB’s financial situation is stable through 2013.
2. Cannon River Watershed Partnership (CRWP): Supervisor Wolfe, Commissioner Kubicek and staff person Gulbransen attended the Feb. 2nd meeting. This is one out of three informal informational meetings to be held in southern Minnesota on the water quality in the Mississippi River Basin.
3. Other: RC & D meeting January 30th in Rochester. Ihlenfeld and Kubicek attended. The RC & D group has hired John Beckworth as a temporary Executive Director to help finish some of the project still underway. The area dues remain at \$300.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2012 Dues: Arndt presented the dues to the board. There are: NACD = \$775 (minimum); MASWCD = \$2,795 (last year same amount and half was paid in Feb. and July); SE MASWCD = \$500; SE JPB = \$500; Cannon River Watershed Partnership = \$35; MN Volunteer = \$25; Envirothon = \$175; and RC & D = \$300. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby to pay all the dues like we did last year and have a letter of explanation sent to MASWCD. Motion was carried by voice vote.
2. MASWCD Self-Assessment: This assessment was handed out to the supervisors and staff last month. Arndt reviewed findings with the supervisors. This assessment has been tied in and incorporated into the 2012 plan of work.
3. 2012 Plan of Work: Arndt presented the 2012 Plan of Work to the Supervisors. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Ihlenfeld to approve the Plan of Work, but to re-visit the plan in July to monitor progress. Motion was carried by voice vote.
4. LeSueur River Seeding and Conservation – Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) Grant Transfer of \$19,123 from the DNR: District has applied and been approved for the CREP Conservation Partners Grant in the amount of approximately \$30,000. This grant involved tree control on 5 CREP easements. Le Sueur River Seeding and Conservation, Tom Bauman, submitted the low bid for the work to be done in 2011 and 2012. Tree removal and spraying scheduled for 2011 has been certified complete. In 2012 the burning and more spraying will be done. Bauman has requested payment for the work completed in 2011. The necessary paper work is still in the payment office of the DNR. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby to pay the LeSueur River Seeding Company as soon as the District receives payment from the DNR. Motion was carried by voice vote.
5. MASWCD Day at the Capitol, Feb. 16th: Ihlenfeld and Melby will be attending.
6. Tree Day Open House, Feb. 10th: Gulbransen reported that ads for the open house have been put in the Owatonna Peoples Press for the week of Feb. 6-10th. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Wolfe to approve the cost of refreshments for Tree Day. Motion was carried by voice vote.
7. March Meeting Date: Due to the 2011 Annual Report deadline the next SWCD Board meeting will be Thursday March 8th.
8. Other: Arndt would like to get quotes to re-design our web site. Discussion followed. Tabled until next month.

Agency Reports:

--Commissioner Kubicek attended an Ag. Wetland Banking Program in Mankato sponsored by BWSR. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the potential of developing wetland banking sites for mitigation of small wetlands in agricultural areas. He also reported that the new coordinator Tom Shea started work Jan. 30th. The position for the new commissioner for District 5 of Steele County will be voted on April 3rd.

Staff Report:

--Condon reported that she is getting back to work after her surgery and she is very busy trying to catch up.

--Gulbransen reported that he is busy selling trees. Melby asked about the DNR well observation levels in the county that the SWCD is reporting on.

--Arndt stated that he was busy with the Annual Report and working on the proposed project out at Beaver Lake. He also stated that he and Scott Goldberg had a WCA audit for Steele County done by BWSR.

Motion was made by Wolfe to adjourn, seconded by Klecker at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be March 8, 2012.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Sue Condon
District Secretary