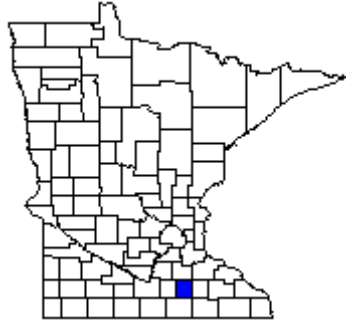


STEELE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

235 Cedardale Drive SE
Owatonna, Minnesota 55060-4417
Telephone (507) 451-6730 Ext. 3
Fax (507) 444-2421



**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 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 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		
Mark Ihlenfeld, Treasurer	Eric Gulbransen		
Kyle Wolfe, Vice-Chrmn.			
Dave Melby, Secretary			
James Klecker, Reporter			

The March agenda was reviewed and approved.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. SWCD Day at the Capitol: Ihlenfeld and Melby attended the 2012 MASWCD Day at the Capitol on February 16th. They reported that being a bonding year the Associations platform is to promote passing House Bonding Bill – HF 2229 sponsored by Torkelson, Hansen, and McNamara. This Bill includes \$25 million for RIM Reserve. The Supervisors also reported on meeting with State Representatives Fritz and Kath to discuss SWCD legislative priorities.
2. SEMACDE Meeting: Arndt and Gulbransen reported on attending an annual employees meeting on March 6th. The meeting/training session included Agency updates, a Legislative Briefing, and guest speakers.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2011 Annual Report: Arndt presented the 2011 Annual Report Narrative, and the Financial Report to the Board. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Klecker to approve the reports as submitted. Motion was carried by voice vote.
2. Farm Bill Technician Status: Arndt reported that Danielle Waldschmidt will be leaving as the F.B Technician to take a position with NRCS. Rice County has indicated to Arndt that after June 30, 2012 they will no longer be able to share a F.B. Technician position due to increased staffing needs in Rice County.
3. 4-H Trophy: Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Ihlenfeld to sponsor the Senior Exploring the Environment 4-H trophy at a cost of \$20. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. Website Design: Gulbransen reported that staff had met with Luke Winzenberg to discuss the development of a new website. Winzenberg estimated that it would cost no more than \$1,000 to design a new website and that the cost would include website updates through 2012. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker to approve up to \$1,000 for the design of a new District website. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. NRCS Certainty Committee: Arndt reviewed with the Board a request from LeAnn Buck, MASWCD Executive Director regarding formation of a MN Department of Ag – “Ag Water Quality Program Advisory Committee”, and NRCS “Certainty Subcommittee”. Candidates are being sought for both committees.
6. 2012 Election Options: Arndt reviewed with the Supervisors the two different options available for SWCD Supervisor elections. One option is to leave the election process as is with Supervisors representing specified areas in the County and voting County wide. The second option is to change areas of representation to be consistent with the County Commissioners Districts with voting by residents of that area only. The Board was in agreement to stay with the present system.
7. SEMASWCD Spring Meeting: The SEMASWCD Supervisors will conduct their spring meeting on March 28, 2012 at the Eagles Club in Rochester. Contact the office by March 19th if you plan on attending.

Staff Reports: Arndt presented a letter of appreciation written to Freeborn SWCD for assistance provided the District by Freeborn SWCD Secretary, Brenda Lageson.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Daniel Arndt, Manager