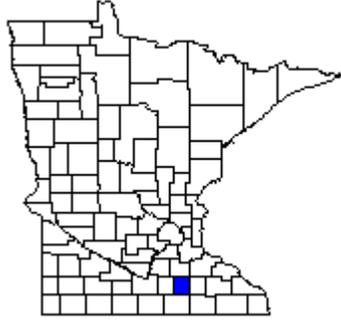


STEELE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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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 Kyle Wolfe at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 7, 2013 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>
Kyle Wolfe, Chrnm.	Dan Arndt	James Smith, NRCS	Bruce Kubicek, Commissioner
Dave Melby, Vice-Chrnm	Sue Condon		
Mark Ihlenfeld, Secretary	Eric Gulbransen		
James Klecker, Treasurer			
Dan Hansen, Reporter			

The November agenda was reviewed. No adjustment to be made.

The October minutes were mailed to the Supervisors to be reviewed. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Melby to approve the minutes as written. Motion was carried by voice vote.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. County Budget Meeting, Oct. 29th: Wolfe, Ihlenfeld and Arndt attended this County Public Works Committee budget meeting. This committee included Commissioners Kubicek and Johnson. The District’s 2014 budget request from the County is \$134,376, a 5% increase over 2013. Steele County Treasurer, Steve Rohik stated that our District’s budget was only ½ of 1% of the County’s overall budget. Discussion followed. Wolfe stated that the District should make an effort to update the Commissioners about District activities on a regular basis. Tours should also be yearly.
2. Aerial Photos taken for 2014 District calendar: Arndt reported that aerial photos were taken recently while flying the County with Wolfe. Copies of the photos were distributed for consideration to be used in the 2014 Conservation Calendar.
3. Other meetings: none.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. MN Conservation Corp Funding and Partnership Opportunities: The MN Conservation Corp has announced the availability of funding for conservation projects, and for the 2014 Conservation Apprentice Program. In addition BWSR has opened up the RFP for Weed Management Grants. Gulbransen discussed with the supervisors the possibility of partnering with Summit Township for a new weed management grant. Summit Township contains many conservation easements and it is important to keep invasive species out of the easements. Employing an apprentice to assist with the weed management grant was discussed. The maximum weed management grant is \$15,000 with a 25% match. Deadline for these grants is the middle of December. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Hansen to apply for both grants. Motion carried by voice vote.
2. MASWCD State Convention, Dec. 1-3: Condon reported that the rooms are reserved and asked the Supervisor what events they would be attending. SE Minnesota Districts are hosting the Convention this year. Also, any auction donations should be brought to the office.
3. 2014 Tree Program: Gulbransen reviewed the proposed 2014 Tree Program with the Board. The possibility of selling wild flower seed packages or plugs was discussed. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld to approve the 2014 program. Motion was carried by voice vote.
4. Schedule personnel meeting: Condon reported that the District has 17 applications as of today. The deadline for the applications for the District administration position is November 15th. Personnel committee members, Wolfe and Hansen will meet on November 20th to score the applicants. The annual employee review meeting will take place before the December 11th board meeting.
5. Waseca County SWCD Proposal: There was a meeting between the Steele SWCD and the Waseca SWCD supervisors on November 4th. Also in attendance were Arndt, Frank and Chris Hughes, BWSR Representative. Discussion followed. Wolfe is concerned about the current District staff being able to handle the work load. Arndt stated that we could possibly handle the administration side of the situation, if we shifted priorities around. The District easement maintenance program would be dropped. Supervisors were also concerned about how this action could affect the Districts relationship with the Commissioners and our County budget. No action was taken at this time.

Agency Reports: Smith, NRCS, reported that Kasey Taylor, AC, will be leaving the area for a NRCS position in Delaware. Continuing to take CRP and EQIP sign ups and putting them into the system. But as of now, there isn't funding for any of the programs because a new Farm Bill has not been approved.

Staff Reports: Arndt reported that BWSR is conducting a performance review on the Zumbro River Watershed which affects LGU's in Steele County. Arndt and Golberg met with BWSR staff and are following through with this assessment. Arndt handed out a survey to the Supervisors to review and fill out.

Gulbransen reported he has been finishing up the easement spraying, working on calendar pages, and finishing up on the 2014 tree order and description pages.

Condon reported that she is busy and trying to get the 2014 calendar pages to Tri-M.

Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Hansen to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. the meeting. Motion carried.

Submitted by
Sue Condon, District Admin. Sec.