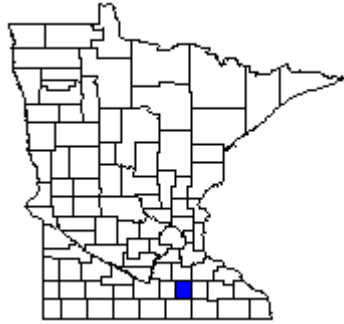


STEELE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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 Kyle Wolfe at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 14, 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, Chrmn.	Dan Arndt	Bruce Kubicek, Commissioner	
Dave Melby, Vice-Chrmn	Sue Condon	Noel Frank, NRCS DC	
Mark Ihlenfeld, Secretary	Eric Gulbransen	Jim Smith, NRCS Tech.	
James Klecker, Treasurer			
Dan Hansen, Reporter			

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

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

The January Treasurer’s Report (see attached) was read by Klecker. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Hansen to approve the January 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. SE JPB mtg., Jan. 31st: Arndt and Ihlenfeld attended. The SE JPB has 2 Engineers and 1 Technician. They were given their step increase plus a 2% COLA. Discussion followed.

SE JPB Technical Assistance Contribution: In 2012 the JPB Engineer designed and assisted with two State Cost-Share projects in our District. Discussion followed. Moved by Melby, seconded by Hansen to pay the \$1,757.53 (remaining T/A funds) to the SEJPB for their technical assistance on the Burns and Mundt projects. Carried by voice vote.

2. Cover Crop Workshop, Feb. 7th: Arndt and Gulbransen, plus 5 farmers from Steele County attended. There were about 50 people from the Cannon River Watershed area in attendance. Discussion followed.
3. Tree Day, Feb. 8th: Gulbransen reported a poor attendance. Hansen and Wolfe attended. The speaker, Gary Wyatt, Extension Forester, made a wonderful presentation. Discussion followed on how to get more people to participate.
4. Other: Ihlenfeld attended the RC & D meeting in Rochester on January 28th. Ihlenfeld handed out their 2013 Annual Plan of Work. Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Dues: NACD = \$775; MASWCD = \$2,866.50; SE MASWCD = \$500; SE JPB - \$500; HIAWATHA RC &D - \$300; SE ENVIROTHON - \$175; CRWP - \$35; MN VOLUNTEER - \$25. For a grand total of \$5,176.50. Discussion follow. Moved by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Melby to pay all the dues, but to pay only ½ of the MASWCD now and pay the rest in July. Motion approved by voice vote.
2. Look at #1 Old Business.
3. Annual Report: Arndt presented the report to the Board. Discussion followed. Moved by Hansen, seconded by Klecker to approve the Annual Report for 2012. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. 2013 Annual Plan of Work (tabled from last month): Arndt looked into charging for drainage group assistance because of the amount of time involved in preparation. Arndt reviewed this with other SWCD's and could fine none at this time that charged for technical assistance. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker to include in the 2013 Plan of Work assisting drainage groups, and to do so without a charge. Motion was approved by voice vote.
5. USFWS Coop Agreement, Mark Bernard – This CREP Easement wetland was enhanced utilizing USFWS funding. Discussion followed. Motion was made to reimburse M. Bernard in the amount of \$1,545 when we get the funds from the USFWS. Motion was approved by voice vote.
6. State Cost-share T & A Option Request: Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Ihlenfeld to sign and submit a request to BWSR to utilize the 2013 State Cost Share Grant for technical assistance leveraging Federal funds for projects. With the understanding that the funding can be used for projects if deemed necessary. Motion was approved by voice vote.
7. Ag Water Quality Cert. Program Listening Sessions, Pilot Project Areas: Arndt presented this to the Supervisors. CRWP will work with the District to look at possible pilot project in the Straight River Watershed. Wolfe stated that he would help with this endeavor. Arndt will look into this further. Rice Co. SWCD may also want to be in our pilot project area. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker to pursue this project if the Rice Co. SWCD is interested in partnering. Motion carried by voice vote.
8. Conservation Corp. Apprentice approved: Arndt reported that the RIM Easement Maintenance grant from the Conservation Corp was not approved, but that the apprenticeship was approved. The Corp will be doing interviews shortly and we will have a chance to review before an apprentice is approved.
9. 4-H Exploring the Environment Champion Trophy: Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker to approve sponsoring the 2013 4-H Senior Conservation Trophy at a cost of \$20. Motion carried by voice vote.
10. Feb. 26th, Day at the Capitol – Leg. Update: Arndt, Ihlenfeld, Klecker and Melby plan on attending. Wolfe thanked all the staff and Supervisors that plan on attending.

Agency Reports: Commissioner Kubicek reported that the KODA Nursing Home as officially opened. Noel Frank, NRCS reported that he is working on CSP in both Owatonna and Waseca. Furloughs are being talked about. Smith, NRCS reported that 6 or 7 people have applied for EQIP.

Staff Reports: Arndt reported that the District co-sponsored and purchased 100 platbooks from the County and that over half of them have been sold. Gulbransen reported that the 2012 e-link reporting is done and he is selling trees. Condon passed out the 2011 final audit report. This will be sent to the State Auditor for review by the auditor, Maiser.

Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Hansen to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. the meeting. Motion carried.

Submitted by Sue Condon, District Admin. Sec.