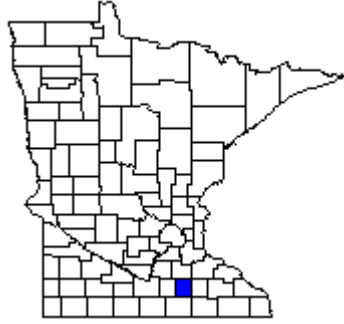


STEELE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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 7:02 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14, 2013 at the Conservation Office located at 235 Cedardale Drive SE, Owatonna, MN. Wolfe welcomed Kasey Taylor, NRCS AC to the Board Meeting.

<u>SWCD Supervisors</u> <u>Present:</u>	<u>SWCD Staff</u> <u>Present:</u>	<u>Others Present:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>
Kyle Wolfe, Chrmn.	Dan Arndt	Kasey Taylor, NRCS AC	Eric Gulbransen
Dave Melby, Vice-Chrmn	Sue Condon	Noel Frank, NRCS DC	Bruce Kubicek, Commissioner
Mark Ihlenfeld, Secretary		Jim Smith, NRCS Tech.	Dan Hansen, Reporter
James Klecker, Treasurer			

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

The February minutes were mailed to the Supervisors to be reviewed. At this time, Condon reported that the January and February Treasurer’s Reports were slightly altered due to end of the year adjustments. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Ihlenfeld to approve the minutes as written, with the approval of the adjustments to the January and February Treasurer’s Reports that were approved in those respective minutes. Motion was carried by voice vote.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Feb. 26th, Day at the Capitol; Arndt, Ihlenfeld, Klecker and Melby attended the meetings with Representative John Petersburg (District 24A); Senator Vicki Jensen (District 24); Senator Dan Sparks (District 27-City of Blooming Prairie); and Representative Patti Fritz (District 24B). There was good discussion with each of the legislators. Article and picture with Senator Jensen were in the Owatonna People’s Press.
2. Legislative Update: Arndt reviewed current MASWCD legislative updates with Supervisors.
3. Certainty Pilot Option: Arndt reported that he discussed with CRWP and Rice SWCD. It was decided not to apply for it.

4. Other: Melby reported that he attended a seminar on March 14th on Ag Drainage Systems presented by Brad Carlson, U of M Ag Educator, at the Four Seasons. Wolfe and Kubicek attended the CRWP on March 11th. The CRWP has adequate funding at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2012 Annual Financial Report: Condon presented the report. Two changes in wording were recommended by the supervisors. Condon reported that our asset threshold was extremely low at \$500. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby to move the threshold from \$500 to \$1,000. Motion carried. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Klecker to approve the 2012 Financial Report with the said changes. Motion was carried.
2. Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance: Arndt presented a letter to the supervisors (find attached) and Wolfe read it to the board. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Melby in support of signing this letter. Motion was carried.

Frank enters Board Meeting (coming from Waseca SWCD Board Mtg.)

3. Waseca County SWCD RFP (Request for Proposal) was read by Arndt. The RFP is for a part-time Manager, and a part-time bookkeeper for a one year term. Lengthy discussion followed. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker to decline the Waseca SWCD request. Motion was carried.
4. 2013 Soil Stewardship theme: "Where Does Your Watershed?" Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Ihlenfeld to target the 5th grade students in Owatonna Public Schools and to stay within our budgeted amount of \$300. It was also suggested to request a feedback from the teachers as to how they used the booklets. Motion was carried.
5. CRWP Annual Membership Meeting, March 11th: was reviewed under old business #4.
6. Easement Owners Workshop, March 26th at the Ellendale Community Center from 4-6 p.m.: The focus of the meeting is management of easements. A mailing will be sent out to all easement holders in Steele, Freeborn, and Waseca Counties that are enrolled in a RIM, WRP or RIM/WRP program. The featured speaker will be Shawn Fritzer, from the DNR. This meeting will tie into the education requirement from the Weed Management Grant. Discussion followed. Motion to approve the District's portion of the expenses by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Melby.
7. Other: none.

Agency Reports: Frank and Smith reported nearly 40 CRP contracts will be eligible for re-enrollment. The staff is getting ready for the spring with projects.

Staff Reports: Arndt reported that he meet with DNR, CRWP and city of Owatonna on the erosion problems on Maple Creek due to the 2010 flooding. Arndt handed out a copy of the news release on the study of the leading cause of sediment in lakes and rivers. (See attached.) There will be a cover crop meeting to be held in Blooming Prairie on March 22nd. Steele SWCD is trying to organize a group of landowners to attend. Arndt read a thank you from Representative John Petersburg. Arndt also read a thank you from the CRWP for our dues contribution.

Melby suggested that a letter be sent to the congressmen that recognized our letter sent to the Federal Legislators and Senators who were involved with drafting the 2012 Farm Bill. Arndt will complete.

Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. the meeting. Motion carried.

Submitted by Sue Condon, District Admin. Sec.