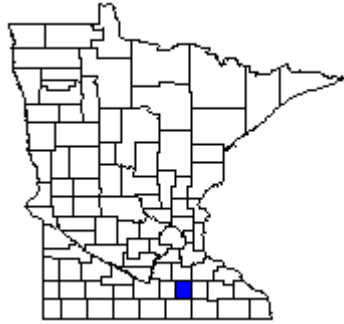


STEELE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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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 Wednesday, May 8, 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	Bruce Kubicek, Commissioner	
Dave Melby, Vice-Chrnm	Sue Condon	Noel Frank, NRCS DC	
Mark Ihlenfeld, Secretary	Eric Gulbransen	Jim Smith, NRCS	
James Klecker, Treasurer			
Dan Hansen, Reporter			

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

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

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Letter to Congressman Waltz read by Wolfe. Discussion. Moved by Klecker, seconded by Ihlenfeld to have all supervisors sign letter and send. Motion carried by voice vote.
2. Gulbransen reported on 2013 Tree Program. All went well this year. Volunteers again helped this year by checking in customers. There are only approximately 250 bare root trees left to sell.
3. Other: Ihlenfeld reported on attending a MASWCD committee meeting in Kasson this month.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Student Tree Planting Day, May 23rd: Arndt reported that the planting day was postponed from May 9th to the 23rd because of the 19.5 snow fall last Thursday, May 2nd. This will be in the afternoon. Supervisors are encouraged to help.
2. SE area Envirothon, May 8th held at Faribault. Condon and Vern Wilker were judges. Only 8 teams participated. Two teams were from Medford H.S. Discussion on how to get more teams to participate.

3. MCC Apprentice: Gulbransen reported that on May 28th William (Willie) Storm will be stationed here as an intern through MCC. District will compile a job plan.
4. MASWCD 2013 Resolutions: Arndt reported that the Area MASWCD President Mark Zabel would like to receive our resolutions before the next Area MASWCD meeting. The resolutions are due to the state by July 21st. Staff and supervisors will put together ideas before next board meeting on June 12th.
5. MASWCD Leadership Institute: Arndt reviewed with supervisors the learning sessions (7 sessions) with supervisors. Registration will be \$2,300. First session will be at Moorehead on August 1st. Training will be completed by August 2014. Ihlenfeld and Gulbransen have already attended this leadership training.
6. Other: None.

Agency Reports: Kubicek, two county ditches, CD 6 and CD 21 are being re-determined for benefits. Ditch system may buy the land from the landowners and have working easements of 16.5 ft. along ditch. These easements will be then recorded on deed.

Frank, NRCS, reviewed with the supervisors the Mutual Agreement and the Civil Rights Policy with the District. He stated that the National Civil Rights Review Committee will be here May 20th. Bid Packages for the new office lease have been sent out.

Smith, NRCS, reported on the EQIP signup now in progress. There are possibly 7 projects with \$100,000 being allocated. General CRP sign-up will start on May 20st and continue until June 14th. There will probably be some re-enrollments. Continuous CRP sign-up is on-going. There is no funding for the CSP program.

Staff Reports:

Gulbransen reported still has a few bare root seedlings left to sell. He will be getting a job description ready for the new MCC Apprentice, who is starting on May 28th.

Arndt reported that there will be no formal inspection of Crane Creek this year. The ditch inspector will carry out. Arndt, also reported that the MN Dept. of Ag has a new list of noxious and invasive plants and that Wild Parsnip is now included on the list. By law the Wild Parsnip and any other invasive species can not be allowed to go to seed. Attached you will find an Outdoor News Commentary from a SWCD in western Minnesota. Arndt read a Conservation Compliance and Crop Insurance proposal from 26 conservation groups on the new farm bill.

Ihlenfeld reported that in Deerfield Twp., there will be easements on the road of right a ways done. This is a pro-active stance by the Township Board.

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.