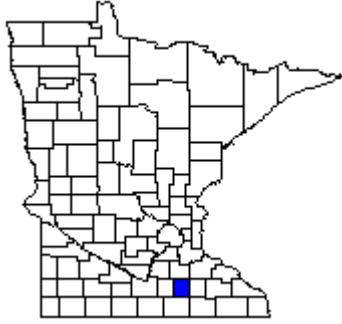


STEELE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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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, June 12, 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	Chris Hughes, BWSR Cons.	
Mark Ihlenfeld, Secretary	Eric Gulbransen		
James Klecker, Treasurer			
Dan Hansen, Reporter			

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

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

The May Treasurer’s Report (see attached) was read by Klecker. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Melby to approve the May 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. 2013 Legislative Summary: Arndt reported that the MN Legislature had no cuts in the base grants to the Districts. The Hennepin Co. SWCD may have the option to be disbanded if the Hennepin County petitions this disbanding to the BWSR. RIM/WRP and RIM Buffers were funded in the amount of \$16.4 million. Chris Hughes reported on the Clean Water Fund and drainage project issues. Hughes also reported that the Easement Delivery (state cost-share) monies remain the same.
2. Other: Kubicek reported on attending the Hiawatha RC & D meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>. He reported that there is new money for forestry work in SE MN. He also stated the project for invasive species will begin on July 1<sup>st</sup>, but the RC & D needs to find funding by January 1, 2014 to keep going.

Wolfe and Melby reported on helping with the student tree planting on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Rodney Krell Farm. Students planted over 200 trees.

Wolfe attended a planning session of the CRWP on May 13<sup>th</sup>. To celebrate this anniversary Cannon River Watershed Partnership is hosting some canoe paddles on June 22nd and 23rd. June 23<sup>rd</sup> location will run in conjunction with the Medford Straight River Days.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Hughes, reported that the state cost-share policy is progressing with new forms and new rules. It is now going to be a 3 yr grant instead of the previous 2 yr grant. Training for the new e-link will be coming up in Rochester on June 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Hughes also reported that he is now in charge of BWSR work in Nicollet, Sibley and LeSeuer counties. The BWSR Academy will be October 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>.
2. 2013 Outstanding Conservationists-Candidates: Arndt requested that the supervisors think about who they would like to nominate during the next month and bring their names to the next board meeting.
3. Conservation Farmer Signs: Arndt has been looking into the estimated price for the signs. Through the Trim-Line Company, the estimated cost for a 18" X 18" sign made of heavy aluminum mounted on a 4"X4" post would cost approximately \$60 each. Discussion followed. It was decided to provide signs to Conservation Farmers beginning in 2007 – up to present. Also, to send letters to all Conservation Farmers, stating that they could purchase an Outstanding Conservation Farmer sign for the Districts cost. Motion made by Ihlenfeld to purchase at 10 signs seconded by Klecker. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. Farm Bill Assistance Partnership Grant: Arndt reported that the Dakota SWCD manager Brian Watson has contacted the District in regards to partnering in a Farm Bill Assistance Grant to fund Cannon River Watershed Partnership employee, Karl Hakanson's position at .25 staff time. It was agreed that Karl will promote Continuous CRP in Dakota and Steele Counties. Dakota County will be the grant applicant and transfer funding for the position to the CRWP. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Hansen to accept this proposal. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. Gulbransen presented the DNR Well Monitoring Agreement: Based on monitoring 2 wells 8 times a year for the sum of \$240. Discussion. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Melby to sign this agreement. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. SWCD/NRCS Combined Newsletter: Arndt stated that the NRCS will reimburse us \$240 for an upcoming newsletter. Discussion. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker to sign the agreement. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. Area MASWCD Resolution Meeting, Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:15 to 3:00 at the American Legion in Stewardville. Reg. cost is \$20. There will be no resolution from the District this year. Ihlenfeld will plan on attending.
8. Get Out the "P" Tour, June 26<sup>th</sup> sponsored by the CRWP: Arndt reported that the tour will begin at the Northfield Ball Room on June 26<sup>th</sup> leaving at 4:15 to 8:30. The cost will be \$5 for the supper. Registration must be in by June 24<sup>th</sup>.
9. Other: Arndt reminded the supervisors of the MASWCD Leadership Training. There will be 7 session around the state at the cost of \$2,300. Registration deadline is July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Agency Reports: Commissioner Kubicek reported that the County Board approved the Beaver Lake Diversion plan. County task force will consider a new County Public Works building instead of purchasing an existing building.

Staff Reports: Arndt reported that our MCC intern, William (Willie) Storm has been here for three weeks and is working out well. Arndt also reported that people are starting to ask about cover crops for prevented plant acres. Discussion followed. Arndt stated that the monitoring of the RIM/WRP to be done in June. Hansen asked questions about the 2013 Farm Bill. Gulbransen stated they were busy with projects and that he and Willie are replanting the prairie behind the office with prairie grass and flower plugs.

Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Hansen to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. the meeting. Motion carried.

Submitted by  
Sue Condon, District Admin. Sec.