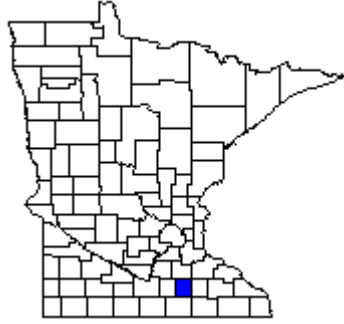


STEELE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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, August 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	Bruce Kubicek, Commissioner	
Dave Melby, Vice-Chrnm	Sue Condon	Noel Frank	
Mark Ihlenfeld, Secretary	Eric Gulbransen	William (Willy) Storm	
James Klecker, Treasurer			
Dan Hansen, Reporter			

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

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

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. SE JPB Meeting, July 31st: Ihlenfeld attended the meeting. JPB is financially secure with grants. He also reviewed with supervisors work done by the JPB staff.
2. No-till Field Day, August 1st: Gary Joachim has done no-till for the last 7 years on his land and he presented the very concise program on the practice of no-till. Joachim mainly plants beans into corn residue.. Ihlenfeld, Wolfe, Arndt, Gulbransen and Storm attended.
3. Other:

Melby asked when the awards (plaques) will be presented to the 2013 Outstanding Conservation Award winners. Larry Tande, Master of Ceremonies, will present the plaques to Mark Ditlevson – 2013 Outstanding Conservation Farmer; Mark Hanson – 2013 Outstanding Windbreak Award; Doug Pichner – 2013 Outstanding Wildlife Award at 2:30 at the Livestock Arena. Arndt wrote an introduction for each winner to be read.

3. (cont.) Ihlenfeld attended the July 29th RC & D meeting in Rochester at the Isaac Walton building. He reviewed meeting and grants held by RC&D. He also reviewed some of the projects being done by the RC&D. Discussion. Suggestion by supervisors was for the RC & D to head up an aggressive plan to control the Wild Parsnip as this invasive species is invading conservation easements. I was suggested that RC&D work with the Dept. of Ag, MN DOT and Steele County to control these very invasive plants.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review 2013 Plan of Work: Arndt reviewed progress with the plan. District is on track with 2013 Plan of Work.

Noel Frank, NRCS enters meeting – 7:50 p.m.

Bruce Kubicek, Commissioner enters meeting – 7:55 p.m.

2. 2013 MASWCD Convention Plans: Ihlenfeld and Arndt on planning committee. Ihlenfeld reviewed suggested mini sessions for Monday afternoon.
3. SWCD Governance 102, Sept. 4-5, Alexandria: Arndt reviewed agenda. Sponsored by MASWCD. Need registration by August 26th - \$125 for any supervisors or staff wishing to attend.
4. SE MASWCD Supervisor and Staff meeting (reminder) is Monday, Sept. 16th.
5. Fair Booth: Theme will be “Cover Crops” Storm is working on the display. District will get some trees from Jack’s Nursery to display. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Klecker to have a drawing for 1 free potted tree a day for 2 people (total of 12 trees). Supervisors will man the District’s booth Tuesday thru Saturday from 5-9.

Agency Reports: Commissioner Kubicek reported on SE MN Resources Board. They want to test some of our wells in the county for certain chemicals. Kubicek stated that the county does not have the time or staff to take this on and was wondering if the District would like to. Discussion followed. Supervisors would be interested in looking at this when there are more details. Kubicek will look into it more.

Frank, DC reported being busy with EQIP, a lot of CRP, and WRP. There will be regular land taxes put on easements, due to a recent bill passed by the Minnesota Legislature. There is some cost share available for cover crops, but not much funding. NRCS is working on waterway projects. Much progress is being made on the large RIM/WRP easement east of Owatonna. This easement contains 880 acres with 840 in Steele County and 40 in Dodge County.

Staff Reports: Arndt stated that since the closure of the FSA office in Waseca County, the Steele District staff has spent 5-10% of our staff time assisting Waseca County farmers. Discussion followed.

Gulbransen reported that he is behind on the easement maintenance program but should be caught up soon, and that our MCC employee Willie will complete his duties here in two weeks.

Condon reported that she is trying to get filing caught up and then will contact the MN Historical Society person to see what they want to archive. Then destroy other correspondence not needed to be kept according to our data retention policy.

Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Ihlenfeld to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. the meeting. Motion carried.

Submitted by

Sue Condon, District Admin. Sec.