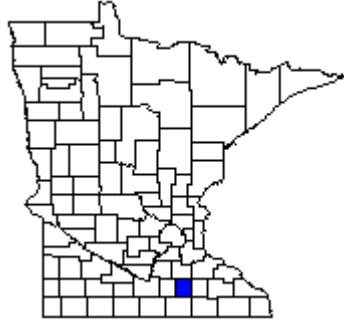


STEELE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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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 February 12, 2014 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	James Smith, NRCS	James Klecker, Treasurer
Dave Melby, Vice-Chrmn	Adrienne Justman	Karen Anderson, U of M Extension	Eric Gulbransen, SWCD Staff
Mark Ihlenfeld, Secretary		Bruce Kubicek, County Commissioner	
Dan Hansen, Reporter			

Chairman Wolfe welcomed Karen Anderson the new University of Minnesota Extension representative to the meeting.

The February agenda was reviewed with no additions.

The January minutes were e-mailed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Ihlenfeld to approve the minutes as written. Motion was carried by voice vote.

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

Bills: Due to a cash flow concern the Board decided to pay MASWCD dues in two parts; 50% now and 50% in July. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld to approve paying the bills with the change to the MASWCD dues. Motion was carried by voice vote.

Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Hansen to approve transferring the balance of the United Prairie savings account into the UP checking account due to the difference in interest rates (savings .15%, checking .73%). Motion carried by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Arndt attended the Cedar River Watershed Strategy Meeting on January 21, 2014 in Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. The meeting focused on possible agency cooperation in wetland restoration and practices that could be implemented to improve water quality
2. The Cannon River Watershed Plan meeting was held January 23, 2014. Dan Arndt was unable to attend but spoke with Beth Kallestad regarding the meeting. Pilot One Watershed One Plan groups must make a commitment by the end of April. It was discussed that being involved in the One Watershed One Plan program may increase the possibility of receiving more grant funding.
3. Ihlenfeld attended the JPB Meeting on January 20, 2014. They discussed general business and new committee appointments. Darrel Buck was appointed to the personnel committee. They discussed the Clean Water grant reports and the legacy grants.
4. Mark Ihlenfeld attended the RC&D meeting. The work plan was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The Board discussed the continuation of involvement with RC&D. It was decided to remain involved for one more year.
2. Clean water Fund MCC Grant was approved. The funds will be used to cover the cost of controlled burns on ten older RIM easements. Motion was made by Melby and seconded by Ihlenfeld to sign and return this grant. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. 2013 Annual Report: Dan Arndt presented the 2013 Annual Report to the Board. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Hansen to approve the Annual Report as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. 2014 Annual Plan of Work: Arndt presented to the Board a final 2014 Plan of Work. Minor changes had been made since the January meeting. These were discussed with the Board. Motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Melby to approve the 2014 Annual Plan of Work. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. 2013 Annual Financial Report: Dan Arndt presented the 2014 Annual Financial Report. One small correction was needed. Motion was made by Melby and seconded by Ihlenfeld to accept the report with the change made. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. BWSR 2014 Tech Option: Motion was made by Ihlenfeld and seconded by Melby to approve using the BWSR Cost-Share grant for technical assistance to leverage funding for CRP, WRP, and EQIP projects. Motion was carried by voice vote.
7. U of M Extension, Senior Exploring the Environment Champion Award: Motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Ihlenfeld to sponsor the U of M Senior Exploring the Environment Champion Award for 2014 in the amount of \$20. Motion carried by voice vote.
8. Soil Stewardship: Adrienne Justman presented an estimated budget for the cost of material for Soil Stewardship week. Motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Melby to approve up to \$600 of the education budget for Soil Stewardship materials. Motion was carried by voice vote.

New Business Continued

9. Open house reception for Sue's retirement February 28: Plans and a budget were discussed for the open house reception to celebrate Sue Condon's retirement. Motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Melby to approve the cost of an appreciation item and refreshments for the reception. Motion carried by voice vote.
10. Farm Profit and Productivity, Soil Health Workshop: This workshop will be held at the Elks Lodge in Faribault, Minnesota on March 12, 2014. Dan Arndt and Eric Gulbransen plan to attend. Motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Ihlenfeld to approve registration costs of \$10/Ea. for those attending.
11. BWSR Grant Closeouts: Five BWSR grants were presented to the Board to be closed out. Motion was made by Hansen and seconded by Melby to close out the grants as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - a. 2010 CWMA Grant – ID: C13-6184
 - b. 2010 Cost Share – ID: C13-4399
 - c. 2011 Cost Share – ID: C13-2838
 - d. 2012 Cost Share – ID: C13-2765
 - e. 2013 Conservation Delivery – ID: C13-0334
12. Other: Upgrade job approval authority level for Eric Gulbransen, Dan Arndt requested that due to Eric's experience and skill level, the Board approve granting Eric a higher level of job authority. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld and seconded by Melby to approve this change in job approval authority Motion was carried by voice vote.

Agency Reports:

James Smith reported on the Environmental Quality Incentive Program sign-up. The cut off is February 21, 2014. He also reported that the passing of the new Farm Bill has created some internal programming problems that are making it difficult to process plans for projects and practices.

Bruce Kubicek reported on the state of a County Ditch culvert dispute in Havana Township. Due to culvert law they will be required to replace the one that had been removed. He also reported that there may be an increase in the required employer PERA contribution percentage effective in 2015.

Staff Reports:

Arndt reported that the required BWSR eLink reporting was completed for the end of the year.

Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Motion was carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by,

Daniel Arndt, Manager