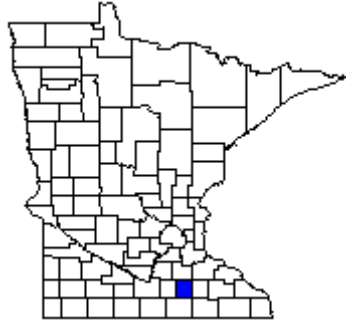


STEELE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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 March 12, 2014 at the Conservation Office located at 235 Cedardale Drive SE, Owatonna, MN.

<b><u>SWCD Supervisors Present:</u></b>	<b><u>SWCD Staff Present:</u></b>	<b><u>Others Present:</u></b>	<b><u>Absent:</u></b>
Kyle Wolfe, Chrnm.	Dan Arndt	James Smith, NRCS	
Dave Melby, Vice-Chrnm	Adrienne Justman	Noel Frank, NRCS	
Mark Ihlenfeld, Secretary	Eric Gulbransen	Bruce Kubicek, County Commissioner	
Dan Hansen, Reporter		Scott Goldberg, Steele County	
James Klecker, Treasurer		Chris Hughes, BWSR	
		Don Buckhout, BWSR	

Chairman Wolfe welcomed Scott Goldberg, Chris Hughes, and Don Buckhout to the Board meeting.

The March agenda was reviewed with no additions.

The February minutes were 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 February Treasurer’s Report was read by James Klecker. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker to approve the February Treasurer’s Report. Motion was carried by voice vote.

Bills: (See attached) Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Klecker to approve paying the bills as written. Motion was carried by voice vote.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Wolfe and Bruce Kubicek attended the Cannon River Watershed Partnership Annual Membership Meeting on March 10, 2014 in Faribault. The annual report was discussed. They also discussed the “Do One Thing for Cleaner Water” program.
2. Arndt, Gulbransen, Ihlenfeld, and Melby attended the CRWP Soil Health Meeting on March 12, 2014 in Faribault. The meeting focused on the benefits of concern for good soil health and practices to use to maintain, improve and restore the health of the soil.

**OLD BUSINESS (CONTINUED)**

3. Eric Gulbransen attended a Minnesota Erosion Control Association Conference in Prior Lake on March 5, 2014. There was a variety of information presented including how climate change is effecting the environment. One of the key points was to put messages about climate in a format that the general public can understand. Global warming and cooling were also discussed, as well as changes in the flow of rivers.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Don Buckhout, from the Board of Water and Soil Resources, presented their performance review of the LGU's in the Zumbro River Watershed. The goal of the review was to determine how well the units of local government are working together in regards to caring for the Zumbro River Watershed. Their finding showed that Steele County ESD and SWCD have done a good job of cooperating to achieve positive results.
2. Area Soil Health Coordinator: The Area VII Districts were successful in securing a Clean Water Fund Grant (\$250,000) to hire a Soil Health Coordinator for a four year period. Steele County SWCD was asked to provide a letter of support to endorse hiring an Area Soil Health Coordinator. Steele County SWCD will make a yearly donation to be used toward fund matching for the grant that is allowing the hire of this individual. Motion was made by Klecker and seconded by Hansen to sign the letter of support and commit to providing up to \$500/Yr/ for four years to support this position. Motion was carried by voice vote.
3. Dan Arndt reported on the status on the Winona SWCD. They are having financial difficulties and are seeking a loan to support them until they qualify for more grant funding.
4. Arndt presented the Legislative Report and highlighted the MASWCD supported efforts.
5. The MASWCD District Funding Initiative was presented by Arndt. The committee looked at various funding options to identify possible sources of stable funding for Districts.
6. MASWCD Legislative Day at the Capitol is March 24-25, 2014. Mark Ihlenfeld, Dave Melby, James Klecker, and Eric Gulbransen plan to attend. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Klecker to approve the \$75/person cost of registration and hotel accommodations for those attending. Motion was carried by voice vote.
7. Area 7 SEMACDE meeting will be held March 19, 2014 at Whitewater State Park. Eric Gulbransen and Adrienne Justman plan to attend. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby to approve the registration fee of \$24/person for this meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.
8. University of Minnesota Extension requested that the Steele County SWCD submit a few suggestions for the Farm Family of the Year award. It was agreed by the Board to submit the names of Steve and Alison Jaster, and Brian and Carolyn Kanne.

**New Business Continued**

9. BWSR Grant Closeouts: Two BWSR grants were presented to the Board to be closed out. Motion was made by Melby and seconded by Klecker to close out the grants as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.
  - a. 2013 Easement Delivery – ID: C13-2006 - \$2,681.00
  - b. 2011 Cost Share Easement Services – ID: C13-3607 - \$2,637.00
  
10. Other: The April meeting will be held on Thursday April 10, 2014 to allow Board members and staff to attend religious services on Wednesday night.

**Agency Reports:**

Bruce Kubicek reported that the county has been discussing the One Watershed One Plan proposal and indicated that they are likely to support the plan. He also stated that road weight limits go into effect on March 14, 2014.

Noel Frank reported on a change in staff at NRCS. David Copeland accepted the position of Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations. He is working out of the Rochester Area Office.

**Staff Reports:**

Adrienne Justman presented a new option for internet for the SWCD laptop. The provider is Jaguar Communications. The fee will be \$39.95/month. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker, to approve switching to this new internet provider.

Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Hansen, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Motion was carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by,

Adrienne Justman  
Administrative Assistant

**March Bills**

<b>Tri-M Graphics</b>	<b>Newsletter - Printing</b>		<b>\$973.06</b>	
	<b>Postage</b>		<b>\$498.51</b>	<b>\$1,471.57</b>
<b>Rent</b>	<b>February</b>		<b>\$619.20</b>	
	<b>March</b>		<b>\$619.20</b>	<b>\$1,238.40</b>
<b>Elan</b>	<b>Gas</b>		<b>\$97.73</b>	
	<b>Office Supplies</b>		<b>\$43.99</b>	
	<b>Quickbooks Payroll Renewal</b>		<b>\$479.87</b>	<b>\$621.59</b>
<b>Fame Awards</b>	<b>Pen/Pencil Set - Sue</b>			<b>\$32.06</b>
<b>Fame Awards</b>	<b>Desk Name Plate - Adrienne</b>			<b>\$19.24</b>
<b>HyVee</b>	<b>Reception Refreshments</b>			<b>\$99.32</b>
<b>Bussler Publishing</b>	<b>Classified Line Ad 2/4, 2/11</b>			<b>\$16.00</b>
<b>Owatonna Peoples Press</b>	<b>Classified Ad 01/25-02/22</b>			<b>\$103.37</b>
<b>Steele County</b>	<b>Notary Certification Fee - Adrienne</b>			<b>\$20.00</b>
<b>Office of Sec. of State</b>	<b>Notary Application Fee</b>			<b>\$120.00</b>
<b>Joe Zerby</b>	<b>Tree Refund - Changed Order after pmt.</b>			<b>\$21.73</b>
<b>Green Earth Host</b>	<b>Website Hosting Fee</b>			<b>\$165.00</b>
<b>InterTech</b>	<b>Laptop internet - 2 months</b>			<b>\$182.39</b>
<b>Truax Company</b>	<b>Parts for Drill</b>			<b>\$87.55</b>
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,198.22</b>