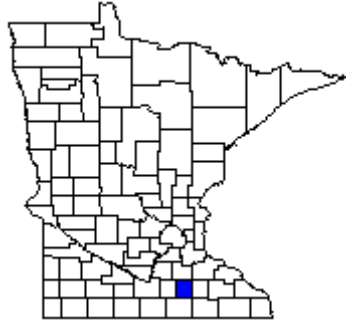


STEELE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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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 7:10 p.m. on Thursday April 10, 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, 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			
James Klecker, Treasurer			

The April agenda was reviewed with no additions.

The March minutes were mailed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. The names of those who attended the CRWP Soil Health Meeting needed to be adjusted, Melby attended Hansen did not attend. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Melby to approve the minutes with the change made. Motion was carried by voice vote.

The March Treasurer’s Report was read by James Klecker. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Ihlenfeld 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 written. Motion was carried by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Eric Gulbransen, Dave Melby, James Klecker and Mark Ihlenfeld attended Legislative Day at the Capitol on March 24-March 25, 2014. On the 24th there was a group meeting to discuss the pending issues that would affect the Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Districts. On the 25th they met with Representatives Savick and Petersburg; as well as Senators Sparks, Fritz, and Jensen.
2. A tour of a large RIM/WRP wetland restoration took place on April 10th. There were approximately 17 who attended including SWCD staff, Steele County Commissioners, and members of the Zumbro Watershed Partnership.

OLD BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

3. Mark Ihlenfeld was involved with a MASWCD Finance Committee conference call regarding the SWCD dues payment hardship cases. He stated that last year, 2013, there was \$4,000 granted to SWCD's who requested hardship assistance. This year that number has risen to \$10,000. This seems to indicate that financial situations for many SWCD have gotten worse.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The Board was presented with the Resolution of Intent to Participate in the One Watershed One Plan pilot program for the Cannon Watershed and the Zumbro Watershed. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker to approve signing the resolutions. Motion was carried by voice vote.
2. 2014 SWCD Supervisor Elections were discussed. Kyle Wolfe, District 3, and Mark Ihlenfeld, District 1, are up for election this year. The filing period for those interested in running opens May 20 and closes June 3rd.
3. April 27 to May 4th is Soil Stewardship week, the theme this year is "Dig Deeper, Mysteries in the Soil". Materials were provided to 8 area elementary schools, approximately 580 5th grade students. The Board members had the opportunity to look through examples of the material provided to the students.
4. Tree pick-up day is scheduled for April 25th. Eric reported a change in who was buying more trees this year. He has seen more young couples planting windbreaks than in past years. There are approximately 11,000 trees sold, this is a slight decrease from last year.
5. The need for temporary help during tree pick-up was discussed. It was decided that \$15 per hour was a fair rate for those hired. Motion to approve this expense was made by Melby and seconded by Klecker. Motion was amended to include the cost of refreshment for those working as well. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. The Area Envirothon will be held May 7th at North Alexander Park in Faribault Minnesota. There are currently 14 teams registered. Steele County has 1 team from Medford registered to participate. Dan Arndt and Sue Condon plan to participate as judges.
7. The 2014 Fair Booth was discussed. The cost this year is \$115 for the same booth that the SWCD has used in the past. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Ihlenfeld to approve spending the \$115 to secure the fair booth. Motion was carried by voice vote.
8. A letter was received from LeAnn Buck regarding the Leadership Education Program. They are looking for donations to help support the program.

Agency Reports:

Bruce Kubicek reported on the Hiawatha RC&D meeting on March 24th. They discussed project updates and Rice County Cover Crop Partners. The next meeting is May 19th.

Jim Smith reported on the EQIP program and the project that he has lined up. He currently has people interested in cover crops, buckthorn removal, basins, and waterways. He has had some interest in the Honey Bee program but is lacking the details about the specific requirements.

Staff Reports:

Dan Arndt reported that the Biennial Budget Request for 2016-2017 is due to BWSR by May 2nd. He also reported on the progress made in setting up a tree planting event for a local school. He has been working with the City of Owatonna to find a site and time that would be appropriate. There are 3 possible sites identified.

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Adrienne Justman
Administrative Assistant

April Bills

Elan - Credit Card			
	Erosion Convention Registration	\$200.00	
	Legislative Days Expenses (inc. Hotel)	\$380.77	
	Truck	\$13.19	
	Gas	\$164.57	
	Office	\$18.38	\$784.42
Reimburse Dan A.	Registration for CRWP workshop		\$20.00
Rent	April		\$619.20
Schwaab	Notary Stamp		\$32.50
Schlatter's Inc	Tile Probe Tips		\$80.62
United States Post Office	Bulk Mailing Permit		\$220.00
H.S.A.	Adrienne - Monthly		\$110.42
Jaguar Communication	April		\$39.95

TOTAL **\$1,907.11**