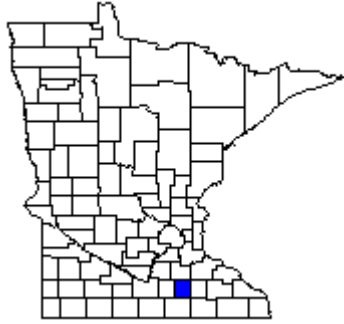


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**MINNESOTA  
 SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

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 May 14, 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	
Dave Melby, Vice-Chrmn	Adrienne Justman	Noel Frank, NRCS	
Mark Ihlenfeld, Secretary	Eric Gulbransen	Bruce Kubicek, County Commissioner	
Dan Hansen, Reporter		Dave Copeland, NRCS	
James Klecker, Treasurer			

Kyle Wolfe welcomed Dave Copeland, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations, to the meeting.

The May agenda was reviewed with no additions.

The April minutes were sent to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. There were no revisions needed. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Ihlenfeld to approve the minutes. Motion was carried by voice vote.

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. 2016-2017 BBR Submittal – The Biennial Budget Request for 2016-2017 was submitted to Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources. The categories that were reported on included Conservation Delivery, Conservation Easement Delivery, and the Cost Share grants. The report also included proposed projects to be funded such as mapping the Straight River Watershed to identify sites where practices would improve the overall water quality, wetland restorations along Maple Creek, and working with the County and townships to establish a weed management group.
2. SE Area Envirothon – The area Envirothon was held on May 7<sup>th</sup> at North Alexander Park in Faribault, MN. There were 10 teams competing and 3 teams consisting of alternates, for a total of 13 teams. The top four teams, three from Goodhue and one From Pine Island, will all be attending the State Competition held in Collegeview, MN on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**OLD BUSINESS (CONTINUED)**

3. Other – Cannon River Watershed Meeting – Kyle Wolfe and Bruce Kubicek attended the Cannon River Watershed meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The meeting covered general business and promoted the “Do one thing for clean water” campaign that they have launched.
4. Other – Steele-Waseca SWCD meeting – Dan Arndt and Kyle Wolfe held a meeting with representatives from the Waseca SWCD on April 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss the details of the Steele-Waseca Services Agreement.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Dave Copeland - Dave Copeland introduced himself and gave a brief history of his time with NRCS. He reported on the staffing issues being faced by NRCS and stated that both Jim Smith and Todd Piepho have been asked to work in multiple counties as a result of understaffing. He stated that the Farm Bill rollout is still moving forward and that the budget at both the Area and State levels has improved as a result.
2. Buffer article in Minneapolis Tribune and Outdoor News – Dan presented an article that was printed in the Minneapolis Tribune and Outdoor News on the presence of buffers in Minnesota counties. The article included a lot of good information and showed there are lots of areas still in need to buffers. The research the article was based on looked primarily at buffers along protected waters. In Steele County the private waterways are more numerous than those classified as protected.
3. MASWCD Legislative Report – Arndt presented a report from Shiela Vanney regarding the Budget Bonding Bill and what it includes for RIM funding. In the bill the State is proposing \$40 million, the House has proposed \$15 million, and the Senate has proposed \$2 million for RIM funding. Currently there are \$9.4 million dollars of unfunded RIM projects and another \$20 million in potential projects. There has been a letter sent encouraging representatives to vote for the higher funding. This letter was signed by 63 different organizations.
4. Adrienne Justman presented the two quotes that were received for the financial audit for 2013. After hearing the quoted costs a motion was made to hire Peterson Company Ltd. at the quoted price of \$2,500. The motion was made by Klecker and seconded by Ihlenfeld. It was carried by voice vote.
5. MASWCD Call for Resolutions – a letter was received from Mark Zabel calling for resolutions from the county SWCDs. These resolutions need to be received by July 21<sup>st</sup>.
6. Fair Booth Ideas – Adrienne Justman presented “Backyard Conservation” as an idea for the 2014 fair booth theme and requested that anyone who had other ideas please send them to her before the June board meeting.
7. Draft Agreement with Waseca for services – The draft of the proposed agreement with Waseca had been sent to the supervisors prior to the meeting. They discussed the strengths of the agreement, such as the defined time frame, good chances to leave the agreement if needed, and the defined hours that would be spent in Waseca. The rates charged per hour were also discussed as well as having an additional charge for mileage. It was proposed that the draft be sent to the Waseca SWCD as well as their (See next page)

7. (Continued) Supervisors to seek their opinions. A copy will also be sent to the Steele County Attorney for review. A motion to take these actions was made by Hansen and seconded by Melby. Motion carried by voice vote.

Agency Reports:

Bruce Kubicek reported on the SE Water Resources Board. He presented numbers for their completed projects. They have made improvements to over 400 feedlots, and completed 21 wastewater projects in a 10 county area.

Jim Smith reported that Dave Charles will be leaving FSA in the first part of June. He also reported on the progress of the EQIP program. They will begin ranking and scoring the applications next week. Jim has 8-9 applications for projects currently.

Staff Reports:

Dan Arndt reported he has completed 2 WCA applications for work impacting wetlands. The process for these applications includes a public notice of work to be done and then 15 days for comments before a decision can be made. Dan also reported that he has 2 agricultural land mitigations currently pending.

Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Hansen, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Motion was carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by,

Adrienne Justman  
Administrative Assistant

## May Bills

<b>Rent</b>	<b>May</b>		<b>\$619.20</b>
<b>Hy-Vee</b>	<b>Tree Pick-up Lunch</b>		<b>\$45.31</b>
<b>Waseca SWCD</b>	<b>Sugar Maples</b>		<b>\$28.50</b>
<b>McCabe Rental</b>	<b>12 Passenger Van for RIM/WRP tour</b>		<b>\$139.18</b>
<b>Postage Meter</b>	<b>Postage</b>		<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>Plantra</b>	<b>Matting &amp; Tree Tubes</b>		<b>\$1,679.08</b>
<b>DeWitt</b>	<b>Matting</b>		<b>\$369.50</b>
<b>Wolcyn</b>	<b>Trees</b>		<b>\$22,886.00</b>
<b>Lincoln-Oakes Nursery</b>	<b>Trees</b>		<b>\$1,494.50</b>
<b>Ken Brandvold</b>	<b>Employed for Tree pick-up 25.5 Hrs @ \$15</b>		<b>\$382.50</b>
<b>Jaguar Communications</b>	<b>Laptop Internet</b>		<b>\$46.61</b>
<b>John Arndt</b>	<b>Refund for Trees not received</b>		<b>\$40.08</b>
<b>Elan</b>			
	<b>Gas</b>	<b>118.18</b>	
	<b>Tree Fertilizer</b>	<b>231.56</b>	
	<b>Field Supplies</b>	<b>23.58</b>	
	<b>Office Supplies</b>	<b>47.23</b>	
	<b>Employee Meal</b>	<b>40.54</b>	<b>\$461.09</b>
<b>Filmore SWCD</b>	<b>Soil Health Tech Support</b>		<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>Hiawatha Valley RC&amp;D</b>	<b>Council Dues</b>		<b>\$300.00</b>
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$29,191.55</b>