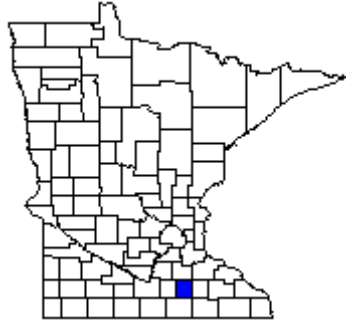


STEELE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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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 June 11, 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	Noel Frank, NRCS	James Smith, NRCS
Dave Melby, Vice-Chrmn	Adrienne Justman	Bruce Kubicek, County Commissioner	
Mark Ihlenfeld, Secretary	Eric Gulbransen		
Dan Hansen, Reporter			
James Klecker, Treasurer			

The June agenda was reviewed with no additions.

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

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. 2014 Tree Program Summary – Eric presented the summary for the 2014 Tree Program. The program went smoothly again this year. The income from the sale covered expenses and provided the district with operational funds to be used toward continuing to provide services to local area landowners.
2. Meetings attended – Mark Ihlenfeld attended the June RC&D meeting. They hosted a speaker from Southeast Landscape Planning. The main topic of the presentation was forestry stewardship.

Dave Melby attended the Soil Health Field day on Saturday May 31, 2014. The overall goal of the day was to highlight the benefits of cover crops. He went to see the root profile presentation. Unfortunately, there was little root growth to see in the cuts that had been done for the presentation. He said that the majority of those in attendance were the sponsors.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution Meeting June 25 – The Board was presented with the details for the SE Area VII Resolution Meeting. A decision about who will attend will be made before the meeting date.
2. Proposed Highly Erodible Land (HEL) Resolution – The HEL Resolution that had been prepared by Dan Arndt was presented to the Board. They agreed that it was a worthy resolution. There are fields classified as HEL that are experiencing significant erosion even with a compliance plan in place. The proposed resolution calls for a tightening of the controls on these fields to reduce erosion to a sustainable level. The motion to approve the resolution was made by Hansen, seconded by Klecker. Motion was carried by voice vote.
3. Outstanding Conservationist Nominations – The possible recipients for the Outstand Conservationist awards were discussed and a preliminary list of nominees was created. Decisions about award winners will be made in July.
4. Ag Drainage Workshop June 26 – Dan presented information regarding the Ag Drainage Workshop being held in Mankato on June 26, 2014. The workshop will consist of panel discussions; presentations on watershed restoration and protection, cover crops and soil health. The highlight of the workshop is the presentation and discussion on the Blue Earth Ditch 56 project. A motion was made by Ihlenfeld to approve paying the registration fee for Dan and Eric to attend this meeting. The motion was seconded by Klecker and carried by voice vote.
5. Steele/Waseca Services Agreement – There was a small revision made to the agreement that was brought to the attention of the Board. It was noted that at this point there had been no request for changes from the Waseca SWCD. The board discussed allowing Kyle Wolfe to sign the agreement if Waseca agreed and signed it with no revisions. The motion to approve this plan was made by Ihlenfeld and seconded by Klecker. The motion was carried by voice vote.
6. Upcoming Meetings – No one had upcoming meeting to report on at this time.

Agency Reports:

Bruce Kubicek reported on the visit from the University of Minnesota regents and the tour that they took of the Waseca Experiment Station. He found the tour interesting and the work that the facility does to be a valuable asset to the area.

Noel Frank reported on the state of the EQIP program. At this time there have been a few applications for this area that have been approved for funding. He also reported that a new 60 acre RIM/WRP easement has been closed. This led to a discussion of the RIM/WRP partnership. At the meeting that Noel attended on May 15 he expressed his desire to see the partnership continue as it encourages more landowners to enroll. This year there will be no joint partnership.

Staff Reports:

Dan Arndt reported that there have been landowners renting the no-till drill to complete their seeding on CRP land and RIM easements. Dan has been working on completing the RIM inspections as well as training and beginning the WRP monitoring for the 12 easements that the SWCD has been asked to check. He also completed a check on a possible wetland violation.

Eric reported that he has been meeting with landowners about various erosion problems and discussing possible solutions.

Adrienne has begun work on the 2015 Budget. At this time the actual expenses and income for January 2012-May 2014 have been identified and separated into the appropriate categories to aid in creating an accurate budget for the next year.

Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Hansen, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Motion was carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by,

Adrienne Justman
Administrative Assistant

June Bills

Elan			
	Gas	\$187.24	
	Office Supplies	\$34.73	\$221.97
Rent	June		\$619.20
Jaguar	June Internet		\$39.95
	Service call - Internet not working		\$60.00
Intertech	Final Bill		\$177.86
Lincoln-Oakes	Shipping		\$256.07
David Thomas	Tree Refund		\$53.44
Adrienne Justman	Mileage Reimbursment		\$20.38
Ramsey County	Native plant packs		\$360.00
CPR Certification	Certification class for Adrienne		\$45.00
		TOTAL	\$1,853.87