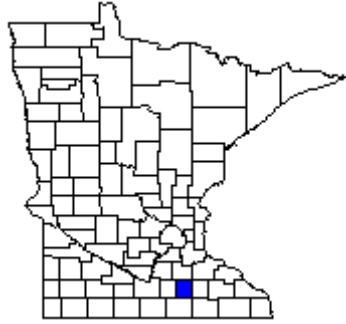


STEELE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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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 Vice-Chairman Dave Melby at 7:05 p.m. on Wednesday July 7, 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>
Dave Melby, Vice-Chrmn	Dan Arndt	Noel Frank, NRCS	Kyle Wolfe, Chrmn
Mark Ihlenfeld, Secretary	Adrienne Justman	Bruce Kubicek, County Commissioner	
Dan Hansen, Reporter	Eric Gulbransen	James Smith, NRCS	
James Klecker, Treasurer			

The July agenda was reviewed with no additions.

The June 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 June 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 Klecker, seconded by Ihlenfeld to approve paying the bills as written. Motion was carried by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. SEMASWCD Resolution Meeting – The meeting to decide on the resolutions that would be supported by the Southeast Minnesota Area Soil and Water Conservation Districts was held on June 25th. Dan Arndt presented the resolutions and the results to the Board. Of the 6 resolutions that were presented at the meeting 4 passed, including the one submitted by Steele County SWCD, and 2 failed.
2. Ag Drainage and Water Quality Workshop – Dan Arndt and Eric Gulbransen attended this workshop on June 26, 2014. The primary presentation during the workshop was about the Blue Earth County Ditch 57 project. There was a multi-purpose drainage plan put in place on this ditch. It employed the use of elements such as buffers, a 2-stage ditch system, and water quality monitoring among other practices. Eric and Dan both believe that this type of system could be employed and benefit ditches in Steele County.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Local EQIP work group meeting – Noel Frank presented the current status of the EQIP program in Steele County. He stated that there has been very little activity this year. He attributed this to policy changes within the program such as reduced payment rates and the inability to move program funds from one funding pool to another. He asked for input from those present on what they thought could be done to improve the program. The main idea that was discussed was returning to a system where each county or area received an allotted dollar amount and there was more local control over the projects that received funding.
2. Review 2015 Proposed Budget – Dan Arndt presented the proposed budget for 2015. Motion was made by Klecker, and seconded by Hansen, to approve the budget as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. Select 2014 Outstanding Conservationists – After discussion the following selections were made for the 2014 Outstanding Conservationists
 - a. Outstanding Conservation Farmer – Rodney and Jan Langer
 - b. Outstanding Windbreak – Ken and Cathy Robertson
 - c. Outstanding Wildlife Conservationist – Roger and Carol Pitan
4. DNR Well Monitoring Agreement – Eric Gulbransen presented the well monitoring agreement to the Board. There had been an increase in the compensation for monitoring this year. The motion to approve Eric doing the monitoring was made by Hansen and seconded by Klecker. The motion carried by voice vote.
5. 2014 MASWCD Candidate Prospectus – The 2014 MASWCD Candidate Prospectus was given to the Board to review.
6. Personnel Committee Meeting – The Personnel Committee met before the Board meeting on July 11th to discuss how the probationary period for Adrienne Justman had gone and to review wages for SWCD employees. They presented their findings to the Board. Based on the positive review Adrienne received and the recommendation of the Personnel Committee it was decided to increase her hourly wage to step 2 on the pay scale. It was also decided that there would be a 1.5% increase to the scale overall due to the income from the Steele/Waseca Agreement. The motion to approve these changes was made by Klecker, seconded by Hansen, and carried by voice vote.

Agency Reports:

Bruce Kubicek gave feedback on the idea of implementing the multi-purpose drainage plan on ditches in Steele County. His main point was that it was going to be necessary to get landowner approval to implement a plan of this nature. He also reported on the status of Judicial Ditch 24. There will be 3 farm bridges taken out and replaced by 2 larger ones to allow the landowners better access to their land.

Jim Smith reported on the status of the CRP program. At this time there are approximately 100 contracts that are eligible to re-enroll this year. He is hoping to begin work on this next week.

Staff Reports:

Dan Arndt reported on what has been happening with the Steele/Waseca agreement. He has been working on becoming oriented with the office and developing ideas to address their needs. He will be attending the Waseca Board meeting on July 10th. In Steele County he has been completing WRP easement monitoring, and will complete the RIM checks in July and August.

Eric reported on the status of the WRP monitoring. He also has had inquiry about enrolling a new easement, buffer strips, in the RIM program. He is assisting with the application process.

Adrienne has begun work on the 2014 Steele County Fair booth preparations. She also is assisting with processing the WRP monitoring photos.

Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Hansen, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Motion was carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by,

Adrienne Justman
Administrative Assistant

July Bills

Rent	July		\$619.20
Adrienne Justman	Mileage reimbursement		\$33.60
Elan	Office Supplies	\$64.96	
	Field Supplies	\$31.03	
	Gas	\$275.20	
	Vehicle Expenses	\$58.40	\$429.59
Jaguar	July Internet		\$39.95
MASWCD	2nd Half of Dues		\$1,433.25
Schultz Excavating	Drill repair		\$100.00
		TOTAL	\$2,655.59