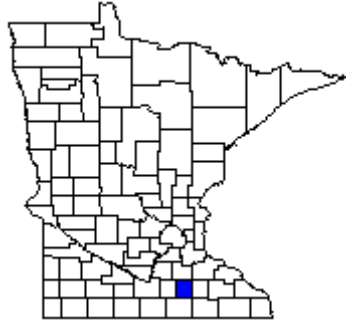


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**MINNESOTA
 SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

The regular monthly meeting of the Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Dave Melby at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday February 11, 2015 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, Chairman	Dan Arndt	James Smith, NRCS	Noel Frank, NRCS
Mark Ihlenfeld, Vice Chair	Adrienne Justman	Jim Brady, Steele County Commissioner	
James Klecker, Secretary	Eric Gulbransen		
Dan Hansen, Treasurer			
Kyle Wolfe, Reporter			

The February agenda was reviewed with no additions.

The January minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Klecker, to approve the minutes as written. Motion was carried by voice vote.

The January Treasurer’s Report was read by Dan Hansen. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the January 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. Freeborn County Soil Health Workshop – Jan. 21 – Melby and Gulbransen attended the Soil Health Workshop. There were two speakers who covered topics related to soil health. One of the notable topic that was discussed was how to transition to more conservation minded practices such as reduced tillage and cover crops. There were 5 Steele county farmers also in attendance at the workshop.
2. Legislative Briefing and day at the Capital – Jan. 26 & 27 – Mark Ihlenfeld, Dan Arndt, James Klecker, and Dave Melby all attended the briefing and the day at the Capital. At the briefing the major topic of discussion was stable funding for SWCD’s. The response from the legislators speaking was not in support of the levy or fee possibilities. They were only in support of the money coming through the general funding, such as BWSR grants. The following day there were meetings scheduled with Representative Petersberg, Representative Daniels, Senator Sparks and Senator Jensen. These meetings were used as an opportunity to stress the importance of stable funding to the continued success of the SWCD.

OLD BUSINESS CON'T

3. SE JPB Meeting – Jan. 29 – Eric and Mark attended this meeting. The primary focus of the meeting was annual approvals such as salaries and grant packages.
4. RC&D Meeting – Jan. 26 – Mark Ihlenfeld attended this meeting. He reported that the Hiawatha Valley RC&D continues to promote new projects in the region, normal business was conducted.
5. NRCS Meeting – Feb. 5 – Eric attended this meeting in Rochester. Eric reported that the most notable part was a speaker who discussed the carbon cycle.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2015 Revised Budget – Dan presented the revised 2015 budget to the board. There was a new expense, the monthly capitol replacement contribution. On the income side the expected contract hours for Waseca were adjusted to better represent the expected number of hours worked. Using the 2015 Cost Share grant for Technical and Administrative purposes was also discussed. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Klecker, to approve the budget. Motion carried by voice vote. A motion to approve the use of the cost share grant for technical purposes was made by Klecker and seconded by Hansen. Motion carried by voice vote.
2. 2015 Plan of Work – Last month the Board was presented with a draft version to review. There were no changes recommended before the February board meeting. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Klecker, to accept the Plan or Work as written.
3. 2015 Dues – The dues were reviewed and it was decided to pay the dues as presented (see below) with the exception of the MASWCD annual dues which will be paid half now and half in July. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Klecker, to pay dues as discussed.
 - NACD - \$775.00
 - MASWCD - \$3,148.70
 - SE MASWCD - \$500.00
 - RC&D - \$300.00
 - SE SWCD JPB - \$500.00
 - Envirothon - \$175.00
 - MN Conservation Volunteer - \$25.00
4. Appointment of RC&D Member at Large – Bruce Kubicek agreed to be the RC&D Member at large. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Klecker, to approve the appointment. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. Governor Dayton’s Buffer Initiative – Eric presented this topic to the board. He discussed how it applies in Steele County. He discussed the current buffer requirements in Steele. The most significant change with the buffer initiative will be that the buffers on private ditches that are currently voluntary may become mandatory.

6. 4H Exploring the Environment Award – Dan presented the Extension office’s request for donations for this award. The standard donation is \$20. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Klecker, to make this donation. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. Soil Stewardship Week – Adrienne presented the theme, Local Heroes – Your Hardworking Pollinators, and the proposed budget, totaling \$533.00, to the Board for review and approval. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Wolfe, to approve the expense for the materials. Motion carried by voice vote.
8. BWSR Grant Closeouts – There were three BWSR grants that were ready to closeout (see below). Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Hansen, to sign the final financial reports and submit them to BWSR. Motion was carried by voice vote.
 - 2013 Cost Share, ID: C13-1993, Amount - \$13,792.00
 - 2014 Easement Delivery, ID: P14-3606, Amount - \$2,683.00
 - 2014 Conservation Delivery, ID: P14-3027, Amount - \$20,014.00
9. Steele County Farm Family of the Year – Dan presented the information about nominations for the Steele County Farm Family of the Year for 2015. He requested that the board bring any suggestions that they have to the March board meeting.
10. Other – The date of the March board meeting was discussed. Due to Lent it was suggested to hold the meeting on Tuesday March 10, rather than Wednesday March 11, so that it did not interfere with other activities. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Klecker, to approve this change. Motion carried by voice vote.

Agency Reports:

Jim Brady reported on the AMC meeting that he attended, commenting on the very informative speakers. He also spoke about how CRWP is looking for suggestions and concerns regarding some rules that they are considering changing.

Jim Smith reported that Dave Copeland will be retiring as of February 27. He stated that there were no updates for Equip. They have just been finalizing applications and waiting for funding to arrive.

Staff Reports:

Eric told the board about a soil health group organizational meeting that he will be attending on Feb 20. He stated that the tree orders are starting to come in but it has been slow so far. He also reported on his activities in Waseca.

Dan reported that he has been handling a wide variety of requests from landowners lately including tile maps, tree assistance, and drainage issues and questions. He had 2 RIM sign-ups since the last board meeting. One easement was 95 acres; the other was 70.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Adrienne Justman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully Submitted by,".

Adrienne Justman,
Administrative Assistant

February Bills

Cedardale Dev.	February Rent		\$619.20
Jaguar	Internet		\$39.95
Tree World	Plantskydd		\$377.28
Eric Gulbransen	Workshop Registration Reimbursmet		\$10.00
Elan	Office Supplies	79.87	
	Gas	104.38	\$184.25
Agri News	1 year Subscription		\$36.82
Mary Larson	2014 RC&D Meetings & Mileage		\$306.00
Community Bank - Owatonna	District H.S.A Contribution January	331.26	
	District H.S.A Contribution February	331.26	\$662.52
		Total	\$2,236.02