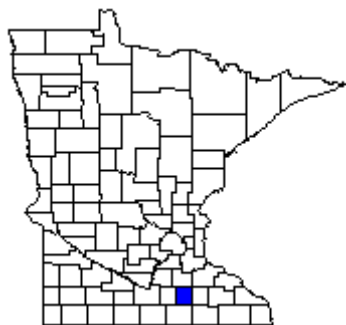


STEELE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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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 Dave Melby at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday March 10, 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	Jim Brady, Steele County Commissioner	Noel Frank, NRCS
Mark Ihlenfeld, Vice Chair	Adrienne Justman		James Smith, NRCS
James Klecker, Secretary	Eric Gulbransen		
Dan Hansen, Treasurer			
Kyle Wolfe, Reporter			

The March agenda was reviewed with no additions.

The February minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. Hansen noted one correction that needed to be made. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the minutes with the noted correction. Motion was carried by voice vote.

The February Treasurer’s Report was read by Dan Hansen. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Klecker, to approve the February Treasurer’s Report. Motion was carried by voice vote.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. Cannon River Watershed Partnership Meeting March 9 – Wolfe and Brady attended this meeting. There was discussion about how to spend the Bush Foundation Grant funds that they received. CRWP requested feedback about what needs are not currently being met so that they could look into filling those needs. They also discussed the WRAP that Zumbro River Watershed Partnership is beginning on the Cannon River.
2. South Central Soil Health Team Meetings – Gulbransen attended two meetings in Albert Lea. The team has been in place for approximately 1 year. The meetings were primarily organizational since there are going to be new members joining. Steele County will be joining this team.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2014 Annual Report – Dan Arndt presented the 2014 Annual Report to the Board; highlighting some of the achievements from the past year. Adrienne Justman presented the 2014 Financial Report; discussing some of the changes from the previous year. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Wolfe, to approve the Annual and Financial reports. Motion carried by voice vote.
2. Legislative update – Arndt presented the Legislative update to the Board. He focused on stable funding and the buffer initiative. Senate file 1158 currently has the strongest support of the stable funding proposals. This plan would dedicate \$11 million annually for new funding for Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The details of the buffer initiative were discussed. The initiative would make 50 foot buffers mandatory on the majority of waterways. The SWCD's would be responsible for implementing these buffers and the DNR would handle enforcement.

Agency Reports:

Jim Brady reported on the AMC meeting that he attended on March 5. There was discussion on the buffer initiative and WCA. He also reported about the Extension meeting that he attended. They discussed the benefits of 4H, the Farm Bill, and the fact that farmer/lender mediation has doubled. The last meeting he reported on was the Southeast Minnesota Water Resources Board meeting. The meeting discussed the testing that is going to be taking place on 35 wells, and a grant that would be used to fund sealing wells.

Staff Reports:

Adrienne Justman stated that her time has been spent completing the end of year financial and annual reports. As well as assisting with tree orders as they arrived.

Eric Gulbransen reported that the tree orders picked up in the last few weeks of February and there are a few still arriving. He has done a few site visits with landowners this month. He also has been active with the Soil Health group.

Dan Arndt reported that much of his time has been spent working with DNR, the County, and BWSR on a significant wetland violation. The landowner will be receiving a fine and a restoration order is going to be issued. Failure to comply within the set time frame will result in further action being taken. Dan also reported on a meeting with a representative from Southeast Cooperative who presented information about the purchasing program that they offer.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Hansen, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by voice vote. Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Justman,
Administrative Assistant

March Bills

Eric Gulbransen	Reimbursement for Meeting Cost	10.00	
	Mileage 35@.575	20.13	\$30.13
Cedardale Dev	March Rent		\$619.20
Jaguar	Internet		\$39.95
Soil Health Tech Support			\$500.00
Khimaira	Website Hosting 2015		\$165.00
H.S.A.	Dan Arndt	110.42	
	Eric Gulbransen	110.42	
	Adrienne Justman	110.42	\$331.26
Elan	Employee Expense - Meal	22.17	
	Tree Day Refreshments	91.09	
	Gas	120.95	
	Legislative Day Meals	85.14	
	Laptop	1,378.73	
	Legislative Day Hotel	308.14	
	Key - Truck	32.05	
	2015 Intuit Payroll	479.87	
	Stamps	49.00	\$2,567.14
		Total	\$4,252.68