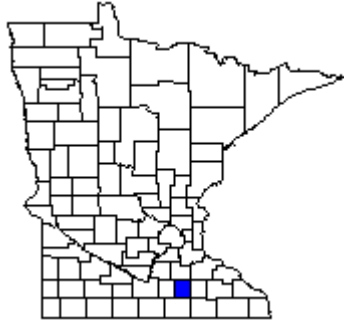


STEELE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

235 Cedardale Drive SE
Owatonna, Minnesota 55060-4417
Telephone (507) 451-6730 Ext. 3
Fax (507) 444-2421



**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 June 3, 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 June agenda was reviewed with no additions.

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

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

1. RC&D Meeting – May 26 – Ihlenfeld attended the RC&D meeting. He reported that they discussed the upcoming grants and that the national RC&D is going to be handling the administration of a large Embrich grant. There was discussion about the project using goats to control undesirable weeds, specifically buckthorn. They also reviewed policies and by-laws.
2. 2015 Tree Program – Gulbransen reported on the results of the 2015 Tree program. The profit total for the year was \$15,050. These funds will be used to allow the SWCD to continue assisting landowners with conservation efforts.
3. Other – CRWP meeting – Wolfe and Brady attended the CRWP meeting. The main topic of discussion was the candidates for the open director position. There were three that really stood out of a very diverse group of applicants.

OLD BUSINESS (Cont.)

4. Other – Fair booth – Hansen reported that he had spoken with Sorenson's and they were willing to bring a live honey bee display and provide a variety of informational material to use in the fair booth this year.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2015 Outstanding Conservation Farmer, Windbreak & Wildlife Candidates – Arndt presented the list of candidates to the Board and asked that they look over the list. The award winners will be decided at the July meeting so Arndt requested that if there were other candidates to include that the Board let us know before then.
2. Legislative Update – Arndt presented the update for the Legislative session. The stable funding and the Buffer initiative both were incomplete at the close of the session and will be addressed in a special legislative session.
3. 2016 Proposed Budget – Arndt presented the Board with the proposed budget for 2016. He made note of the more significant changes from the 2015 budget including the change to the Personnel expense and the change in the income generated by the Steele/Waseca contract. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Wolfe, to approve the budget. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. Marie Sexton, Protected Water Permit – Comments – Arndt presented this to the Board. The site is one that the SWCD had included in a grant application that was not funded. The project will involve stream bank stabilization to protect a house. Arndt's stated that he would like to see more detailed information about the repair plan.
5. Conservation Buffer Resolution – Arndt presented a resolution that would encourage conservation buffers to be made a part of the farm program compliance requirements. Ihlenfeld made one note that the wording in the last section should be changed to include NACD. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Klecker, to approve the resolution with the above noted change. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. Area 7 MASWCD Resolution Meeting – June 17 – The Area 7 Resolution meeting will be held in Oronoco at the People's Co-op on June 17. The meeting runs from 9-2:30.
7. Personnel Committee Meeting – May 19 – The minutes of the Personnel committee meeting were distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. The Personnel committee made the recommendation to promote Eric Gulbransen to the position of District Manager upon Dan Arndt's retirement.
8. Eric Gulbransen, promotion and job plan approval – The Board reviewed the District Manager job plan. There were no changes noted. A motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to promote Gulbransen to the manager position effective September 1, 2015 and to accept the job plan as written. Motion carried by voice vote.
9. Approve SWCD Technician Job Announcement – Arndt presented a draft job announcement for the District Technician position. There were no changes that needed to be made. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Klecker, to post the announcement as written. Motion carried by voice vote.

Agency Reports:

Jim Brady reported on a letter that he received indicating that there is going to be a push to implement buffers on more of the waterways in the county. He also discussed a proposed plan to create a wetland and reroute the Havana ditch to help control flooding. The plan is at the point where landowners will now be asked for their input. There is also a plan to repair the area near the road that has been damaged by washing out. Brady stated that he plans to recruit a local landowner to represent him at the CRWP meetings. He is planning to find someone who is good at communicating and will be an advocate for local landowners. He asked the Board and staff for recommendations.

Jim Smith reported that the new CRP rental rates are due to be released next week and there will be a General CRP sign-up this winter. He also reported that the basin project that he has been working on has been completed.

Staff Reports:

Adrienne Justman stated that her time has spent working on the 2016 budget as well as preparing the Technician job announcement.

Eric Gulbransen has spent his time primarily with Tyler Polster, Waseca SWCD Technician. They have been working on training and getting Polster familiar with the programs in this area.

Dan Arndt attended a cover crop meeting. He stated that the highlight was a speaker from Quebec. A couple of highlights that Arndt noted were that land with cover crops had an 18 bushel yield increase and higher net profits than those fields that did not use cover crops.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Hansen, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Justman,
Administrative Assistant

June Bills

Cedardale Dev. Co	June Rent		\$619.20
Jaguar	Internet		\$39.95
Truax	Drill Parts		\$82.52
MN Dept. of Ag	Pesticide License		\$105.00
Adrienne Justman	Mileage Reimbursement		\$20.13
Dan Arndt	Mileage Reimbursement		\$20.13
Eric Gulbransen	Mileage Reimbursement		\$20.13
Elan	Bill to come		
		TOTAL	\$907.06