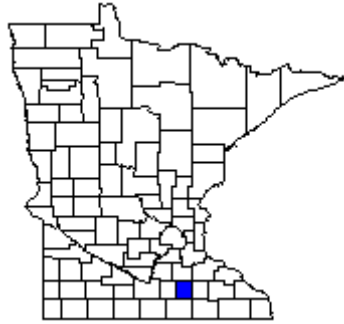


235 Cedardale Drive SE  
 Owatonna, Minnesota 55060-4417  
 Telephone (507) 451-6730 Ext. 3  
 Fax (507) 444-2421



**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 Mark Ihlenfeld at 7:02 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at the Conservation Office located at 235 Cedardale Drive SE, Owatonna, MN.

**SWCD Supervisors Present:**

Mark Ihlenfeld, Chairman  
 Kyle Wolfe, Reporter  
 Dan Hansen, Treasurer  
 James Klecker, Secretary  
 Dave Melby, newly elected supervisor

**SWCD Staff Present:**

Dan Arndt, Manager  
 Eric Gulbransen, Dist. Res. Con.  
 Sue Condon, District Admin. Sec.

**Others Present:**

Jim Smith, NRCS  
 Absent:  
 Bruce Kubicek, Commissioner  
 Noel Frank, NRCS

Ihlenfeld welcomed Dave Melby to the board. He was sworn in January 6, 2009 at the County Administration Building.

Reorganization of Officers: Discussion followed. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Klecker to cast a unanimous ballot for the following officer positions for one year. Motion carried by voice vote.

Chairman of the Board: Mark Ihlenfeld  
 Vice-Chairman of the Board: James Klecker  
 Secretary of the Board: Dan Hansen  
 Treasurer of the Board: Kyle Wolfe  
 Public Relations & Information: Dave Melby

The January agenda was reviewed and stays as it stands.

The December minutes were sent to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Klecker to approve the minutes. Motion was carried by voice vote.

The December Treasurer's Report (see attached) was read by Hansen. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Wolfe to approve the December 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 listed. Motion was carried by voice vote.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Employee health insurance update: Arndt reported that because of Blue Cross Blue Shield's high quote for health insurance for 2009, the staff solicited other quotes from different health insurance companies. Health Partners came back with the lowest premiums for the employees. Health Partners were \$1,695.20 and BCBS along with Federated insurances were both around \$1950.00. This new insurance takes effect 1-1-09.

2. 2009 Calendar is done and was in the mail the last week in December. The Supervisors made favorable comments about the 2009 calendar.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Committee appointments for 2009:  
Personnel: Wolfe, Hansen  
Budget and Planning: Wolfe, Melby  
Steele County Zoning & Planning: Ihlenfeld  
Co. Comprehensive Water Planning: Melby  
SE SRF Joint Powers Board: Ihlenfeld  
Hiawatha RC & D: Ihlenfeld  
Cannon River Watershed Partnership: Hansen
2. Approve the monthly board meeting time and date for 2009: Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Klecker to approve the monthly board meeting date as the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Motion was carried by a voice vote.
3. Approve the District's official financial institution for 2009: Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby to keep the present financial institution, United Prairie Bank. Motion was carried by a voice vote.
4. Approve the District's official newspaper for 2009: Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Hansen to approve the District's official newspaper for 2009 as the Owatonna People's Press. Motion was carried by a voice vote.
5. 2009 Supervisors Compensation Rate: Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Melby to keep the 2008 rate of \$60/\$75. (0-4 hr/4+hrs) Motion was carried by a voice vote.
6. 2009 Association Dues and Memberships:  
NACD = \$ 775.00  
MASWCD = \$2,750.00  
SE MASWCD = \$ 400.00 (+\$100)  
Hiawatha RC & D = \$ 300.00  
Cannon River Watershed Partnership = \$ 35.00  
SE SWCD Tech. Support (JPB) = \$500.00  
MN Volunteer = \$ 25.00
7. 2009 Pay Equity Report: Condon presented the 2008 pay equity report. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Wolfe to have Chairman, Ihlenfeld, sign the report. Motion was carried by a voice vote.
8. 2009 Annual Plan of Work: Arndt handed out the plan depicting the goals and objectives to be completed in the year of 2009. Discussion followed: Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Klecker to approve the report. Motion was carried by a voice vote.
9. Revise the 2009 Proposed Budget: The County's 2009 allocation to the SWCD is \$3,500 under what was requested. The budget was adjusted for that amount. Moved by Hansen, seconded by Klecker to approve the adjusted budget for 2009. (See attached.) Motion was carried by a voice vote.
10. 2007 audit: Condon explained that the state auditor approved the 2007 audit which was completed by Maiser. She handed out the auditor's reports. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby to approve the chairman to sign the final papers and pay the auditor's bill of \$2,000. Motion was carried by a voice vote.

Agency Reports: Smith, NRCS reported that there was a national wide EQIP audit done on all open contracts. Steele county NRCS office has completed theirs. There may be some EQIP monies available in March.

Staff Reports:

Gulbransen reported that he is in the e-link reporting. He is reporting on the Cooperative Weed Management Grant program and the cost/share programs. Arndt will be reporting the WCA information.

Arndt reported that there is one active Wetland Violation near Oak Glen Lake. On the highway 14 project between Owatonna and Waseca there are 2 landowners thinking of wetland banking projects.

Arndt stated that the staff from Alliant Energy has contacted the office regarding permits needed to construct wind turbines. Wetlands and conservation easements in the area could be a concern. Discussion followed.

Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Klecker to close the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Sue Condon  
District Admin. Secretary