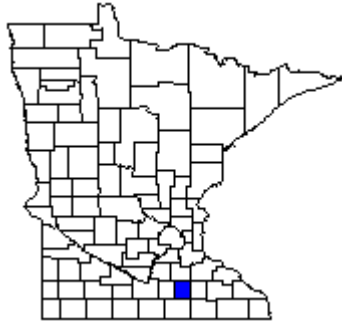


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MINNESOTA SOIL ^{and} WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The regular monthly meeting of the Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Mark Ihlenfeld at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at the Conservation Office located at 235 Cedardale Drive SE, Owatonna, MN.

SWCD Supervisors Present:

Mark Ihlenfeld, Chairman
 Kyle Wolfe, Treasurer
 Dan Hansen, Secretary
 Dave Melby, Reporter

SWCD Staff Present:

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

Others Present:

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

Absent:

James Klecker, Vice-Chairman

The March agenda was reviewed and stays as it stands.

The February minutes were sent to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Melby to approve the minutes. Motion was carried by voice vote.

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

Bills: (see attached.) Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Wolfe to approve paying the bills as listed. Motion was carried by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. MASWCD Day at the Capitol, Feb. 24th: Hansen, Ihlenfeld, Melby attended the legislative briefing on Feb. 23rd and saw 5 legislators on the 24th. Waseca SWCD members also attending the meetings with the legislators. The legislators were very receptive.
2. Kyle Wolfe's People's Press articles: two articles about the SWCD supervisor's roles and what the office does for the environment were printed in the paper. Discussion followed.
3. Other: Melby reported that he contacted the Blooming Prairie Elementary School's principal about the 2009 Soil Stewardship material. The 5th grade class will be participating this year. Condon reported that she didn't hear from any other schools. Wolfe contacted Wilson and could not get a favorable response.

Frank entered meeting at 7:25 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2008 Year End Financial Report: Condon reported that the 2008 year end financial is done, but that she had to contact James Maiser, CPA for help. Condon distributed the completed 2008 Annual Report. Condon reported that it is also on the SWCD web site. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Melby to approve the final report and to pay Mr. Maiser the bill for helping finish the financial reporting. The report was sent on or e-mailed to the appropriate agencies. Motion was carried by a voice vote.

1. (cont.) Wolfe reported on the bank's Pledge of Collateral of Deposits. Wolfe called and stated that whenever our current balance is over \$100,000 the bank takes out a pledge on the amount over \$100,000 with another bank. The bank then sends out a statement to that effect.
2. 2009 Farm Family of the Year: Arndt reported that Brad Carlson, MN Extension, would like the SWCD to nominate a family. These families have been recognized from 1982 – present by the Extension. Discussion followed. It was decided that the District will nominate Jim & Margaret Deml.
3. Hwy #14 East Concerns: It appears that the DOT will be using the southern route for highway #14 going south of Claremont. A concerned citizen has been at the office discussing this with the District staff. He may bring more of his findings to the board at a later date. Discussion followed.
4. Data Privacy Agreement/NRCS: Frank described the kinds of information not to be given out without permission from the landowner. In the Freedom of Information Act, there are certain kinds of information that can not be released without written consent from the landowner. Requests for more specific information need to be made to the state NRCS office. Arndt and Condon will be attending a FOIA meeting here tomorrow. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Melby to approve the staff to sign the Certification of SWCD Co-op form. Motion was carried by a voice vote. Frank stated that there will be a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed between the SWCD and the NRCS (USDA) on this subject shortly.
5. WRP Rule Comments: Arndt stated that comments for the WRP Program will be taken by the USDA until March 16th. The biggest change is the ownership, going from 1 year to 7 years before the land can be put into WRP. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Hansen to approve submitting comments on line to the NRCS USDA about this change and why it would not be good. Motion was carried by a voice vote.
6. 4-H Environmental Championship Fair Award: Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Melby to sponsor the 4-H award in the amount of \$20. Motion was carried by a voice vote.
7. Part-time Easement Maintenance Position: Arndt stated that maintenance on about 300 acres for trees control will be needed this summer. Arndt asked permission to hire a part-time person with a commercial spraying license to be hired for approximately 160 hours at \$12 to 15/hr depending on experience. Arndt would like to announce this position in our next newsletter. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Melby to approve this position and to post it in our next newsletter. Motion was carried by a voice vote.
8. Staff and Agency Reports:

Smith reported that a lot of CRP burning requests have been coming through the office. Office is still waiting for the dates of the EQIP sign-up.

Commissioner Kubicek thanked Arndt for the presentation he did at the Exchange Club on Feb. 27th. Kubicek reported that the SE MN Resource Bd requested monies through the Clean Water Legacy Act for feedlot fixes and it may also include money for technical staff. The Commissioner stated that at the CRWP on March 9th Ryan Kubat was selected the new director at large. Kubicek also stated that the County Road Maintenance public meeting will be on March 12th.

Motion was made at 8:45 to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Sue Condon
District Admin. Secretary