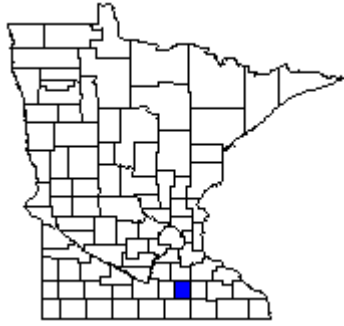


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**MINNESOTA  
 SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

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 7:05 p.m. on Wednesday, October 14, 2009 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>
Mark Ihlenfeld, Chairman	Dan Arndt, Manager	Jim Smith, NRCS	
Dan Hansen, Secretary	Eric Gulbransen	Noel Frank, NRCS	
Dave Melby, Reporter	Sue Condon, SWCD	Bruce Kubicek	
James Klecker, Vice-Chrmn			
Kyle Wolfe, Treasurer			

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

The October agenda was reviewed and stays as it stands.

The September Treasurer’s Report (see attached) was read by Wolfe. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby to approve the September Treasurer’s Report. Motion was carried by voice vote.

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Area VII MASWCD area mtg., Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> was held at Iron Wood Springs near Stewartville Minnesota. Ihlenfeld, Hansen, Klecker, Melby, Arndt, Condon and Gulbransen attended. It was announced by Bill Hunt, State NRCS Conservationist that he will be retiring in Feb. of 2010. For Soil Stewardship – it was also announced that no litanies could be purchased and given to churches, with public money. Discussion followed. The Area 7 MASWCD is now the SE MASWCD. There were other changes in the SE MASWCD’s by-laws. Discussion followed.
2. Arndt reported the Green Acres Program which is now called the Rural Preserves Property Tax Program (RPPTP). This program will lower taxes on woods, non crop land, etc. The applicant must have a conservation plan to be eligible or certified. More information will be coming out later.

Ihlenfeld did not attend the Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> RC & D meeting. He stated that we should be thinking about some projects for Steele County.

Hansen and Kubicek reported on attending the CRWP meeting. Hansen stated that there were over 200 people helping with the Straight River Clean-up Day. The CRWP is also revising the employee’s handbook.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Frank reported on the “Justice for All” poster displayed on bulleting board. Also discussed was the Mutual Agreement that states the District will comply with the NRCS’s Equal Opportunity employment policy. Frank also discussed with the board a potential RC & D measure to control the invasive species that are invading the roadsides and ditches in Steele County. The SWCD and NRCS staffs have been working on a grant that would help control this problem. The grant would include the county, BWSR, RC & D, SWCD and NRCS. The application for the grant in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding must be signed by the county chairman by November 10<sup>th</sup>. The proposal for the grant must be to the RC & D by November 30<sup>th</sup>. The SWCD will be applying thru BWSR for a weed management grant. Commissioner Kubicek suggested that maybe other surrounding counties would want to go in with this grant and make it an area issue. Discussion followed.

Pictures of supervisors, staff and commissioner were taken standing by the Straight River Marsh Restoration Sign.

Frank left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

2. State Cost-share Assistance Option: FYI. Arndt reported that a memo was received from BWSR that indicates the District can use cost-share project funds for technical and administrative purposes. This is allowed if the District can prove the use of funds leverages other funding for projects. An agreement with BWSR must be signed by June 30 if the District chooses to consider this option. The Board was not in favor of this option at this time.
3. Cedar River Watershed District Update: FYI. Arndt has been asked to serve on the Technical Committee which will develop the rules and regulations for the watershed district.
4. Rice/Steele/Waseca SWCD’s Farm Bill Technician Agreement: Danielle Waldschmidt, Farm Bill Technician was hired to serve the three districts through a grant in the amount of \$29,000. This grant is from BWSR, Pheasants Forever and the DNR. She will be working between the 3 districts, but will be stationed in the Rice Co. SWCD office. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Klecker to sign the MOU between Rice, Steele and Waseca Co. SWCDs to contribute \$3-4,000 each annually for this position. Carried by voice vote.
5. Conservation Partners Legacy Grant: Arndt reported that this grant, which is funded through the Lessard monies and is administered by the DNR, is due Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>. A motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Melby to approve the application for the Conservation Partners Legacy Grant. Carried by voice vote.

Arndt has met with Matt Durand, City Storm Water Planner, about applying for a grant through the BWSR Clean Water Fund. The District can apply for projects within the city, as the city of Owatonna can not apply. The application for the grant must be in by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Arndt also met with Todd Anderson, County Maintenance Supervisor on a project, which may be submitted.

Arndt stated that the District is working with Rice Co. SWCD and other districts to put together a grant for incentives for filter strips, and no-till through the Clean Water Grant.

Gulbransen is working on a weed management grant for invasive species. He will be working with the county, and township staff.

6. Arndt read 2 emergency resolutions. Discussion followed. Supervisors voted and signed original ballot for the MASWCD convention.

7. MASWCD State Convention Registration – Duluth: Discussion. Because of economic situation in our budget, it was suggested that not all supervisors or staff need to attend, but instead have the attendees report back to those that did not attend. Supervisors should contact Condon by October 28<sup>th</sup> if they plan to attend.

Agency Reports:

- ▲ Smith reported that there were no CSP sign-up's in Steele County.
- ▲ Commissioner Kubicek reported that the sewer project in Bixby has gotten approved with a TMDL state grant in the amount of \$500,000. There are 30 parcels involved in the city of Bixby. There may also be another state grant available in the amount of \$300,000. The engineering will be done by June 10, 2010.

Motion made at 9:17 to adjourn the meeting by Melby, seconded by Hansen. Motion was carried.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Sue Condon, District Admin. Sec.