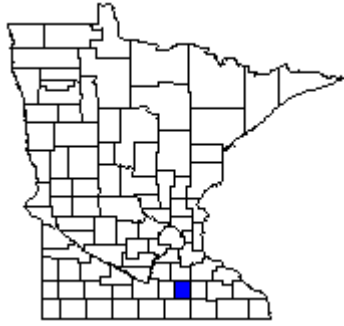


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**MINNESOTA  
 SOIL <sup>and</sup> WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

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, August 12, 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	Bruce Kubicek, Com.	
James Klecker, Vice-Chrmn	Eric Gulbransen	Noel Frank, NRCS	
Dave Melby, Reporter	Sue Condon, SWCD	Chris Hughes, BWSR	
Dan Hansen, Secretary			
Kyle Wolfe, Treasurer			

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

The August agenda was reviewed and stays as it stands.

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. SWCD Supervisor & Employee Orientation and Refresher Course, July 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> in St. Cloud: Arndt and Melby attended the training. Discussed at the training were topics such as, open meeting law; ethics and the working of a SWCD; SSTS (shallow soil treatment system). “There is nothing wrong with change if it is going in the right direction” was a statement made at the training.
2. FYI - Owatonna Storm Water Control Steering Committee meeting, July 27<sup>th</sup>: Arndt met with Matt Durand, Owatonna Storm Water Planner; Lisa Carey, Cannon River Watershed Partnership Outreach Coordinator; and Ryan Kubat, Steele Co. member of the CRWP. They discussed a Straighter River clean-up that is scheduled for Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>.
3. SE Technical Support JPB mtg., July 30<sup>th</sup>: Ihlenfeld attended this bi-annual meeting. Discussed during the meeting was the possibility of a 319 grant with the SE JPB’s matching money. Ihlenfeld stated that Minnesota has 8 JPB’s within the state. The financial situation was the main topic of the meeting and what can be done to resolve it.

4. Other: Ihlenfeld attended the Hiawatha RC & D meeting on July 27<sup>th</sup> held in Rochester. Discussed were: Bio-Mass Workshop will be held in the Twin Cities next year, the RC & D rain barrel project, and that the RC & D's secretary will be leaving her position next month.
5. Invasive Species Tour: Gulbransen lead the tour today. There were 15 people attending, including: Kubicek, Melby, Frank and Gulbransen. Several questions were asked about the Wild Parsnip, Wild Carrot, Buckthorn, Emerald Ash Borer species which are invading Steele County.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Gulbransen presented 6(08)A Mike Wesely state cost-share contract amendment for sediment basins from \$3,000 to \$7,298.36 because the costs in reality came back very high. This money will be taken from the 08 and 09 state cost-share project money. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker to approve the amendment. Motion was carried. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Wolfe to approve the final payment of \$7,298.36. Motion was carried.
2. Mid-year 2009 Amended Budget: Arndt handed the mid-year budget out. (See New Business #3 for motion to approve.)
3. Arndt also handed out the 2010 Proposed Steele Co. SWCD Budget. Discussion followed. Because of the state decreasing it's funding to all SWCD's, in our case in the amount of \$12,444, and with no availability of special grants in our future, we are looking at a deficit in the year 2010. More discussion followed. Staff proposed not to ask the county for any more funds for next year. This means that the District has not had an increase in allocation from the county for 4 years. This also means that the District will be using undesignated District Reserve to balance our budget for the year 2010. The District is hoping that the Lessard Funds from the 3/8% sales tax will benefit the District eventually, but Hughes, BWSR stated that most of those funds will be attached to certain projects, not just technical assistance. The District may get some administrative money from the new RIM/WRP sign-ups. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Wolfe to accept both the 2009 Mid-Year Revised Budget and the 2010 Proposed Budget. Motion carried. Arndt will send the 2010 Proposed Budget to the commissioners and set up a meeting to meet with them.
4. 2010 BWSR Grant Agreement for Easement Services (RIM) = \$3,407; General Services = \$23,690; Cost-Share Projects = \$10,169. This is a decrease of \$12,444 from the BWSR. Discussion. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Wolfe to approve and sign the agreement. Motion was carried.
5. 2009 District Capacity Award: Arndt reviewed the application for the award. It had changed from last year's. This year's seemed to focus more on attending meetings, being on committees and being interviewed by press or radio. It appears that the application is not recognizing key District activities. Our annual yearly calendar was one example. This award should focus more on accomplishments in conservation. The District will receive an Honorable Mention for 2009. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Hansen to approve the supervisor's signatures for this application. Motion was carried.
6. FYI: MCIT send a letter to notify us that the 2009 dividend return will be \$1,736.
7. Conservation Stewardship Program Sign-Up, August 10<sup>th</sup> to Sept. 30, 2009: Frank stated that this was a new federal nation-wide program. There will be a public information meeting at the Blooming Prairie Civic Center on August 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. Frank and Smith just completed two intense days of training. The program would cover the applicant's whole farm with conservation needs. It would be a 5 year contract. The program's application period will be continuous, but the applications will be reviewed yearly only during the sign-up period for approval.

8. DNR Protection Waters Permit No. 2010-0091 was reviewed by Arndt. This permit is for the SE part of the City of Owatonna for a field storm water pond on the Rypka farm. Discussion followed.
9. Area VII MASWCD Annual meeting, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> will be held at the Iron Wood Springs. Ihlenfeld went over the proposed changes in the by-laws to be revised. Let Condon know if you plan on attending by August 28<sup>th</sup>. Motion was moved to approve the registration cost of any supervisor or staff person wishing to attend by Hansen, seconded by Wolfe. Motion was carried.
10. 2009 SWCD Fair Booth Schedule was discussed.

Frank stated that the recent RIM/WRP sign-up resulted in three sign-ups totaling over 1,000 acres.

Chris Hughes, BWSR commented on funding possibilities, most of which the technical is attached to projects. Applications for projects in the Clean Water Fund (Lessard – 3/8's of a percent sales tax) are being taken in October. County Water Plans must take into account TMDL's in all projects.

WCA rules have been updated with new rules. There will be more flexibility in using native prairie seed and in the native buffer seed mix.

A Wetland Restoration Guide is being updated.

Clean Water Fund will have well head protection included.

The BWSR Board will be adding 2 positions. They will be adding a city council member and a township board member.

Kubicek reported that the 26<sup>th</sup> Street project in Owatonna is on schedule to be done October 1<sup>st</sup>. He also discussed other street projects within the county.

Arndt stated that a newsletter went out last week with help from our volunteers.

Gulbransen reported that he and Jarod Guse (part-time employee) have been spraying trees and brush on easements in the county. Later they will have to complete the hand spraying touch up on these acres.

Motion made at 9:55 to adjourn the meeting by Wolfe, seconded by Hansen. Motion was carried.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Sue Condon, District Admin. Sec.