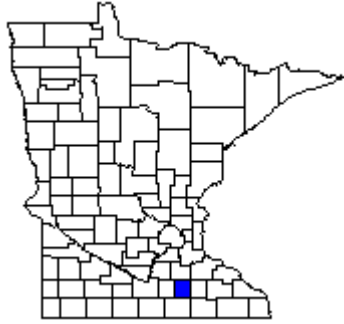


STEELE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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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 7:10 p.m. on Wednesday, February 10, 2010 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, Chrnm	Dan Arndt, Manager	Bruce Kubicek	
James Klecker, Vice-Chrnm	Eric Gulbransen	Noel Frank, NRCS	
Dan Hansen, Secretary	Sue Condon, SWCD	Jim Smith, NRCS	
Dave Melby, Reporter			
Kyle Wolfe, Treasurer			

The February agenda was reviewed and stays as it stands.

The January minutes were sent to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. A correction was noted. Under agency reports, it was reported that the bids are being taken on the Owatonna East belt line by Commissioner Kubicek. In fact, the statement by Commissioner Kubicek should have read “bids on the environmental impact statement on the east side belt line alternatives are being taken.” Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker to approve the minutes with said correction. Motion was carried by voice vote.

The January Treasurer’s Report (see attached) was read by Wolfe. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Klecker to approve the January Treasurer’s Report. Motion was carried by voice vote. Certificate of Deposit #1602063 in the amount of \$20,891.95 was renewed at 1.49% for 1 year at the Community Bank of Owatonna. There was discussion on trailer licenses. Supervisors stated that instead of the \$17.25 every 2 years, the District might be eligible for a one-time \$30 cost. Arndt will look into this.

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

Noel Frank enters meeting at 7:15 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. SE JPB Meeting, January 27th: Ihlenfeld and Arndt attended. JPB staff salaries were discussed. There was a cost of living of 2% voted for the salary increase. The JP Board by-laws are being looked into because the MCIT suggested it. This may be because of the JPB boundary changes. (Change of 9 to 8 areas of JPB now exists.) The JPB board organization of officers stayed the same.
2. Other: none.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Status of Grants: Arndt reported that 2 of the 7 grants applied have been tentatively approved. None of the Clean Water Grants were approved. The Weed Management Grant for old RIM easement maintenance was approved. Arndt stated he is pursuing other grants; one is with the United Fish and Wildlife Service.
2. 2010 Plan of Work: Arndt reviewed the 2010 Plan of Work. Arndt, also, reviewed the PRAP requirements.
3. Review of the 2009 Annual Report/Financial Report. There were some changes suggested in the 2010 Annual Plan of Work. There was an addition to VI. D. Will address storm water runoff concerns within the City of Owatonna, in cooperation with the City Storm Water Technician. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Hansen to approve the reports with that change. Arndt stated that we will keep reviewing on our short term budget. Motion was carried by a voice vote.

Transfer of US Fish and Wildlife Foundation Funding to District Checking: Arndt recommended that due to the Districts current financial situation, the Foundation fund should be transferred to the SWCD checking account. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Klecker to approve moving the USF&W fund from savings into checking. Motion was carried by voice vote.

4. Suspend 2010 State Cost-Share Program – Request the use of funds for technical assistance. Arndt stated that BWSR will allow if approved the use of State Cost Share funds for technical assistance. Conditions for approval includes: 1. Federal funds or other non-state funds will be leveraged and they couldn't do the project otherwise; or, 2. Funds are to be used on a project(s) that is State Cost Share Program or EQIP eligible and their 2008 Financial Report indicates less than 18-months operating capital in their fund balance. Arndt stated that the District does meet this criteria and that the funds will be used for Gulbransens wages. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Klecker to have Wolfe, (Treasurer) sign the request. Motion was carried by a voice vote.
5. Close out 2008 Cooperative Weed Management Grant: Gulbransen presented the close-out. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby to have Wolfe sign the request for the close-out of the 2008 Weed Management Grant. Motion was carried by a voice vote.
6. Letter from Brad Carlson for nominations for the Steele County Farm Family of the Year was read. Discussion followed. Submitted to Carlson will be Tom, Karen Wencil and sons; and Brian Kanne and wife.
7. MASWCD Legislative Day, Feb. 17th – 18th: Ihlenfeld and Melby are planning to attend. Arndt will prepare information for the legislators.
8. Tree Day Open House/Contract Meeting, February 19th: Motion was made by Klecker to approve the cost of refreshments, seconded by Melby. Motion was carried by a voice vote.
9. Area employees meeting, March 9th: Motion to pay for registration for any employee wishing to attend was made by Wolfe, seconded by Hansen. Motion was carried by a voice vote.
10. Other: Ihlenfeld stated that the SE MASWCD will be meeting at Iron Woods Springs some time later March of April. Date to be determined.

Arndt will look into grant writing on the internet and the library.

Agency: Smith stated that there was an EQIP sign up Feb. 1st –Feb. 28th. There were 7 or 8 applicants. Contractor's letters were sent out for Open House on Feb. 19th with information.

Gulbransen reported that a Tree Day – Contractor Open House will be held February 19th. We haven't had many tree orders as of yet.

Arndt stated there are 4-5 easements that will need maintenance this next year. There was a teleconference on Feb. 8th on Rural Preserves. The new Steele County FSA director is David Charles from South Dakota. He will be starting on March 1st or sooner.

Condon stated that the newsletter (3,600 pieces) was sent out with the help of 6 volunteers. Also, that the Envirothon registration has begun. It will be held at Chester Woods this year.

Commissioner Kubicek stated the bids on the Environmental Impact Statements are finishing up. There will be a new design on Highway 14 and 45 intersections. It may be a round-about. Discussion followed.

Ihlenfeld reported old business for the RC & D meeting held on, January 25th. Kubicek was voted alternate at-large. Roland Wood will be the Secretary/Treasurer. The Midwest Value Added Conference will be held at Madison, Wisconsin.

Arndt handed out the MASWCD Tidbits to the supervisors. Arndt read the thank-you form Ashlee Stenzel, 4-H Conservation Award recipient.

Motion was made to adjourn by Hansen, seconded by Klecker at 9:30 p.m. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Sue Condon, District Administrative Secretary