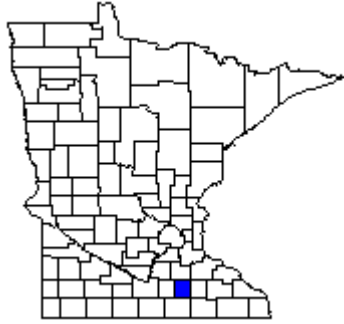


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**MINNESOTA  
 SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

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 8:05 p.m. on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at the Conservation Office located at 235 Cedardale Drive SE, Owatonna, MN.

Introductions and welcome to David Charles, Steele Co. FSA CED were made.

<u>SWCD Supervisors Present:</u>	<u>SWCD Staff Present:</u>	<u>Others Present:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>
Mark Ihlenfeld, Chrmn	Dan Arndt, Manager	Jim Smith, NRCS	
James Klecker, Vice-Chrmn	Eric Gulbransen	David Charles, FSA CED	
Dan Hansen, Secretary	Sue Condon, SWCD		
Dave Melby, Reporter			
Kyle Wolfe, Treasurer			

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 Klecker to approve the February Treasurer’s Report. Motion was carried by voice vote.

Bills: (see attached.) Condon clarified the bill for Domain Registry of America as a hoax and told supervisors to ignore it. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Klecker to approve paying the bills, but not the Domain Registry of America. Motion was carried by voice vote.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. MASWCD Legislative Days, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>: Ihlenfeld and Melby attended. Both supervisors thought the sessions were well done. Met with K. Kath; Patti Fritz; Mike Perry; and Julie Rossen. Traveled the legislative halls with Rice and Waseca County SWCD people. Some of the congressmen were still not familiar with the District’s work. The budget for all the districts and BWSR is very tight. It was a very successful day with the congressman.
2. Tree Day Open House, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>: Gulbransen stated that there were around 35 people attending. There were about 20 orders placed that day. Hy-Vee donated the meat for open house. Dan and Kathy Hansen made and donated the sloppy joes and homemade buns. As of today, we have over 130 orders for trees.
3. State Cost-Share Technical Assistance Option: Arndt reported that the request to use the 2010 c/s for technical assistant to match conservation easement money was approved. Arndt stated that the money will stay in the savings account until needed.

# Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors Board Meeting

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4. Other: Ihlenfeld attended the JBP Technical Meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup>. He stated that Auto CAD is needed in more district offices, but the cost will be huge. The cost will be \$20,000 to \$21,000 for software and there will be new computers needed to handle this program.

## NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2010 Fair Booth Agreement, \$115: Arndt presented the 2010 Fair Booth rental contract for our fair booth at the Izaak Walton Building. The cost this year is \$115 for the week. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby to have the Treasurer, Wolfe sign the agreement. Motion was carried by voice vote.
2. 2010 Soil Stewardship Program: "Conservation Habits = Healthy Habits": Arndt and staff made the suggestion that the District give free book marks to all the sixth graders in the county. Suggested order of 800 bookmarks. Condon suggested the educators' reference be handed out to each school. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Klecker to purchase the bookmarks and distribute to all 6<sup>th</sup> graders the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April. Motion was carried by voice vote.
3. SE MASWCD Mtg., April 1<sup>st</sup>: Arndt reviewed the supervisor's spring meeting to be held on April 1<sup>st</sup> at the Ironwoods Springs Christian Ranch. Registration is \$15. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Klecker to approve the registration for anyone attending the meeting. Motion was carried by a voice vote.
4. Cannon River Watershed Partnership Workshop, April 7<sup>th</sup>, registration \$20: Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Hansen to approve the registration for anyone attending the workshop. Motion was carried by a voice vote.
5. Other: Ihlenfeld reported that he has found a source to acquire free barrels to make into rain barrels. Wolfe stated that there might be a possibility to get a class for building them through the Community Education Program started. Discussion followed. Staff will discuss and let Ihlenfeld know if barrels are needed.

### Agency:

- David Charles, FSA CED, reported that the Safe Access Acres Program will be promoted in this area. There is a need for 10,000 more acres within the state. The term of the contracts will be 10 to 15 years. The General CRP bids will be taken later this fall. Arndt reported that through 1988 to 1998 there were over 24,000 acres of CRP and now there are now around 5,000 acres of CRP acres in the county.
- Smith, NRCS, the general EQIP program ended Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>, but the organic farmers have until March 12<sup>th</sup> to apply. Smith stated that there were 10 EQIP contracts applied for.
- Arndt gave out an e-mail from Chris Parthumn from Marshall-Beltrami SWCD. That district will merge with Marshall SWCD. Chris will be leaving the district. The e-mail was his perspective on the funding and grants for the districts, which looked very dismal. Goodhue SWCD has also laid off one staff person.
- Gulbransen reported on attending an Open Feedlot meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> held in Faribault. There will be a township meeting on noxious weeds to be held for Steele and Rice counties by Vermilyea on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Gulbransen also stated that sometime in April the District will be on Ag Day (on t.v.).
- Ihlenfeld attended a Planning and Zoning meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup> that dealt with the septic systems within the county. Discussion followed.
- Wolfe commented on the fact of seeing 3 agencies at the board meeting working on getting conservation practices on the land. He felt very encouraged seeing the agencies working so productively together.

Motion was made to adjourn by Hansen, seconded by Wolfe at 9:35 p.m. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Sue Condon, District Administrative Secretary