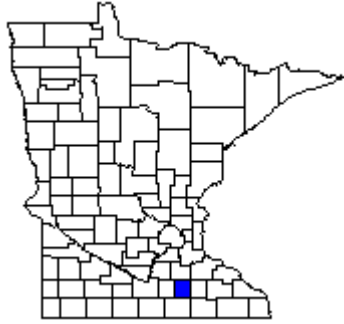


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**MINNESOTA  
 SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

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 7:03 p.m. on Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at the Conservation Office located at 235 Cedardale Drive SE, Owatonna, MN.

<u>SWCD Supervisors</u> <u>Present:</u>	<u>SWCD Staff</u> <u>Present:</u>	<u>Others Present:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>
Mark Ihlenfeld, Chrmn	Dan Arndt, Manager	Jim Smith, NRCS	
James Klecker, Vice-Chrmn	Eric Gulbransen	Bruce Kubicek, Co. Commissioner	
Dan Hansen, Secretary	Sue Condon, SWCD	Chris Hughes, BWSR Bd. Rep.	
Dave Melby, Reporter			
Kyle Wolfe, Treasurer			

The April agenda was reviewed and stays as it stands.

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

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. SE MASWCD meeting, April 1<sup>st</sup>, Rochester: Ihlenfeld and Melby attended the meeting. Jeff Nielson, BWSR gave a report to the supervisors. There was a cut of 12% in funding for 2009, but for 2010 state budget the cut will be 6% or about \$4,000 per district state wide. There was talk of consolidating some of the districts around the state. The resolution meeting will be held sometime in June.
2. MASWCD dues: The District voted at a previous board meeting to pay one-half of the 2010 dues for the MASWCD and the remaining amount in July. The MASWCD would like the district to pay \$958 now. Discussion followed. Due to the financial status of the district, the district will wait to pay the last half of the dues in the amount of \$1,375 later in the year. Arndt will send a letter to the MASWCD to that effect.

Chris Hughes, BWSR, stated that BWSR has agreements drafted for the processing of 3 RIM/WRP easements done by the district during the 2009 signup. This may be helpful with the budget shortfall of the district.

3. Other: Ihlenfeld attended the RC & D meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup> in Rochester. The RC & D are applying for an Invasive Weed Grant to LCCMR. There will be a Biomass work shop/tour sometime this summer.

Hansen and Kubicek attended the Cannon River Watershed Partnership on April 5<sup>th</sup> in the Owatonna City Council Meeting Room. The CRWP are trying to acquire more grants. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the CRWP.

Ihlenfeld attended an Invasive Weed meeting held in Owatonna. Gulbransen made a presentation about controlling invasive species at the meeting. This meeting was to inform the township council members of the growing problem of Steele County's invasive weeds (parsnips, buckthorn, wild carrot mainly).

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Wetland Preservation Area Program – Admin. Cost: Scott Golberg, County Planning & Zoning, contacted Arndt about this program which is now included in the County Water Plan. The District will be involved with administering this program. Arndt recommended that the District charge \$45/Hr., with a maximum of \$600 per application, effective for the first sign-up period.
2. 4-H Exploring the Environment Champion Trophy, \$20: Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Wolfe to pay the \$20 for the trophy. Carried by a voice vote.
3. 2010 MASWCD Resolutions: Arndt asked supervisors if they had any suggestions for resolutions. Tabled until next month.
4. 2010 SWCD Supervisor Election- Filing period May 18<sup>th</sup> through June 1<sup>st</sup>: Wolfe and Ihlenfeld districts are open for election. News release will be going out, and posted on the website.
5. Tree Distribution, April 22-23<sup>rd</sup> – temporary tree help needed, \$10/hr: Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Hansen to approve hiring temporary help for tree distribution and pay \$10/hr. Carried by a voice vote.
6. 2010 SWCD Guidebook: Arndt showed supervisors the new 2010 SWCD Guidebook and the Steele Co. SWCD pages.
7. RIM/WRP sign up on now through May 14<sup>th</sup>: Arndt reported that Toni Reali, Freeborn NRCS, is helping with this endeavor.
8. Other: Rain Barrels, Ihlenfeld asked if we wanted any free barrels to make more rain barrels to be sold. Soil Stewardship, April 25<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>: District will be giving book marks on “Conservation Habits = Healthy Habits to the 5<sup>th</sup> graders in county. Melby will be contacting the schools in southern Steele County. Condon stated that we have a Medford team competing in the area Envirothon to be held May 5<sup>th</sup> at Chester Woods Park near Rochester.

### Agency Reports:

- Smith reported that 12 EQIP contracts have been funded. Steele Co SWCD/NRCS office won the area 7 food drive with 2,400 lbs of food donated with the help of Lakeside Foods.
- Hughes, BWSR reviewed the final state budget for 2011. All agencies were cut. The District's general services allotment was cut 8% and the cost-share grants were cut 42%.
- Kubicek stated that the county is looking at the language of the septic code and it may be changed.
- Arndt stated he was very busy with Wetland Conservation Act applications.

- Arndt stated that there will be a tree planting day at Lincoln Elementary in Owatonna on April 28<sup>th</sup>: The tubes to be used for protecting the 100 trees have been donated by Plantra. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Hansen donate 100 Bur Oak trees for the planting day. Motion was carried by voice vote.

District staff thanked Ihlenfeld for the storing of the tree planter and the drill.

Motion was made to adjourn by Melby, seconded by Klecker at 9:10 p.m. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted By:

*Susan Condon*

Sue Condon, District Administrative Secretary