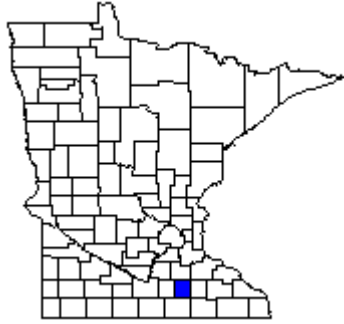


STEELE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

235 Cedardale Drive SE
Owatonna, Minnesota 55060-4417
Telephone (507) 451-6730 Ext. 3
Fax (507) 444-2421



**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 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 12, 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, Chrmn	Dan Arndt, Manager	Jim Smith, NRCS	
James Klecker, Vice-Chrmn	Eric Gulbransen	Bruce Kubicek, Co. Commissioner	
Dan Hansen, Secretary	Sue Condon, SWCD	Noel Frank, NRCS	
Dave Melby, Reporter		Justin Hanson, Cedar River Watershed District	
Kyle Wolfe, Treasurer			

The May agenda was reviewed and stays as it stands.

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

The April Treasurer’s Report (see attached) was read by Wolfe. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Klecker to approve the April 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. Tree Distribution, April 23rd: Gulbransen stated that the tree program was very well received. He will make a final income and expense report next month. Arndt reported that the District obtained certificate of liability insurance coverage for tree distribution at the Fair grounds. Also, incorporated this year was the aide of the volunteers (3) by helping check off people as they picked up their trees.

Noel Frank enters at 7:15 p.m.

2. Student Tree Planting Day at Lincoln School, April 28th: There were 88 fifth graders from Lincoln Elementary (Owatonna) participating in planting 100 bur oak trees on the school grounds. Supervisors Ihlenfeld and Melby, and employees; Frank, Gulbransen, Arndt, Smith and Waldschmidt assisted with the activity. Teachers made very favorable comments. The Plantra Company donated the tree the tree shelters.

Justin Hanson, CRWD enters 7:30

3. SE MN Area Envirothon, May 5th: Condon reported that the Medford High School team coached by Tim Larson won 3rd place in the SE area completion, located at Chester Woods Camp Grounds near Eyota. They will be going on to state Envirothon competition on May 17th near Brainerd. Hansen suggested that if they need a contribution towards expenses, maybe the District could help. Ihlenfeld stated that he would check with Mr. Larson. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Klecker to donate \$125 to the Medford team if the need should arise. Carried by a voice vote. The SE MN Envirothon committee donates \$125 to the top 3 winning area teams.
4. Crane Creek Yearly Inspection, May 10th: Ihlenfeld and Kubicek attended. Ihlenfeld stated that most of the buffered right-of-ways were intact. Discussion followed.
5. Other: Melby stated that he delivered the soil stewardship material (bookmarks and teacher education booklets) to 5th graders at Lincoln School, Blooming Prairie School and St. Isidore School. Melby, also, stated that if St. Isidore get there new play ground established, the teachers would like to set up a tree planting day.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Justin Hanson, Cedar River Watershed District: Hanson is a technician on the Mower County SWCD and spokesperson for the Cedar River Watershed District. The CRWD was formed in 2007. Steele County has just a few sections in Blooming Prairie Township that are in the CRWD. The CRWD is in the process of establishing their 10 year comprehensive plan. Hanson reviewed the cost share summary, which is being tailored like the state's cost share program. Applications for the cost share must be in to them by December 30th and implemented by June. There was discussion about rain gardens in Blooming Prairie. Hanson will get the information to the town council. Discussion followed. Ihlenfeld thanked Hanson for coming.

Hanson leaves 8:35 p.m.

2. Gulbransen presented state cost share contract to encumber: Warke, 1(08)FC Stream bank Stabilization at an estimate of \$42,789.73 with \$40,000 cost-share. This is project in the SW part of county. Discussion. Motion was made by Klecker, seconded by Melby to encumber funds for this project. Carried by a voice vote.

Radel, 3(09) Side inlet erosion control structure with \$3,000 estimated cost, cost-share being \$2,250; Grunwald, 4(09) Vegetated chute with \$5,000 estimated cost, cost-share being \$1,250. Discussion. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Klecker to encumber the money for both these project. Carried by a voice vote.

3. Cooperative Weed Management Grant Agreement: Gulbransen applied for a \$15,000 grant to manage noxious weeds and invasive trees on older RIM easements. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Hansen to approve Ihlenfeld to sign the agreement. Carried by a voice vote.
4. MN Wetland Delineators Training, June 21-22, \$325: Arndt requested permission to attend the training. Motion was made by Wolfe to approve the cost for Arndt to attend this training, seconded by Klecker. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. Filing for 2010 SWCD Supervisor Election is May 18th to June 1st: Ihlenfeld and Wolfe are the incumbents. Discussion followed.

Agency Reports: Frank and Smith: 2010 RIM/WRP is now in its ranking period. The office has had 6 applications. CSP signup had 1 person apply. Busy doing EQIP payments. Office staff and Ihlenfeld met new state conservationist on May 13th. His name is Don Baloun.

Kubicek: there will be a meeting with the landowners to see if the county should consider the Wetland Preservation Area Program. Kubicek reviewed with board the state's known reductions in ag related programs. Drastic cuts for 2011.

Staff Reports: Arndt stated that he just received a notice on a Watershed Summit to be held in St. Cloud on July 12th. After he receives more information, he will send on to the supervisors. Gulbransen stated that our state cost-share may be cut up to 40% for 2011.

Motion was made to adjourn by Hansen, seconded by Klecker at 9:40 p.m. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Sue Condon, District Administrative Secretary