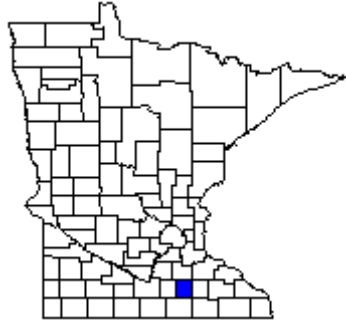


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**MINNESOTA  
 SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

The regular monthly meeting of the Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Dan Hansen at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 14, 2011 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>
Dan Hansen, Chrmn.	Sue Condon	Bruce Kubicek, Commissioner	
Mark Ihlenfeld, Treasurer	Dan Arndt	David Charles, FSA	
Dave Melby, Sec.		Noel Frank, NRCS	
Kyle Wolfe, Vice-Chrmn.			
James Klecker, Reporter			

The September agenda was reviewed and stays as it stands.

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

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Wetland Preservation Area Program Status: Arndt reported that the legislature repealed this program. We did have eight sign-ups for the program. The county commissioners suspended the program for now, so if the state decides to reinstate the program the county commissioners could do the same. Discussion followed.
2. Other: RC & D – Ihlenfeld and Kubicek attended the meeting on August 22<sup>nd</sup> in Rochester. Projects are still under way. There were 3 grazing workshops this summer and 3 community gardens (1 in Owatonna) were funded. Roger Lanzmier, former director of RC & D, stated he may be able to work for RC & D 2-3 days a month. The goat project to eliminate buckthorn was discussed.
3. Ihlenfeld attended a MASWCD meeting last month. He reported that NRCS State Conservationist, Don Baloun, was instrumental in facilitating a contribution agreement whereby MASWCD could reimburse SWCD’s for writing CRP plans. This agreement allowed for MASWCD and SWCD’s to access much needed technical assistance funding. Ihlenfeld also attended a SE MASWCD Executive Board meeting to plan the September 20<sup>th</sup> fall area meeting.

Commissioner Kubicek attended a Cannon River Watershed Partnership meeting on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>. They discussed the end of the year financial situation which has improved. On September 17<sup>th</sup> there will be a Cannon River, including the Straight River, clean-up.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. EQIP Local Work Group: Frank, NRCS DC presented the proposed priority practices for the 2012 fiscal year. Discussion followed. Group decided to not change priorities from 2011.
  1. Soil erosion
  2. Water quality
  3. Wildlife habitat
  4. Invasive species
  5. Pasture conditions & grazing concernsFrank stated that there are 3 EQIP windbreaks scheduled to be planted in 2012.
2. State Cost-share actions: Application: 9(10)FC – J. Kriesel, water and sediment basin – encumbered \$3,375; Amendment: 5(10)FC – D. Waage, grassed waterway, increase of \$1,304.11 because of unforeseen need for erosion control blanket = \$2,250 to \$3,554.11; Payment: 5(10)FC D. Waage for grassed waterway = \$3,554.11; Payment: 3(10)FC - B. Pirkl for erosion control structure = \$2,550. Discussion. Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded by Melby to approve the application, amendment and payments. Carried by a voice vote.
3. 2012 State Grant Agreements: Due to a potential cash flow problem Arndt requested to have the Chairman sign the state grant agreement when it does come in. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Klecker to approve that the Chairman sign the grant papers if they are available prior to the next Board meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. 2012 Proposed SWCD Budget: Arndt reviewed the proposed budget with the board. With a decrease in state revenues, an increase with charges for services, and the county's allocation being steady, we still need to take \$6,781 out of capitol reserves or implement furloughs to make the budget balance. Much discussion. Motion was made by Ihlenfeld, seconded by Melby to approve the purposed budget. Carried.
5. Steele Co. Local Water Management Plan 2011 Amendment: Arndt reviewed with the Board the 10 year Water Plan as amended. A public hearing to review the amended plan will be held on October 25<sup>th</sup>. The District may be assisting with the development of the new soil erosion ordinance.
6. SE MASWCD Fall meeting, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>: Motion was made by Wolfe, seconded Klecker to approve the \$15 registration fee for any supervisor or staff person wishing to go. Carried by voice vote.
7. RIM 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>: Arndt reported on the anniversary activities. The supervisors have been asked to greet the participants at the Steele County Community Center.
8. Other: Commissioner Kubicek explained the County's proposed budget. He also stated that the County administrator, Riaz Aziz, has resigned.

NRCS: Frank reported that Tony Reali will be leaving the agency in a couple weeks. He will be missed.

FSA: David Charles, FSA Director. He stated that FSA, like every other agency, has budget problems. He also stated that there has been a 10% staff reduction state wide in 2011.

Condon reported that her hard drive crashed and is being repaired.

Arndt read a thank you from the 4-H Conservation winner, Abigail Bendorf. She completed project on windbreaks.

Motion was made to adjourn by Klecker, seconded by Melby at 9:06 p.m. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be October 19th.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Sue Condon, District Administrative Secretary