Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District
112 5th Street, PO Box 161
Gaylord, MN 55334
(507) 702-7077

MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, 112 5th Street Gaylord, MN on August 11, 2026.

The meeting was called to order by Chair – Wiemann at 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chair, Paul Wiemann
Vice Chair, Robert Nielsen
Secretary, Wayne Grams
Treasurer, Kathleen Thies
Member, Loren Evenson

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher
Water Resources Coordinator, Jack Bushman
FSA – Program Analyst, Cali Schmitt
NRCS – District Conservationist, Christopher Engh
BWSR – Board Conservationist, Shane Bugeja

Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the August 2026 meeting agenda as presented. Ayes Wiemann, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the minutes of the July 2026 meeting as presented. Ayes Wiemann, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve fifty-nine paid bills for the month of July totaling $116,894.86. Ayes Wiemann, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the August 2026 Treasurer's report subject to audit. Ayes Wiemann, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

FSA Report: See attached.

NRCS Report: See attached.

BWSR Report: Bugeja reminded the Board that IDPs should be updated by October 2. He mentioned there will be a follow-up survey from the 1W1P meetings in mid-September and a related session at BWSR Academy. Soil Health Delivery 2027 will be approved by the BWSR Board this month; funds for Districts may not be available until early 2027. Lastly, Bugeja announced the dates for BWSR Academy as October 20-22.

Old Business: Wurscher mentioned that Hagberg Farms accepted the nomination for 2026 Conservationist of the Year.

New Business:

Cost Share: A request was made to enter into a contract (FY26 CC-6) toward a well sealing in Alfsborg Township. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract with the total amount authorized being 75% of the project costs, not to exceed $1,750.00. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 WBIF-22) for a WASCOB (P.S. 638) located in Sibley Township. A bid for the project came in at $17,468.29. The landowner is requesting that the watershed partnership provide cost share in the amount of $15,721.46. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 WBIF-23) for a Grade Stabilization (P.S. 410) located in Jessenland Township. A bid for the project came in at $19,973.75. The landowner is requesting that the watershed partnership provide cost share in the amount of $8,904.75, in conjunction with their EQIP contract. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

An amendment request (A-1) was made to contract FY25 WBIF-17, a cost share contract for a 3-year cover crop practice (P.S. 340). 2-year contract rates were used in the original calculation instead of 3-year contract rates. The calculation correction results in a contract amount of $22,137.50 per year and $66,412.50 total. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the A-1 amendment request. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

An amendment request (A-1) was made to contract 72-3-8, a cost share contract for a 1-year cover crop practice (P.S. 340). The contract holder requested the acres contracted be reduced from 244.1 to 174.4. The contract amount would be subsequently amended from $10,984.50 to $7,848.00. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the A-1 amendment request. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

The contract holder for FY25 CCRP-8 has requested their CCRP incentive payment. The contract is for 76.04 acres of CP23A with an incentive of $250/acre. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the requested incentive payment of $19,010.00. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

The contract holder for FY25 CCRP-9 has requested their CCRP incentive payment. The contract is for 17.59 acres of CP23A with an incentive of $250/acre. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the requested incentive payment of $4,397.50. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

The contract holder for FY25 CCRP-10 has requested their CCRP incentive payment. The contract is for 40.91 acres of CP23A with an incentive of $250/acre. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the requested incentive payment of $10,227.50. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

The contract holder for FY25 CCRP-16 has requested their CCRP incentive payment. The contract is for 17 acres of CP23A with an incentive of $250/acre. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the requested incentive payment of $4,250.00. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Annual Picnic: Wurscher led a discussion regarding this year's picnic. It was decided by the group that it be held September 8 at the Fireman's Shelter at Oak Tree Park in Gaylord. Current Commissioners and Candidates should be invited and the District will request RSVPs to appropriately plan food.

Supervisor & Staff Reports: See attached staff reports. Supervisors provided a recap of their experiences at the Sibley County fair booth this year.

Other Business:
Wurscher got RSVPs from the Board for the upcoming Area VI meeting and tour. The day will be hosted by Martin SWCD on September 1, and costs $50 per attendee.

Wurscher mentioned that he presented to the County Board earlier this week about the District's allocation request for 2027.

Discussion was had regarding the continued water damage to the ceiling in the new portion of the office.

Next Meeting: September 8, 2026, starting at 4:00 p.m., located at The Fireman's Shelter at Oak Tree Park in Gaylord, MN.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:59 p.m. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

Approved: September 8, 2026

Wayne M. Grams
Secretary