



112 5<sup>th</sup> Street, PO Box 161  
Gaylord, MN 55334  
(507) 702-7077

## MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, 112 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Gaylord, MN on  
June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

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

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

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher  
Conservation Technician, Jack Bushman  
District Conservationist - NRCS, Joel Alicea-Hernandez  
Sibley County Commissioner - Joy Cohrs

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the June agenda with one addition requested by the board. Ayes Nielsen, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the minutes of the May 2022 meeting with one correction. Ayes Nielsen, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve thirty-three paid bills for the month of May totaling \$33,192.84. Ayes Nielsen, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the June 2022 Treasurer's report subjected to audit. Ayes Nielsen, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

**Old Business:** None.

### **New Business:**

**Cost Share:** A request was made to the Board to enter into a cost-share contract with the Otto Brothers Partnership (FY22-5) for a well sealing on their property located in Transit Twp. A quote was turned in from Geib totaling \$1,600.00. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the Otto Brother's Partnership's project at a rate of 50%, not to exceed \$400.00. Ayes Nielsen, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

**CPL Grant - High Island Lake Dam:** Wurscher sent out an informational handout about the project developed by Houston Engineering. Wurscher presented to the Board a partial payment request from Land Pride Construction, LLC in the amount of \$273,763.85. This included costs of materials and work completed up to May 27<sup>th</sup>. Wurscher noted that there has been one change order for \$13,748.00 due to additional erosion control measures. All bills were approved by Houston Engineering and MN DNR prior

to taking them to the Board. Upon a motion by Thies, seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the partial payment to Land Pride Construction, LLC in the amount of \$273,763.85. Ayes Nielsen, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

**WCA:** Wurscher brought up the topic of fee schedules for WCA services. This topic was discussed at a BWSR training that Wurscher and Bushman had attended. Wurscher did some research and discovered that Le Sueur, Nicollet, and Renville Counties all had fee schedules set up. After some discussion, it was advised that Bushman and Wurscher draft up a fee schedule and bring it to the next monthly meeting for discussion/approval.

Then, Wurscher questioned the Board about the local appeals process. After a lengthy discussion with the Board, it was determined that the Board would like to remove the local appeals process and that Wurscher should speak with Lynda Ponting, Wetland Specialist with BWSR, to determine the appropriate actions to accomplish this.

**Office Equipment:** Next, it was brought up to the Board that Bushman's computer was in need of an update/upgrade. Wurscher acquired a quote from Computer Technology Solutions (CTS) on a comparable model. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was approved to move forward with the quote from CTS in the amount of \$1,477.89, which included installation fees. Ayes Nielsen, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

**Area VI Meeting:** Wurscher notified the Board that the next Area VI meeting will be hosted by Blue Earth County SWCD and will be held at the National Guard Armory in Mankato on June 28th. Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to allow any staff and Supervisors to attend the Area VI meeting. Ayes Nielsen, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

**SWCD Hats:** After some discussion by the Board, it was determined that the SWCD would purchase 20 hats with the SWCD logo on it to hand out to producers/landowners that the district works on projects with as a token of appreciation and a marketing tool. A motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Thies. Ayes Nielsen, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

**NRCS Report:** No report.

**Supervisor & Staff Report:** See attached staff reports.

**Other Business:** None.

**Next Meeting:** July 12, 2022, starting at 4 p.m., located at 112 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Gaylord, MN.

**Adjourn:** Upon a motion by Thies seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:53 p.m. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Thies, Wiemann. Carried.

Approved: July 12, 2022

---

**Secretary**