Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District
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MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, Oak Tree Park Gaylord, MN on September 8, 2026.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair – Nielsen at 3:59 p.m.

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

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher
Senior District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin
Water Resources Coordinator, Jack Bushman
Operations Specialist, Hayley Thies
NRCS – District Conservationist, Christopher Engh
BWSR – Board Conservationist, Shane Bugeja
Sibley County – Commissioner, Steve Saxton
Sibley County – Commissioner, Keith Hennen & Kimberly (spouse)
Sibley County – Commissioner, Lyle Grochow
Sibley County – Commissioner Candidate, John Pioske & Maureen (spouse)
Sibley County – Commissioner Candidate, Brad Deboer
Sibley County – Commissioner Candidate, Dan Widmer

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

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

Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve thirty-seven paid bills for the month of August totaling $90,213.43. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

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

FSA Report: See attached.

NRCS Report: See attached.

BWSR Report: Bugeja provided the following updates: registration for BWSR Academy (October 20-22) is open, IDPs need to be updated by the beginning of October, RFIs for Soil Health Delivery and

Buffer Law will open this month, and the Multipurpose Drainage Management grant remains open for applications.

Old Business: Wurscher mentioned that he has set multiple dates for Dietz Construction to assess building protection for the server, but they have not shown up. The Board expressed the urgency of safeguarding the server from water damage and suggested exploring other options.

Wurscher informed the Board that the FY 26/27 WBIF grant application was awarded and the workplan was developed.

New Business:
Cost Share: A request was made to enter into a contract (FY26 CC-7) for a two-year residue tillage management practice (P.S. 329) in Alfsborg Township. The contract covers 88.8 acres per year with a payment rate of $35/acre, amounting to $3,108.00 per year and $6,216.00 total. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (FY26 CC-8) toward a well sealing in Moltke Township. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Evenson, 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 Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 WBIF-24) for a single-year multi-species cover crop practice (P.S. 340) in Bernadotte Township. The contract covers 80 acres with a payment rate of $45/acre, amounting to $3,600.00 total. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

The contract holder for FY25 CCRP-5 has requested their CCRP incentive payment. The contract is for 6.54 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 $1,635.00. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

The contract holder for FY25 CCRP-6 has requested their CCRP incentive payment. The contract is for 15.49 acres of CP23A with an incentive of $250/acre. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the requested incentive payment of $3,872.50. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

The contract holder for FY25 CCRP-7 has requested their CCRP incentive payment. The contract is for 18.15 acres of CP23A with an incentive of $250/acre. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the requested incentive payment of $4,537.50. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

The contract holder for FY25 CCRP-11 has requested their CCRP incentive payment. The contract is for 1.98 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 $495.00. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

The contract holder for FY25 CCRP-12 has requested their CCRP incentive payment. The contract is for 6.8 acres of CP23A with an incentive of $250/acre. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the requested incentive payment of $1,700.00. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

The contract holder for FY25 CCRP-13 has requested their CCRP incentive payment. The contract is for 15.2 acres of CP23A with an incentive of $250/acre. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the requested incentive payment of $3,800.00. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

The contract holder for FY25 CCRP-14 has requested their CCRP incentive payment. The contract is for 55.47 acres of CP23 with an incentive of $250/acre. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the requested incentive payment of $13,867.50. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

The contract holder for FY25 CCRP-15 has requested their CCRP incentive payment. The contract is for 10.8 acres of CP23A with an incentive of $250/acre. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the requested incentive payment of $2,700.00. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

The contract holder for FY25 CCRP-17 has requested their CCRP incentive payment. The contract is for 22.1 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 $2,500.00. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

The contract holder for PWP-8 has requested their well water treatment cost share payment. The contract is for a water treatment system in Lafayette Township. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the requested cost share payment of $3,000.00. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Peer to Peer Mentor Program: The contract holder for SHC-FY24-72-04 has requested payment of their contract. TSA confirmed that the mentor completed their 40-hour requirement for the contract. The payment rate for the contract is $75/hour. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the requested cost share of $3,000. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (SHC-FY24-72-07). The contract will run from September 13, 2026, to September 12, 2027. The contract will require 40 hours of peer-to-peer mentorship and will be paid at a rate of $75/hour. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

The contract holder for SHC-FY24-72-05 has requested payment of their contract. TSA confirmed that the mentor completed their 40-hour requirement for the contract. The payment rate for the contract is $75/hour. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the requested cost share of $3,000. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (SHC-FY24-72-08). The contract will run from September 13, 2026, to September 12, 2027. The contract will require 40 hours of peer-to-peer mentorship and will be paid at a rate of $75/hour. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

The contract holder for SHC-FY24-72-06 has requested payment of their contract. TSA confirmed that the mentor completed their 40-hour requirement for the contract. The payment rate for the contract is $75/hour. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the requested cost share of $3,000. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (SHC-FY24-72-09). The contract will run from October 17, 2026, to October 16, 2027. The contract will require 40 hours of peer-to-peer mentorship and will be paid at a rate of $75/hour. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Supervisor & Staff Reports: See attached staff reports.

Other Business:

Wurscher requested that staff be allowed to attend BWSR Academy from October 20-22 at Cragun's. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Grams, it was moved to allow staff to attend the training. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Next Meeting: October 13, 2026, starting at 4:00 p.m., located at 112 5th St, Gaylord, MN.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:39 p.m. Ayes Nielsen, K. Thies, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

Approved: October 13, 2026

Wayne D Grams

Secretary