



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 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

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

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

**Others Present:** District Manager, Joel Wurscher  
District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin  
Water Resources Coordinator, Jack Bushman  
Conservation Technician, Tara O'Brien  
FSA-Program Technician, Hayley Theriault  
NRCS-District Conservationist, Reyna Chavez

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the June 2024 agenda as presented. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the minutes of the May 2024 meeting. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve thirty-two paid bills for the month of May totaling \$84,235.01. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the June 2024 Treasurer's report subjected to audit. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

**Old Business:** None.

**FSA Report:** See attached.

**NRCS Report:** See attached.

### **New Business:**

The contract holder for SH FY23-2 has requested the first year's payment for 79 acres of no-till/strip-till in the amount of \$1,330.36. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the payment request in the amount of \$1,330.36. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Next, the contract holder for FY23-2 has requested their first year's payment for 89 acres of no-till/strip-till in the amount of \$1,498.76. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the payment request for the amount of \$1,498.76. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

The contract holder for FY23 WBIF-13 has requested their full payment (3-year contract) for 496.4 acres per year of no-till/strip-till which totals \$44,676.00. Upon a motion by Evenson and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the FY23 WBIF-13 payment for the amount of \$44,676.00. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Recently, the well had been sealed for contract FY23-3 and a request for final payment came in. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the final payment for the state cost share contract (FY23-3) at the rate of \$550.00. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

A request was then made to enter into a 3-year contract (FY23 WBIF-17) towards 237 acres per year of a multi-species mix of cover crops (\$55/ac.) located in Green Isle and Washington Lake townships. Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the requested cover crop cost share contract with the total amount authorized being \$39,105.00. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

**Soil Health Delivery Program:** Wurscher gave some background information relating to the request for interest (RFI) about the soil health funding aimed to increase awareness and participation among soil health practices. The RFI came out from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and has a deadline for submittal of July 2<sup>nd</sup>. After some discussion, a motion was made by Wiemann and seconded by Evenson, moving to approve requesting the full \$80,000 of the soil health delivery funding. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

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

Nielsen mentioned that he had been attending area Director's meetings in place of Mark Schnobrich. Schnobrich had discussed with Nielsen his desire to step down as the Area VI Director. Schnobrich also inquired if there was any interest for the position of Director from Sibley.

**Other Business:** The group discussed the MN DNR's shallow lakes tour taking place in Sibley County on Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Wurscher gave a very brief update on the HF5220/SF5251 regarding funding put towards aging RIM easements with failing structural wetland restoration practices.

Then, Wurscher updated the Board with the latest regarding the office expansion. Wurscher presented the quotes from several contractors provided by the building owner as well as their contract proposal to cover the new construction. No Board actions were taken, and several other options/ideas were discussed.

**Next Meeting:** July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, starting at 4 p.m., located at 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN.

**Adjourn:** Upon a motion by Thies seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:28 p.m. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Approved: July 9, 2024

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Secretary