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## MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, 112 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Gaylord, MN on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

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

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

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

Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the July 2024 agenda, with one minor change of moving the Supervisor/Staff reports preceding old business. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

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

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve thirty-nine paid bills for the month of June totaling \$91,784.52. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

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

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

**Old Business:** Wurscher provided an update to the Board with the latest regarding the office expansion. Wurscher presented to the Board the updated lease agreement that has went through numerous negotiations. After some discussion, a motion was made by Wiemann and second by Thies, to sign and move forward with the updated lease agreement as presented. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

**FSA Report:** See attached.

**NRCS Report:** See attached.

**New Business:**

A request was made to enter into a 3-year contract (FY24 CC-1, FY25 CC-1) towards 116 acres per year of a multi-species mix of cover crops (\$55/ac.) located in Kelso Twp. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the requested cover crop cost share contract with the total amount authorized being \$19,140. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

Next, a request was made to enter into a contract for a grade stabilization structure (P.S. 410) and grassed waterway (P.S. 412) located in Henderson Twp. A bid for the project came in at \$64,285.13. The landowner is requesting that the watershed partnership provide cost share in the amount of \$21,302.13, in conjunction with their EQIP contract. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the request. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

**Sibley County Budget Request:** Prior to the meeting, Wurscher worked with the budget committee members to put together the FY25 request. Wurscher included some handouts for review in the Board packet and provided a bit of background information to the full board justifying this year's request.

**2024 Conservationists of the Year:** After some brief discussion, a motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Grams to nominate Karl Schauer as the 2024 Sibley SWCD outstanding conservationist of the year. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

**Annual SWCD Picnic:** The Board agreed to hold the annual picnic in conjunction with the August monthly board meeting at the Fireman's shelter located at Oak Tree Park in Gaylord. The Board decided to move the meeting/picnic to Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, instead of the typical second Tuesday of the month. Lastly, it was decided to extend the invitation to all current County Commissioners.

**Other Business:** Wurscher passed around the 2024 Sibley County fair booth schedule.

**Next Meeting:** August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, starting at 4 p.m., located at the Fireman's Shelter in Oak Tree Park along Lake Titlow.

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

Approved: August 12, 2024

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Secretary