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MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, Sportsman's Park, 387th Ave. Arlington, MN on September 9, 2025.

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

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

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher
Senior District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin
Water Resources Coordinator, Jack Bushman
Operations Specialist, Hayley Thies
FSA – County Executive Director, Jennifer King
NRCS – District Conservationist, Chris Engh
BWSR – Board Conservationist, Shane Bugeja
HICWD – Ditch Inspector, Allen Kerber
HICWD – Member, Gary Polzin

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the September 2025 meeting agenda as presented. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the minutes of the August 2025 meeting as presented. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve thirty-five paid bills for the month of August totaling \$55,799.59. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the September 2025 Treasurer's report subjected to audit. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

FSA Report: See attached.

NRCS Report: See attached.

BWSR Report: Bugeja informed the Board that RCPP is underway for soil health practices and that the funds for programs and operations grants are forthcoming.

Old Business: Wurscher mentioned that he has been talking with several IT companies about server options and future IT services. It was determined that the purchase of a new server will be delayed until a new IT company is hired. Purchasing a new copier will be the current priority.

New Business:

Cost Share: A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 WBIF-11) for a 3-year residue tillage management practice (P.S. 329) in Bernadotte, New Sweden, and Lake Prairie West Townships. The contract covers 288 acres with a payment rate of \$35/acre, amounting to \$10,080/year and \$30,240 total. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 WBIF-12) for a 3-year multi-species cover crop practice (P.S. 340) in Bernadotte, New Sweden, and Lake Prairie West Townships. The contract covers 288 acres with a payment rate of \$55/acre, amounting to \$15,840/year and \$47,520 total. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 CCRP-3) for a Continuous CRP contract incentive of \$250/acre. The contract is for a CP23A practice of 21 acres, with a contract length of 15 years. The project lands within a high priority area for altered hydrology in Green Isle Township. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the requested incentive contract for a total of \$13,280. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

Wurscher provided an update on RCPP contracts approved since the last Board meeting.

- 72-1-5, 3-year multi-species cover crop practice (P.S. 340), 200 acres in Severance Township at \$45/acre, \$9,000/year and \$27,000 total.
- 72-1-6, 3-year residue tillage management practice (P.S. 329), 200 acres in Severance Township at \$35/acre, \$7,000/year and \$21,000 total.
- 72-1-7, 3-year multi-species cover crop practice (P.S. 340), 38.9 acres in Moltke Township at \$45/acre, \$1,361.50/year and \$4,084.50 total.
- 72-1-8, 3-year multi-species cover crop practice (P.S. 340), 136.8 acres in Washington Lake and Jessenland Townships at \$45/acre, \$6,156/year and \$18,468 total.
- 72-1-9, 1-year multi-species cover crop practice (P.S. 340), 264.5 acres in Dryden and Sibley Townships at \$45/acre, \$11,899.50 total.

Peer to Peer Mentorship Program: The contract holder for SHC-FY24-72-01 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 Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the requested cost share of \$3,000. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (SHC-FY24-72-05). The contract will run from September 11, 2025, to September 12, 2026. 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 Wiemann, it was moved to approve the requested cost share of \$3,000. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

Area VI Meeting: Wurscher made a request to the Board to allow attendance of all employees and supervisors at the upcoming Area IV meeting and tour. The meeting and tour will be hosted by Renville SWCD in Olivia on September 30, 2025. A motion was made by Wiemann and seconded by K. Thies, approving the request. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

Supervisor & Staff Reports: See attached staff reports.

Other Business: Wurscher made a request to the Board to allow attendance of all employees at the upcoming BWSR Academy held from October 21 – October 23 in Brainerd. A motion was made by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, approving the request. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

Wurscher made a request to the Board to allow attendance of all employees and supervisors at the upcoming Annual Convention held from December 1 – December 3 in Minneapolis. A motion was made by Grams and seconded by K. Thies, approving the request. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

Next Meeting: October 14, 2025, starting at 4:00 p.m., located at 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by Wiemann seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 p.m. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

Approved: October 14, 2025


Secretary

