



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

MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN on February 13th, 2024.

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

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

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher
District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin
Water Resources Coordinator, Jack Bushman
FSA-County Executive Director, Jennifer King

Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the February 2024 agenda with the addition of an FSA report. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

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

Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve thirty-five paid bills for the month of January totaling \$47,159.03. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

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

Old Business: Wurscher provided the board with a recap of the changes to the new MJPA (effective 2024-2029) between BWSR and LGU's working on implementation of easement programs. Some of the new changes would remedy several of the issues discussed at recent past Sibley SWCD board meetings. Wurscher dovetailed that discussion with a brief update on the outstanding non-compliance issues with several RIM easements.

NRCS Report: See attached.

FSA Report: See attached.

New Business:

Safe Drinking Water for Private Well Users Grant: Listening to concerns from the Board over groundwater quality and building off a 2020 grant application, Bushman sought out the MDH grant opportunity and organized a partnership between Sibley and Nicollet County Public Health Departments and SWCDs, MWOO, MGWA, and MVTL. This proposal includes three main components; education

and outreach, free well testing, and cost share assistance for treatment. A motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, moving to approve submittal of the 2024 safe drinking water for private well users grant proposal with the addition of acting as the fiscal agent for the grant in the case it is received. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

2023 SWCD Audit: Wurscher presented to the Board an audit bid by Peterson Company, LTD for FY23. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve Peterson Company, LTD's audit bid in the amount of \$3,550. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

Area VI Dues: Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve paying \$400 in dues towards the Area VI Association of SWCDs. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

MACDE Dues: Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve paying the 2024 MACDE dues for four employees (\$25/each). Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

South Central TSA – Grant Match: Wurscher presented to the Board an invoice from the South Central Technical Service Area towards grant cash match for the FY24 NPEA & enhanced shared services grants. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the match contribution in the amount of \$3,550.00. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

CRP Contribution Agreement: Wurscher described to the Board the potential opportunity to again work on a CRP contribution agreement with NRCS. Wurscher stated that Sibley County has 79 expiring contracts slated, so the District would have the potential to earn \$11,850.00 (\$150 per site). Wurscher mentioned that there could be a possibility for the agreement to also include CRP cost share practice certifications at the same rate per site. A motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, to give Wurscher the authority to sign a contribution agreement with NRCS for the services discussed, when presented to the District. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

Supervisor & Staff Reports: Nielsen reported that he attended a MASWCD legislative meeting. During this meeting he said there was a lot of talk about the lack of money to address issues with older easements. The group then discussed some RIM easements with similar problems located within Sibley County. See attached staff reports.

Other Business: Wurscher updated the group on Blue Earth SWCD submitting a grant application on behalf of Area VI towards a soil health staffing grant. Wurscher described what potential services this position could provide Sibley SWCD in the case the proposal is approved.

Wurscher then provided a quick update on the progress towards the office expansion.

Next Meeting: March 12th, 2024, starting at 4 p.m., located at 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by Nielsen seconded by Grams, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 p.m. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

Approved: March 12, 2024

Secretary