Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District
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 October 13, 2026.

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

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

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher
Senior District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin
FSA – County Executive Director, Jennifer King
NRCS – District Conservationist, Christopher Engh

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

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

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve fifty paid bills for the month of September totaling $90,654.83. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Thies, Evenson. Carried.

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

NRCS Report: See attached.

BWSR Report: No report.

Old Business: Wurscher informed the Board that Jake Behnke completed the server room project on September 28.

FSA Report: See attached.

New Business:
Cost Share: A request was made to cancel contract 72-1-9 for a one-year multi-species cover crop practice (P.S. 340) on 264.5 acres in Dryden and Sibley Townships. The contract holder did not meet the seeding deadline required of the practice for the second straight year. Upon a motion by Nielsen and

seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the cancellation of the cost share contract. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Thies, Evenson. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 WBIF-25) for a Pond (P.S. 378) located in Faxon Township. A bid for the project came in at $43,994.00. The landowner is requesting that the watershed partnership provides cost share in the amount of $39,594.60. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Thies, Evenson. Carried.

MS4Front: Wurscher presented a possible agreement with Houston Engineering Inc to develop a customized tracking tool for the LMRW Watershed. Building the tool will cost $12,000.00 and there is a $6,000.00 annual subscription fee, the funding for which will come from WBIF grants. Both the LIWG and PAC Chair suggested the agreement be sent to the fiscal Board for approval. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to enter into the agreement with HEI to purchase MS4Front. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Thies, Evenson. Carried.

MASWCD Convention and Resolutions: Wurscher requested that staff and supervisors be permitted to attend the 2026 MASWCD Annual Convention from November 30 – December 2 in Minneapolis. Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to allow attendance for interested staff and supervisors. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Wurscher also provided the Board with information on the proposed MASWCD 2026 resolutions. After a discussion on the proposed topics, each Board member made a plan to have their votes submitted by the November 1 deadline.

Local Cost Share Policy: Wurscher presented the updated local cost share policy to the board. Discussion was had about the changes from the previous policy. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the updated policy. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Supervisor & Staff Reports: Thies provided a recap of recent Area VI Awards Committee discussions.

See attached staff reports.

Other Business: None

Next Meeting: November 10, 2026, starting at 4:00 p.m., located at 112 5th St, Gaylord, MN.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:44 p.m. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Approved: November 10, 2026

Wayne R. Thies
Secretary