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MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, 112 5th Street Gaylord, MN on July 14, 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
Water Resources Coordinator, Jack Bushman
Operations Specialist, Hayley Thies
FSA – County Executive Director, Jennifer King
NRCS – District Conservationist, Christopher Eng
BWSR – Board Conservationist, Shane Bugeja
Sibley County – County Commissioner, Steve Saxton

Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the July 2026 meeting agenda with the addition of the Clear Lake AIS Project and the cancellation of the Conservation Technician Position. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

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

Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve fifty-seven paid bills for the month of June totaling \$174,215.01. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

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

FSA Report: See attached.

NRCS Report: See attached.

BWSR Report: Bugeja informed the Board that the cost share workbook has been updated and a prevailing wage cover sheet is now available for Districts to share with contract holders. Other updates included that multipurpose drainage management grants are available until August and the next round of WBIF funding is available to request.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Cost Share: A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 WBIF-17) for a three-year residue tillage management practice (P.S. 329) in Lake Prairie East Township. The contract covers 317 acres per year with a payment rate of \$35/acre, amounting to \$11,095.00 per year and \$33,285.00 total. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 WBIF-18) for a 3-year multi-species cover crop practice (P.S. 340) in Lake Prairie East Township. The contract covers 402.5 acres per year with a payment rate of \$50/acre, amounting to \$20,125.00 per year and \$60,375.00 total. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 WBIF-19) for a 3-year residue tillage management practice (P.S. 329) in Lake Prairie East Township. The contract covers 85.5 acres per year with a payment rate of \$35/acre, amounting to \$2,992.50 per year and \$8,977.50 total. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 WBIF-20) for 2 WASCOBs (P.S. 638), a Grade Stabilization (P.S. 410), and a Grassed Waterway (P.S. 412) located in Arlington Township. A bid for the project came in at \$68,265.00. The landowner is requesting that the watershed partnership provide cost share in the amount of \$44,746.00, in conjunction with their EQIP contract. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 WBIF-21) for a Grade Stabilization (P.S. 410) located in Arlington Township. A bid for the project came in at \$18,410.00. The landowner is requesting that the watershed partnership provide cost share in the amount of \$7,421, in conjunction with their EQIP contract. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

A request was made to cancel contract 72-2-1 for a 3-year residue tillage management practice (P.S. 329) on 178.2 acres in Dryden, Henderson, and Sibley Townships. The contract holder could not acquire the necessary equipment to complete the practice. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the cancellation of the cost share contract. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

An amendment request (A-1) was made to contract 72-2-3, a cost share contract for a 3-year residue tillage management practice (P.S. 329) on 177.5 acres in Dryden Township. The practice was completed on 86.5 of the acres originally planned in the contract, and the contract holder would like to reduce the contract to a 1-year agreement so they can potentially contract on additional acres for future years. Wurscher suggested the amended contract have an end date of December 31, 2026. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the A-1 amendment request. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

With the amendment approved, the contract holder for 72-2-3 requested payment toward the contract. Upon a motion Nielsen and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the payment of \$3,027.50. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

An amendment request (A-1) was made to contract 72-2-4, a cost share contract for a 3-year residue tillage management practice (P.S. 329) on 359.2 acres in Cornish Township. There was a calculation error on the total amount of the original contract; the correct total for the practice is \$12,572.00 per year and

\$37,716.00 total. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the A-1 amendment request. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.
With the amendment approved, the contract holder for 72-2-4 requested the first-year payment toward the contract. Upon a motion Nielsen and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the payment of \$12,572.00. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

The contract holder for PWP-7 has requested their well water treatment cost share payment. The contract is for a water treatment system in Lake Prairie West Township. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the requested cost share payment of \$3,000.00. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Supervisor & Staff Reports: See attached staff reports.

New Business Continued:

Well Sealing Policy: Wurscher provided an overview of the current policy and examples of neighboring counties' policies. After some discussion, a motion was made by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen to increase the cap from \$1,000 to \$1,750 per well. The cost share rate shall remain 75% and the District will do targeted outreach to pollution sensitive areas in the county. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

2026 Conservationist of the Year: A discussion was held regarding the candidates for conservationist of the year. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to honor Hagberg Farms with the 2026 award. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Sibley County Fair: H. Thies provided the Board with a sign-up sheet for shifts at the fair booth. The group discussed the addition of the TV presentation to the booth and the swag items that will be available this year. The Sibley County Fair is July 30 – August 2. The District will also represent the watershed at the Nicollet County Fair August 12-16 and the McLeod County Fair August 20-23.

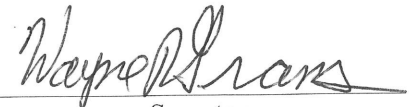
Clear Lake AIS Project: Wurscher informed the Board that the AIS project at Clear Lake has been completed. The practice was certified by Houston Engineering Inc., and the contractor has requested final payment. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to pay the contractor the requested \$9,470.00. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Other Business: None

Next Meeting: August 11, 2026, starting at 4:00 p.m., located at 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 p.m. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Approved: August 11, 2026


Secretary