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## MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, Conference Call on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

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

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

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher  
District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin  
Conservation Technician, Jack Bushman  
District Conservationist - NRCS, April Sullivan  
Board Conservationist – BWSR, Jenny Mocol-Johnson

Before the pledge of allegiance, Wurscher stated that the board meeting would be in accordance to Minnesota Statute 13D.021. Wurscher followed that by announcing the meeting would be conducted by telephone due to the health pandemic and declared emergency. An in-person meeting would not be practical or prudent.

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the January agenda. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Thies, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the minutes of the December 2020 meeting. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Thies, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Thies it was moved to approve thirty-nine paid bills for the month of December totaling \$59,308.36. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Thies, Wiemann. Carried.

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the January 2021 Treasurer's report subjected to audit. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Thies, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

**Old Business:** The topic of committee assignments was once again brought forth to the Board. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve keeping the committee assignments the same as they were in 2020, with only one change of dropping the EQIP committee. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Thies, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

**Cost Share:** Marlene Moeller's well has been sealed by Geib Well and Water Services. The total cost of the sealing came in at \$750.00 and Marlene is requesting final cost share payment in the amount of \$350.00. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve for final payment

(FY21-2) at a rate of \$350.00. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Thies, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

Bruce Platzs' (CAP19-8) water and sediment control basin was finished by Lafayette Excavating. The total project cost came in at \$5,207.37, with EQIP paying \$3,318.67. Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve final payment from the district of \$586.86. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Thies, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the cancellation of contract CAP19-7 (Bruce Platz) due to the amount of cost share provided by EQIP exceeding 75%. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Thies, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

**MASWCD Dues:** The District received an invoice for the 2021 MASWCD Dues in the amount of \$3,338.27. This amount was up \$205.56 from the 2020 invoice. Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Nielsen it was moved to approve this payment. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Thies, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

**2021 SWCD Annual Plan:** A draft of the plan was sent out prior to the board meeting for review. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the 2021 Sibley SWCD Annual Plan as presented. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Thies, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

**2021 NSLMP:** Wurscher sent out copies of the NSLMP policy and implementation request prior to the board meeting. Thies questioned why the District had to go with a 3-year contract. She recalled that at one time, 1-year contracts were offered through the District through Watershed funds. Mocal-Johnson explained why BWSR only allows Districts to only offer the 3-year option. Upon a motion made by Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the 2021 NSLMP policy. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Thies, Grams, Wiemann. Carried. Upon a motion made by Grams and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the FY21 implementation request. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Thies, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

**Financial Audit – Peterson Company, LTD:** Copies of the 2019 year end audit were sent out by Wurscher in the Board packets. Wiemann asked if Wurscher had just received these. Wurscher replied that he picked them up in the mail just prior to sending out the meeting notices. Wurscher also presented to the Board an audit bid for the 2020 year end by Peterson Company LTD. Grams asked if this bid was similar to last year's and Wurscher replied that it was the exact same amount. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Thies it was moved to approve this financial audit report. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Thies, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

**NRCS Report:** Sullivan started her report by informing the Board that they had opened up a SCT position up in Litchfield. The position was unfilled, but more positions are being opened up for direct hire. Sullivan then gave a brief COVID-19 update and how it is impacting the office. Sullivan then noted that between Nicollet and Sibley, NRCS has 32 EQIP applications. She mentioned that fall construction went well on already contracted projects. Sullivan stated that currently a General CRP sign-up is going on through February 12<sup>th</sup>. She concluded with an update on CSP.

**Supervisor & Staff Report:** See attached.

**Other Business:** Wurscher informed the Board that resolution 2020-6 was passed meaning that MASWCD will now seek legislation to allow SWCD's to increase their per diem to a maximum of \$150. Wurscher stated that the last per diem increase was in 2003.

**Next Meeting:** February 9, 2021, starting at 4 p.m., via conference call.

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

Approved: February 9, 2021

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Secretary