



MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, Conference Call on **April 14, 2020**.

The meeting was called to order by Chair – Evenson at 4:02 p.m.

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

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher
Board Conservationist – BWSR, Jenny Mocol-Johnson

After the pledge of allegiance, Wurscher stated that the board meeting would be in accordance to MN 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 Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the April agenda. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Thies, Nielsen. Carried.

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

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen it was moved to approve 22 paid bills for the month of March totaling \$48,595.99. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson. Carried.

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the April 2020 Treasurer's report subjected to audit. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann. Carried.

Old Business: None.

Cost Share: A request was presented to the Board to enter into a second cost-share contract with Lyle Black (FY19CWF-20) for a well sealing on his property located in Severance Twp. Lyle had a quote from Schaefer Well Co. of \$350.00. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the contract for Lyle Black at 50% or \$175.00, whichever comes in less. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson. Carried.

Another request was presented to the Board to enter into a cost-share contract, this time with Allen Fredin (FY19CWF-21). The well sealing would be on his property located in Dryden Twp. Allen had a quote from Geib Well and Water Services of \$800.00. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the contract for Allen Fredin at a rate of \$334.21, the remaining balance of the grant. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson. Carried.

Signing Authority – BWSR Grants: Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve giving Wurscher signing authority for BWSR grants. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson. Carried.

Covid-19: Wurscher gave a recap of SWCD operations during this time period of the pandemic. He also gave an update of NRCS and FSA operating procedures. Wurscher then announced a few requests staff have made due to

them working from home. It was determined by the board to have Wurscher inquire from each staff member what supplies or phone use had/has occurred while working from home. To aid in determining what would be fair, the board also would like Wurscher to investigate what other surrounding SWCDs and Sibley County are doing to compensate employees during the pandemic.

Tree Program Update: Wurscher read off a report that was submitted to him from Buckentin. At this point, the tree program is \$780.37 in the hole prior to pick-up day. Wurscher explained the district can make up some of that difference with the sales of extras the day of pick-up. This year, the district made \$10.44 more from online orders, sold 11 less plant kits, and overall has 21 orders less than last year. Buckentin supplied several changes for next year's program.

NRCS Report: Wurscher spoke with Sullivan to get an NRCS update. Sullivan had received a letter from the State Conservationist stating she has been named the point of contact for NRCS matters relating to Nicollet and Sibley Counties. Sullivan added that this was a way to keep the "legacy" District Conservationist at a grade 12.

Supervisor & Staff Report: Wurscher read to the board a report submitted by Otto. See attached.

Other Business: Upon a motion by Wiemann seconded by Thies, it was moved to pass Resolution 2020-001 stating that Sibley SWCD will not participate but supports efforts towards an application for a 1W1P planning grant within the South Fork Crow/Buffalo Creek Watershed. Ayes Wiemann, Evenson, Thies, Nielsen. Carried.

Upon a motion by Nielsen seconded by Thies, it was moved to close the meeting at 4:56 p.m to discuss personnel items. Ayes Wiemann, Evenson, Thies, Nielsen. Carried. Discussion amongst the board occurred concluding with a motion being made by Nielsen, seconded by Wiemann, to have a solution/resolution to the personnel topic by the end of April 2020. At 5:39 p.m. a motion was made by Nielsen seconded by Thies, moving to open the meeting back up to the public. Ayes Wiemann, Evenson, Thies, Nielsen. Carried.

Next Meeting: May 12, 2020, starting at 4 p.m., location TBD.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by Wiemann seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m. Ayes Wiemann, Evenson, Thies, Nielsen. Carried.

Approved: May 12, 2020

Secretary