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MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, Conference Call on February 9th, 2021.

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
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 Nielsen, it was moved to approve the February agenda. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Thies, Wiemann. Carried.

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the minutes of the January 2021 meeting. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Thies, Wiemann. Carried.

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Thies it was moved to approve twenty-six paid bills for the month of January totaling \$27,848.20. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Thies, Wiemann. Carried.

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

Old Business: None.

Cost Share: A request was made from Kevin Thies (FY21-3) to enter into a contract for 80 acres of cover crop on several properties located in Arlington/Kelso Twp. Cost share for single species cover crop is \$34.61/ac. Over the 3-year time span, the total would come to \$8,306.40. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Evenson it was moved to approve Kevin's cost share request. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Tree Program Update: Buckentin reported that up to this point, the District has had 32 orders totaling

\$4,100 in sales. Buckentin disclosed that he has started posting on Facebook and sending out emails to the SWCD's mailing list detailing what trees were still available. Buckentin then said that pick-up dates have now been set for April 22nd-23rd, while the plant kits are yet to be determined but most likely will be mid-May.

2021 Legislative Day at the Capitol: Wurscher discussed with the Board the MASWCD legislative platform by describing each priority. Then, Wurscher informed the Board about the Legislative Briefing event that is scheduled for March 18th. After some discussion it was determined that the Board declined participation in the scheduled event but urged Wurscher to send an email or letter to House Member Gruenhagen and Senator Newman.

NRCS Report: Sullivan started her report by informing the Board that a selection was made for the SCT position up in Litchfield. Sullivan then described FSA/NRCS – Gaylord Service Center moving into Covid-19 Phase I. She explained that Phase III is when the public will be let into the building. As for programs, Sullivan stated that they have been busy EQIP planning and finishing up with CSP payments. Sullivan announced that the current General CRP sign-up has been extended with no deadline given. She also eluded to Biden increasing the CRP acreage cap by 30% nation-wide.

Supervisor & Staff Report: See attached Bushman and Buckentin reports.

Thies asked Jack if most people responded to the 1W1P survey via mail or online. Bushman responded that of the approximately 250 responses, 200 of them have been online. Wiemann complemented the efforts that have been made to make the 1W1P process run so smoothly up to this point.

Mocol-Johnson reported to the Board that she has been busy finalizing end of the year eLINK reporting. She stated that she has a contracts training refresher course planned for the area she represents with details on that coming out soon. She went on to announcement BWSR holding a training similar to BWSR academy.

Other Business: Wurscher alerted the Board that the County Ditch Inspector had sent out over one hundred and twenty non-compliance letters towards the public ditches (16.5ft buffer) on February 8th. He also stated that he would be sending out the public waters non-compliance letters to nine landowners by February 15th.

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

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

Approved: March 9, 2021

Secretary