



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
March 8th, 2022.

The meeting was called to order by Chair – Nielsen at 3:58 p.m.

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

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher
 District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin
 Sibley County Commissioner, Joy Cohrs

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

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the minutes of the February 2022 meeting. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve twenty-one paid bills for the month of February totaling \$22,260.13. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the March 2022 Treasurer's report subjected to audit. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

SWCD Aid Funding: Wurscher reviewed the handout that was included in the board packet detailing the SWCD aid funding proposal. He added that he had sent out letters to Senator Newman and Representative Gruenhagen, since no representatives from the District were going to be present at SWCD legislative day. Some discussion ensued surrounding the District's funding mechanisms and potential changes that may impact the County. Nielsen instructed Wurscher to keep the board informed about any news regarding this funding proposal.

Conservation Partners Program Grant: Wurscher informed the board about a potential partnership opportunity to work with the MN Soil Health Coalition on several workshops/events. The Coalition applied for a Conservation Partners Program Grant in the amount of \$250,000 that would run for three

years. The goal of the grant would be to host a total of 24 workshops/events focusing on Southern MN Counties. Wurscher had submitted a letter of support on behalf of Sibley SWCD.

Tree Program Update: Buckentin provided an update on the tree program. Buckentin stated the District had a total of 85 orders equating to \$15,378.00 in sales. He added that the District has sold 86% of their inventory so far. Some discussion proceeded regarding this year's demand for trees and the shortages at the nursery level. Buckentin told the Board that he will be placing next year's order immediately after wrapping up this year's program.

NRCS Report: See attached.

Supervisor & Staff Report: See attached.

Other Business: Wurscher notified the Board that the next Area VI meeting will be hosted by Faribault County SWCD located at Turner Hall in New Ulm, on Wednesday, April 6th. Wurscher asked for a head count of those that plan on attending so that he could submit the registration prior to March 29th. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams it was moved to approve any interested staff and Supervisors to attend the Area VI Meeting. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

Wurscher informed the board that he had presented on CRP at a crop management meeting held in Lafayette. He stated that this meeting was held by U of M Extension and was well attended.

Wurscher reminded the board members that they need to turn in their quarterly expense reports by the end of the month.

Next Meeting: April 12, 2022, starting at 4 p.m., located at 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by Wiemann seconded by Thies, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 p.m. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

Approved: April 12, 2022

Secretary