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MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN on
August 12, 2025.

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

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

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher
Senior District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin
Water Resources Coordinator, Jack Bushman
Conservation Technician, Tara O'Brien
Operations Specialist, Hayley Thies
FSA – Lead Program Analyst, Cassidy Battcher
NRCS – District Conservationist, Chris Engh
BWSR – Board Conservationist, Shane Bugeja

Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the August 2025 meeting agenda as presented. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the minutes of the July 2025 meeting as presented. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve forty-nine paid bills for the month of July totaling \$65,069.81. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the August 2025 Treasurer's report subjected to audit. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

FSA Report: See attached.

NRCS Report: See attached.

BWSR Report: Bugeja informed the Board that RCPP is underway for soil health practices and that the FY22/23 WBIF reconciliation went very well. He is continually checking up on the watershed's final 10% payment from the FY22/23 grant.

Old Business: Wurscher mentioned that he has been talking with several IT companies about server options and future IT services. An update with complete figures will be provided at the next meeting.

Wurscher explained to the Board the copier issues the office has experienced lately. A motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by K. Thies to allow the District Manager approval authority to purchase a new machine when the time comes.

New Business:

Cost Share: The contract holder for FY25 CCRP-1 has requested their CCRP incentive payment. The contract is for 5.83 acres of CP23A with an incentive of \$250/acre. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the requested incentive payment of \$1,457.50. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 WBIF-7) for a WASCOB (P.S. 638) located in Henderson Township. A bid for the project came in at \$8,712.95. The landowner is requesting that the watershed partnership provide cost share in the amount of \$5,933.95, in conjunction with their EQIP contract. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 WBIF-13) for a WASCOB (P.S. 638) located in Bernadotte Township. A bid for the project came in at \$20,340. The landowner is requesting that the watershed partnership provide 90% cost share in the amount of \$18,306, in conjunction with a 10% landowner match. An administrative change occurred to name this contract FY25 WBIF-13 at the meeting. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 WBIF-8) for a 1-year multi-species cover crop practice (P.S. 340) in Round Grove Township. The contract covers 160 acres with a payment rate of \$45/acre, totaling \$7,200. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 WBIF-9) for a 3-year no till/strip till practice (P.S. 329) in Martinsburg Township. The contract covers 44 acres with a payment rate of \$35/acre, amounting to \$1,540/year and \$4,620 total. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 WBIF-10) for a 3-year single species cover crop practice (P.S. 340) in Martinsburg Township. The contract covers 44 acres with a payment rate of \$45/acre, amounting to \$1,890/year and \$5,940 total. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (72-1-1) for a 1-year single species cover crop practice (P.S. 340) in Dryden Township. The contract covers 76.4 acres with a payment rate of \$35/acre, totaling \$2,674. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (72-1-2) for a 1-year single species cover crop practice (P.S. 340) in Dryden Township. The contract covers 73.0 acres with a payment rate of \$35/acre, totaling \$2,555. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (72-1-3) for a 1-year multi-species cover crop practice (P.S. 340) in Sibley Township. The contract covers 200.5 acres with a payment rate of \$45/acre, totaling \$9,022.50. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (72-1-4) for a 3-year residue tillage management practice (P.S. 329) in Moltke Township. The contract covers 793.3 acres with a payment rate of \$35/acre, amounting to \$27,765.50/year and \$83,296.50 total. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

Peer to Peer Mentorship Program: The contract holder for SHC-FY24-72-02 has requested payment of their contract. TSA confirmed that the mentor completed their 40-hour requirement for the contract. The payment rate for the contract is \$75/hour. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the requested cost share of \$3,000. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (SHC-FY24-72-04). The contract will run from September 11, 2025, to September 12, 2026. The contract will require 40 hours of peer-to-peer mentorship and will be paid at a rate of \$75/hour. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the requested cost share of \$3,000. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

RCP – Soil Health Practices Grant: A request was made to allow the District Manager contract approval authority toward the FY26 Soil Health Practices Grant. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the requested authority with the stipulation that the Board be given an update of the grant's contracts approved at each meeting. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

Supervisor & Staff Reports: See attached staff reports.

Other Business:

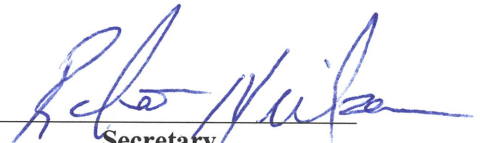
Wurscher informed the Board that the FY24 Peterson audit was completed. Everything was found to be satisfactory with the recommendation to obtain sufficient collateral with the bank. Peterson has provided a management representation letter to be signed by 2024 Chair – K. Thies.

H. Thies provided details of the upcoming annual picnic and passed a sign-up sheet for the potluck.

Next Meeting: September 9, 2025, starting at 4:00 p.m., Sportsman's Park, located in Arlington, MN.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by K. Thies seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 p.m. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

Approved: September 9, 2025


Secretary