



112 5th Street, PO Box 161
Gaylord, MN 55334
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MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN on November 14th, 2023.

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

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

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher
District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin
Water Resources Coordinator, Jack Bushman
Conservation Technician, Tara O'Brien
NRCS-District Conservationist, Reyna Chavez
FSA-County Operations Trainee, Jake Wolfe
BWSR – Board Conservationist, Jeremy Maul

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the November 2023 agenda as presented. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the minutes of the October 2023 meeting. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve thirty-five paid bills for the month of October totaling \$56,019.45. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the November 2023 Treasurer's report subjected to audit. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Old Business: None.

NRCS Report: See attached.

FSA Report: Wolfe stated that they are awaiting a new Farm Bill. He added that ballots were mailed out for County Committee elections.

New Business:

Cost Share:

Scott Kubes was unable to plant his cover crop for the second year in a row. Scott was contracted for 3

years of cover crop on 32 acres per year. Scott is unable to fulfill his contract commitment and has requested to cancel his contract. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve Scott's request to cancel his cover crop contract (FY23-1). Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Judy Hoff's (FY23 WBIF-16) two water and sediment control basins were completed. The total cost of the projects came in under the bid at \$15,385.63. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve final payment from the district in the amount of \$13,847.07. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Area VI Meeting: Wurscher informed the board that an Area VI meeting has been scheduled for November 28th held at the Community Center in Courtland. Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve any interested staff and Supervisors to attend the November Area VI meeting hosted by Nicollet SWCD. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

RIM Easement Violations: Wurscher described to the Board the non-compliance issues occurring on RIM Easement #72-32-86-01. The easement has re-occurring violations of unauthorized haying/grazing. Wurscher pulled up on screen a map of the easement and pictures from site visits depicting the violations. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to deem RIM Easement #72-32-86-01 in non-compliance and sign off on the Corrective Action Transmittal (CAT). Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Wurscher then explained to the Board another non-compliance issue this time occurring on RIM Easement #72-04-93-02. The easement has violations of an unauthorized food plot as well as cropping within the boundary of the easement (approximately 2.4ac.). Wurscher again, pulled up on screen a map of the easement displaying the areas of concern. Wurscher noted that he and Bushman had sat down with the owner and discussed staking the boundaries as well as requesting a conservation plan change adding a food plot. Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to deem RIM Easement #72-04-93-02 in non-compliance and sign off on the Corrective Action Transmittal (CAT). Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Supervisor & Staff Reports: See attached staff reports.

Maul provided an update on behalf of the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Maul announced that there will be \$25-27 million in soil health funding available for staffing. The grants will have a 4-year term. In addition, Districts could receive \$150,000-\$200,000 to be used for contracts towards soil health practices. Maul expected those funds to be available in late January or February. Maul stated that BWSR was awarded the RCPP grant they had requested, providing even more funding towards soil health and climate resiliency. Maul then brought up the additional funding requests for watershed based implementation funding (WBIF), specifically the Lower MN River -West. He encouraged the Board to increase their original requested amount of \$150,000 that was previously approved by both the Policy Advisory Committee and the Fiscal Agent (Sibley SWCD Board). He added that the deadline for this request is January 8th, 2024. Maul ended his report talking about the shortage of staffing within BWSR, specifically the Board Conservationist position.

Other Business: None.

Next Meeting: December 20th, 2023, starting at 4 p.m., located at 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN.

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

Approved: December 20, 2023

Secretary