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MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, Fireman's Shelter-Oak Tree Park,
Gaylord, MN on August 12th, 2024.

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

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

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher
District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin
Water Resources Coordinator, Jack Bushman
Conservation Technician, Tara O'Brien
FSA-County Executive Director, Jennifer King
NRCS-Soil Conservationist, Christopher Engh

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the August 2024 agenda, with the addition to new business, peer to peer mentor program. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the minutes of the July 2024 meeting. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve forty-nine paid bills for the month of July totaling \$50,616.41. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the August 2024 Treasurer's report subjected to audit. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

Old Business: None.

NRCS Report: See attached.

FSA Report: See attached.

New Business:

A request was made to enter into a 3-year contract (FY23 WBIF-19) towards 320 acres per year of a no-till/strip-till (\$30/ac.) located in Cornish/Lafayette N. Twp. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by

Evenson, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract with the total amount authorized being \$28,800.00. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

Next, a request was made to enter into a 3-year contract (FY23 WBIF-20) towards 40 acres of a single-species cover crop (\$35/ac.) located in Cornish Twp. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the requested cover crop cost share contract with the total amount authorized being \$1,400.00. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

Then, a request was made to enter into a 3-year contract (FY23 WBIF-21) towards 450 acres per year of a multi-species mix of cover crops (\$55/ac.) located in Green Isle, Washington Lake, and Henderson Townships. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the requested cover crop cost share contract with the total amount authorized being \$74,250.00. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

Lastly, a request was made to enter into a contract (FY23 WBIF-22) towards a grade stabilization structure located in Arlington Twp. A bid from the selected contractor came in at \$48,322.00 for the project. The landowner is requesting that the watershed partnership provide cost share at a rate of 90%, up to \$43,489.80. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the request. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

Resolution #2024-1: Along with the board packet Wurscher had sent out a resolution (#2024-1) towards the use of SWCD aid payments in accordance to Minn. Stat. 477A.23, subd. 4(b). Upon a motion by Grams seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to pass resolution #2024-1. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

Peer to Peer Mentor Program: Wurscher provided a brief overview of the new south central soil health peer to peer mentor program.

Supervisor & Staff Reports: See attached staff reports. The Supervisors reported on their fair booth experiences.

Other Business: None.

Next Meeting: September 10th, 2024, starting at 4 p.m., located at 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by Wiemann seconded by Grams, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:46 p.m. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

Approved: September 10, 2024

Secretary