Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District

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MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN 55334
February 12, 2019

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, Bob Nielsen Member, Wayne Grams
Others Present:	District Manager, Joel Wurscher District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin Watershed Technician/Water Planner, Ron Otto Conservation Technician, Jack Bushman District Conservationist - NRCS, April Sullivan

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the February agenda with changes. Ayes Grams, Evenson, Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the minutes of the January 2019 meeting with the amended changes. Ayes Grams, Evenson, Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve 36 paid bills for January 2019 totaling $43,400.18. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the February 2019 Treasurer's Report subject to audit. Ayes Grams, Evenson, Thies, Nielsen, Wiemann. Carried.

Old Business: None.

Cost Share: R&D Farms is requesting to cancel their Buffer Cost Share (Buffer FY18-26) contract intended for 1.60 acres of buffer. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to cancel R&D Farms' Buffer FY18-26 contract. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

A request was presented to the Board to enter into a Buffer Cost Share contract with Debra Murphy for 0.93 acres of buffer strip located in Faxon Twp. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the Buffer Cost Share contract (Buffer FY18-61) at a flat rate of $300.00 per acre ($279.00). Ayes Thies, Nielsen, Wiemann, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

A second request was made to the Board to enter into a Buffer Cost Share contract with Richard Bigaouette for 0.67 acres of buffer strip on property located in Faxon Twp. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the Buffer Cost Share contract (Buffer FY18-62) at a flat rate of $300.00 per acre ($201.00). Ayes Thies, Nielsen, Wiemann, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

A third request was made to the Board to enter into a Buffer Cost Share contract with Randy Kramer for 1.13 acres of buffer strip on property located in Cornish Twp. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the Buffer Cost Share contract (Buffer FY18-63) at a flat rate of $300.00 per acre ($339.00). Ayes Thies, Nielsen, Wiemann, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

Personnel Policy: Wurscher sent out and had the personnel committee review and comment on the changes that had been made to the policy. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the updates to the Personnel Policies, Rules and Regulations document making it effective starting March 1, 2019. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Thies, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

WPLMN Contract: Wurscher and Bushman presented the 2019 WPLMN contract to the board. This contract totaling $17,431.16 would be spent on pollutant load monitoring work completed at two locations along the High Island Creek. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve accepting the Joint Powers Agreement with MPCA as presented. Ayes Grams, Evenson, Thies, Nielsen, Wiemann. Carried.

CPL Payment: Wurscher brought forth to the board a CPL Grant invoice from H&W Land Clearing (Frank Heldberg) in the amount of $3,850. The bill was for brush management services on Arlington WMA. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to pay H&W Land Clearing $3,850. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

319 Grant Submission: Wurscher and Bushman presented to the board a Federal Clean Water Act Section 319 grant opportunity to continue further work within the High Island Creek and Rush River Watersheds. Bushman has been working on a proposal that would offer numerous best management practices (BMPs) as well as education/outreach efforts. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to submit the High Island Creek & Rush River TMDL DO2 Phase 2 grant proposal by the February 26 deadline. Ayes Evenson, Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Nielsen. Carried.

Capitol Day Briefing: Wurscher shared a handout regarding the MASWCD Legislative Briefing and Day at the Capitol. It was determined no board supervisors would be able to attend.

NRCS Report: Sullivan announced that interviews were held for her team lead position. Sullivan also told the board there were no other updates at this time due to uncertainties with the details of the new Farm Bill.

Supervisor & Staff Report: See attached.

Other Business: Wurscher brought forth to the board a FY2019 Buffer grant amendment to increase the district's allocation by $30,000 to administer the 2015 Buffer Law and assist landowners work toward compliance. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to accept the amendment to the FY2019 Buffer grant. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

Wurscher discussed with the board an email he had received that included a work order contract with BWSR. The contract stated that it pays $50 per recorded RIM easement within the county and that Sibley SWCD would receive a total of $4,850 for providing services in 2018 upon board approval. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to accept the work order contract. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

Wurscher then presented to the board a Well Sealing Policy for the new Clean Water Fund (CWF) grant that was awarded to the district. Wurscher had Jenny Mocal-Johnson, Board Conservationist with BWSR, review the policy prior to bringing it to the board. After a very lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Grams to approve the CWF Grant Well Sealing Policy. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

Next Meeting: March 12, 2019, starting at 4 p.m. located at 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:51 P.M. Ayes Wiemann, Grams, Evenson, Thies, Nielsen. Carried.

Approved: March 12, 2019

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Secretary