



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
July 11th, 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, Bob Nielsen

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher
District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin
Water Resources Coordinator, Jack Bushman
Conservation Technician, Tara O'Brien
FSA-Program Technician, Cassidy Battcher

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

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

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve forty-one paid bills for the month of June totaling \$43,718.83. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

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

Old Business: None.

NRCS Report: See attached.

New Business:

FSA County Committee: Battcher reported that LA-1 of the County Committee is open for election this year. Currently, this position is held by Todd Trebelhorn. Positions are a 3 year term. Battcher then announced that acreage reporting is currently on-going and that the deadline is July 17th. Lastly, Battcher stated that the Farm Bill runs out on September 30th.

Cost Share: A request was made from Travis Dahlke (FY23 WBIF-1) to enter into a contract for one year, 154.18 acres of multi-species cover crop (\$45/ac.) located in Green Isle Twp. Upon a motion by

Wiemann and seconded by Thies it was moved to approve Dahlke's cover crop cost share request with the total amount authorized being \$6,938.10. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Sibley County Budget Request: Wurscher had sent out the 2024 County Board appropriation request along with the Board packet prior to the meeting. Wurscher described that when working with the Budget Committee, it was decided to simplify the layout from the old request template. Wurscher added that the request from the County seems to be coming earlier every year and that its quite difficult for the District to determine that far in advance since most of the grants come in during the Fall.

2023 Conservationists of the Year: After much discussion, a consensus was not made and the topic was tabled until the next monthly board meeting.

Annual SWCD Picnic: The Board decided to hold this year's annual picnic in conjunction with the monthly Board meeting in September at the Fireman's shelter located at Oak Tree Park in Gaylord. It was also decided to extend the invitation to County Commissioners.

Supervisor & Staff Reports: See attached staff reports. O'Brien reported that she had been working on direct mailings promoting the new Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) cover crop program. In total, she had sent out 299 letters. O'Brien added that she had went on a small grain tour held in Le Sueur County and that she is now working on a cover crop program brochure.

Other Business: Wurscher passed around a sign-up sheet for the fair booth work schedule.

Next Meeting: August 8, 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 4:54 p.m. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Approved: August 8, 2023

Secretary