



112 5<sup>th</sup> Street, PO Box 161  
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## MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, 112 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Gaylord, MN on  
February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

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

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

Others Present:         District Manager, Joel Wurscher  
                                  District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin  
                                  Sibley County Commissioner, Steve Saxton

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

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the minutes of the January 2022 meeting. Ayes Nielsen, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve thirty paid bills for the month of January totaling \$34,881.32. Ayes Nielsen, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the February 2022 Treasurer's report subjected to audit. Ayes Nielsen, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

**Old Business:** Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to accept Juneteenth as a recognized Sibley SWCD holiday and add it to the employee personnel policy. Ayes Nielsen, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

### **New Business:**

**South Central TSA – Grant Cash Match:** Wurscher brought forward to the board an invoice delivered to the district for their share of the grant cash match towards TSA's FY22 NPEA & Enhanced Shared Services grant. Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the match contribution to the South-Central Technical Service Area in the amount of \$3,550.00. Ayes Nielsen, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

**FY21 Financial Audit Bid:** Wurscher presented to the Board an audit bid for 2021 by Peterson Company, LTD. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve this audit bid by Peterson Company, LTD in the amount of \$3,250. Ayes Nielsen, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

**Tree Program Update:** Buckentin reported that up to this point, the District had 45 orders totaling \$9,334.61 in sales. Orders this year have averaged 63 trees per order. He added that the District has sold 53% of their inventory so far and that sales are well ahead of last year. Buckentin disclosed that he has started posting more on Facebook and sending out emails to the SWCD's mailing list detailing what trees are still available and what has sold out. Buckentin informed the board that pick-up dates have now been set for April 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, while the plant kits are yet to be determined, but most likely will be mid-May.

**NRCS Report:** See attached.

**Supervisor & Staff Report:** See attached.

**Other Business:** Wurscher read a resolution word for word to the board regarding the adoption and implementation of the Hawk Creek – Middle MN Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the areas within Sibley County identified by the plan. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve Resolution #2022-1. Ayes Nielsen, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

Wiemann informed the board that at the last Lower MN River-West 1W1P Policy Committee meeting, discussions took place on the differences between joint powers collaborations and entities/boards. Moving forward, a decision on which action to take is very important when the time approaches for implementation and the future grants associated with the planning area. Each committee member was tasked with returning to their respective board discussing which avenue they prefer to go. After some discussion, a motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Thies, moving to recommend a joint powers collaboration. Ayes Nielsen, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

Wurscher announced that the CPL grant applications submitted towards brush management on Sibley County RIM easements were unsuccessful. He stated that there was a big push towards utilizing these funds towards public benefit, making it tough to justify on private permanent easements.

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve paying the 2022 MACDE dues for three employees (\$25/each) at \$75.00 in total. Ayes Nielsen, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

**Next Meeting:** March 8, 2022, starting at 4 p.m., located at 112 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Gaylord, MN.

**Adjourn:** Upon a motion by Wiemann seconded by Thies, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:59 p.m. Ayes Nielsen, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

Approved: March 8, 2022

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**Secretary**