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MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair – Grams at 3:59 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
Conservation Technician, Jack Bushman
BWSR-Board Conservationist, Jeremy Maul
NRCS-District Conservationist, Reyna Chavez

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

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve twenty-eight paid bills for the month of January totaling \$34,359.40. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

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

Old Business: Wurscher provided an update to the Board on discussions with Stefanie Martinez towards a potential contribution agreement with NRCS for status reviews on CRP.

Nielsen questioned Wurscher on the status of the plat book situation. Wurscher informed the board that he decommitted to selling plat books as the board had directed and instead committed to paying for an ad. Wurscher stated that they had received their free copies of plat books, but have not received an invoice to date for the ad.

New Business:

1W1P - Lower MN River West: Wurscher sent out a resolution to the Board regarding the adoption and implementation of the Lower MN River West Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP).

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve Resolution #2023-1. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

The discussion of Sibley SWCD acting as the fiscal agent for the watershed based implementation funding (WBIF) grant came up next. Wurscher stated that the partnership is slated to receive \$596,617 for implementation of the CWMP over the next two years with a possible one year extension. Discussions took place at the most recent Policy Committee meeting and the group came to a consensus that it would be a good fit. A motion was made by Thies, seconded by Nielsen, moving to accept and act as the fiscal agent for the upcoming WBIF grant. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Wurscher passed around a joint powers collaboration agreement which puts together the framework of implementation by discussing committees, defining roles and responsibilities for the upcoming implementation of the CWMP. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve and sign the JPC agreement. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Wurscher informed the board that the partnership had been working on a WBIF document towards guidance of implementation. This document includes items like the funding structure for the suite of best management practices offered, eligibility, the scoring process, ultimately being used as a guide for a cost share contract from start to finish. This document will be finalized and brought to the next Policy Committee meeting for their approval.

MACDE Dues: Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve paying the 2023 MACDE dues for three employees (\$25/each). Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Area VI Meeting: Wurscher informed the Board that he had volunteered to host the next Area VI meeting in which will be held on June 21st. Grams did a lot of research and shared with the group different potential meeting locations and possible catering options. After much discussion, it was determined that the Gaylord Legion could be a good option for the event and that Wurscher should do some further research on that location.

SWCD Aid Funding: Wurscher sent out a fact sheet prior to the meeting to provide some discussion points about the differences between Capacity funds versus SWCD Aid. Wurscher read through the differences between the two funding streams and some discussions arose regarding reporting requirements and oversight of the funding.

NRCS Report: Chavez introduced herself and gave a brief update on the programs she had been working on. Chavez noted that there was recently an application deadline on February 10th for the CSP program and that she has been working on scoring and ranking of EQIP applications.

Supervisor & Staff Report: See attached staff report.

BWSR Report: Maul introduced himself to the Board and provided a brief update on the Governor's budget. Maul also touched on the status of the Lower MN River West CWMP and the upcoming Southern Regional Committee meeting held on February 23rd.

Other Business:

Wurscher brought forward to the Board an invoice from the South Central Technical Service Area for Sibley SWCD's share of the grant cash match toward the FY23 NPEA & Enhanced Shared Services grant. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the match contribution in the amount of \$3,550.00. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Wurscher asked the Board if they would like to reserve a fair booth for the upcoming Sibley County Fair which is going to be held on August 2nd-6th. After some discussion the board agreed that it would be a worthy outreach effort.

Next Meeting: March 14, 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 5:15 p.m. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Approved: March 14, 2023

Secretary