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MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, Conference Call on December 8th, 2020.

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

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

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher
District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin
Conservation Technician, Jack Bushman
District Conservationist - NRCS, April Sullivan
Board Conservationist – BWSR, Jenny Mocol-Johnson

After the pledge of allegiance, Wurscher stated that the board meeting would be in accordance to Minnesota Statute 13D.021. Wurscher followed that by announcing the meeting would be conducted by telephone due to the health pandemic and declared emergency. An in-person meeting would not be practical or prudent.

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the December agenda with the addition of the WCA Delegation Resolution. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann. Carried.

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the minutes of the November 2020 meeting. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen it was moved to approve Twenty-seven paid bills for the month of November totaling \$44,526.66. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson. Carried.

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the December 2020 Treasurer's report subjected to audit. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

Old Business: None.

Cost Share: Rex Halling's well has been sealed by Hartmann Well Company. The total cost of the sealing came in at \$2,704.00 and Rex is requesting final cost share payment in the amount of \$400.00. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve for final payment the Clean Water Fund contract (FY19CWF-22, FY21-1) at a rate of \$400.00. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson. Carried.

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve amendment #1 to contract CAP19-9 (Bethke Family Trust) increasing the cost share amount by \$1,310.00, bringing the total amount cost shared to 75%. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Bethke Family Trust's (CAP19-9) grade stabilization structure and grassed waterway were finished. The total project cost came in at \$40,619.00, with EQIP paying \$26,677.00. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve final payment from the district of \$3,787.25. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann. Carried.

Thomas Henke is requesting his second and third years payment for 80 acres each year of a single species mix of cover crops in the amount of \$2,721.60 per year, totaling \$5,443.20. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve Mr. Henke's last two years' payments from the Capacity 2019 contract (CAP19-4) in the amount of \$5,443.20. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

COVID 19 – Office Update: Wurscher updated the board of current office operations with the increase in cases of Covid-19 in and around the County.

2021 Wages: Upon a motion made by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the personnel committee's recommendation of all staff increasing by one step on the County's performance increment scale starting the first pay period in January. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

2021 Sibley SWCD Supervisor Positions and Committee Assignments: Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, moving to approve the board positions as follows: Chair - Paul Wiemann, Vice Chair – Robert Nielsen, Secretary – Wayne Grams, Treasurer – Kathleen Thies, Member – Loren Evenson. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson. Carried. After some discussion, it was decided to determine committee assignments at the next monthly board meeting.

Banking: Currently, ProGrowth Bank in Gaylord is the official depository for the SWCD. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to leave all banking matters as it was in 2020 and maintain ProGrowth Bank as the official depository for 2021. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson. Carried.

MACDE Dues: Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve paying the 2021 MACDE dues for three employees (\$25/each) at \$75.00 in total. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

WCA Delegation - Resolution: Wurscher read the resolution word for word to the board regarding the delegation of WCA duties. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve Resolution #2020 - 2. Ayes Evenson, Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

NRCS Report: See attached.

Supervisor & Staff Report: See attached.

Other Business: None.

Next Meeting: January 12, 2021, starting at 4 p.m., via conference call.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by Thies seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:41 p.m. Ayes Wiemann, Evenson, Thies, Nielsen. Carried.

Approved: January 12, 2021

Secretary