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## MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, Rush River County Park on  
August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

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

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

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher  
District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin  
Conservation Technician, Jack Bushman  
District Conservationist-Team Lead- NRCS, Jacob Stich  
Sibley County Commissioner, Joy Cohrs  
Sibley County Commissioner, Steve Saxton

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the August 2021 agenda with the addition and changes. Ayes Wiemann, Grams, Nielsen, Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the minutes of the July 2021 meeting. Ayes Nielsen, Wiemann, Thies, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve 37 paid bills for the month of July totaling \$37,346.84. Ayes Grams, Nielsen, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the August 2021 Treasurer's report subjected to audit. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

**Old Business:** Each person that covered a shift at the SWCD booth during the Sibley County fair shared their experience as well as the questions they had received.

**Conservationist of the Year:** Wurscher brought up the topic of the 2021 Sibley SWCD Outstanding Conservationist of the Year. After some discussion, a motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Thies to nominate Dieball Dairy as the 2021 Outstanding Conservationist of the Year. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

**1W1P – Priority Maps:** Bushman passed around a handout pertaining to an update to the Lower MN River West 1W1P project. Then Bushman explained to the board what was decided at the last two Policy

Committee meetings. This included determining a three-tier system to prioritize issues as well as finalizing maps depicting hydrology and surface water quality priority areas.

**2022 CPL Grant:** Wurscher described this year's request for proposal towards the Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) grant program. Grants are available ranging from \$5,000 - \$400,000 with a 10% non-state origin match. This year Wurscher stated that the SWCD is interested in applying for a grant in which performs management practices on permanently protected easements (RIM) with willing landowners. Upon a motion by Nielsen and a second by Grams, it was moved to submit a 2022 CPL Grant for brush management on eligible RIM easements. Ayes Nielsen, Thies, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

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

**NRCS Report:** See attached.

**Other Business:** Wurscher gave a brief update on the current affairs of the CPL Grant working on the High Island Lake Dam. Wurscher stated that the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) has now been formally signed. Wurscher went on to inform the board that timelines have been pushed back a bit to resolve several items including permitting.

**Next Meeting:** September 14, 2021, starting at 4 p.m, located at 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN.

**Adjourn:** Upon a motion by Thies seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:46 p.m. Ayes Nielsen, Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

Approved: September 14, 2021

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**Secretary**