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## MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, USDA Conference Room located at 112 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Gaylord, MN on October 13, 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  
Treasurer, Wayne Grams  
Member, Kathleen Thies

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher  
District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin  
Conservation Technician, Jack Bushman

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

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

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams it was moved to approve thirty-two paid bills for the month of September totaling \$44,165.49. Ayes Thies, Grams, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson. Carried.

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

**Old Business:** None.

**Cost Share:** A request was made to the Board to enter into a cost-share contract with Marlene Moeller (FY21-2) for a well sealing on her property located in Washington Lake Twp. Marlene turned in a quote from Geib Well and Water Services totaling \$750.00. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve Marlene's project at a rate of 50%, not to exceed \$375.00. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Nielsen, Evenson. Carried.

**Area VI – Election of Officers:** Wurscher described to the Board this year's elections of officers for Area VI. Wurscher stated that all three positions are up for voting this year (Director, Co-Director, Secretary/Treasurer). Nominations are to be brought forward of those interested at each County's October Board meeting. Those interested are required to submit a short bio and answer to three questions. Voting for the officers would then proceed at the following November meetings. There was some discussion amongst the Board however, no nominations will be brought forward from Sibley.

**Area VI – Meeting:** Wurscher informed the Board that since voting for officers can be accomplished remotely/locally, an in-person area meeting won't be necessary, so there are no plans of hosting one. Hosting an Area VI meeting using different formats were explored but decided against. At this time, an Area VI meeting will be postponed until sometime in 2021.

**MASWCD 2020 Resolutions:** Wurscher passed out this year's resolution packets and discussed with the board the process of voting. Wurscher included that he will need each member's ballot by next month's meeting since Sheila has requested them to be turned in to her by November 12<sup>th</sup>.

**NRCS Report:** No report.

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

**Other Business:** The subject of purchasing cell phones was brought up again. Wiemann had sent an email to Wurscher asking what percentage of time staff spend outside of the office. Wurscher told the Board he estimated that Bushman spent 30%, Buckentin 20-25%, and himself at around 15-20%. Wurscher noted that these percentages are very seasonally dependent and that if the pandemic forces them to work from home again, the numbers would change dramatically. Bushman and Buckentin described in detail what tasks they performed while away from the office. It was then discussed that something needs to be figured out by January 2021 for the survey equipment's use of data. Verizon is discontinuing the use of 3G and a cell phone could potentially be used as a hotspot. The Board requested of Wurscher to stop over at the Verizon store in Gaylord to discuss different options and report back at the November meeting.

Wurscher notified the Board that he had received a letter from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) in reference to FY21 membership renewals. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve maintaining Silver status by submitting a payment of \$501.00 to NACD. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

Grams asked about the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) since Otto has retired and if there was going to be a meeting held soon. Bushman stated that he has intentions of hosting one more meeting and then most likely dissolving the group. Bushman added that with the direction water planning is heading and the different committees formed throughout the 1W1P process, the WRAC's role has changed.

**Next Meeting:** November 10, 2020, starting at 4 p.m., USDA Conference Room, 112 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Gaylord, MN.

**Adjourn:** Upon a motion by Nielsen seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 p.m. Ayes Wiemann, Evenson, Grams, Thies, Nielsen. Carried.

Approved: November 10, 2020

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**Secretary**