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MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, Fireman's Shelter-Oak Tree Park,
Gaylord, MN on September 12th, 2023.

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

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

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher
District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin
Water Resources Coordinator, Jack Bushman
Conservation Technician, Tara O'Brien
NRCS-District Conservationist, Reyna Chavez
Sibley County Commissioner – Peter Koch
Sibley County Commissioner – Christian Lilienthal

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the September 2023 agenda as presented. Ayes Grams, Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the minutes of the August 2023 meeting. Ayes Grams, Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve thirty-nine paid bills for the month of August totaling \$73,726.05. Ayes Grams, Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

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

Old Business: Wurscher announced that shortly after the August Board meeting, he had sold the 1999 Ford F-150 as instructed by the board.

Wurscher stated that Tom Kinn, from Farm and Home Publishers had contacted him about renewing the District's ad for the 2024 Sibley County plat book. A motion was made by Wiemann, seconded by Nielsen, moving to renew the ad with Farm and Home Publishers in the amount of \$460.00.

New Business:

Cost Share: First, a request was made from Eric Annexstad (FY23 WBIF-9) to enter into a contract for three years, 70 acres of single-species cover crop (\$45/ac.) located in Lake Prairie West Twp. Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve Eric's cover crop cost share request

with the total contract amount authorized being \$9,450.00. Ayes Grams, Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Next, a request was made from Paul Gohlke (FY23 WBIF-10) towards a contract for two grade stabilization structures (410 practice) located in Faxon Twp. The total cost estimate of the project provided by TSA was \$126,765.50. Paul is requesting WBIF cost share in the amount of \$73,444.50. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve Paul's request. Ayes Grams, Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

A third request was made, this time from Troy Grosam (FY23 WBIF-11) to enter into a contract for three years, 77.49 acres of multi-species cover crop (\$55/ac.), located in Severance Twp. Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve Grosam's cover crop cost share request with the total contract amount authorized being \$12,785.85. Ayes Grams, Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Then a request was made, from Keith Hartmann (FY23 WBIF-12) towards a contract for three years, 496.4 acres of multi-species cover crop (\$55/ac.), located in Moltke/Severance Twps. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve Keith's cover crop cost share request with the total amount authorized being \$81,906.00. Ayes Grams, Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Keith Hartmann had another request (FY23 WBIF-13) of 496.4 ac. of No-Till/Strip-Till (329 practice) at \$30/ac., again located in Moltke and Severance Twps. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve Hartmann's no-till/strip-till request with the total amount authorized being \$44,676.00. Ayes Grams, Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Next, a request was made from Jeff Gieseke (FY23 WBIF-14) to enter into a contract for four water and sediment control basins (638 practice) located in Bernadotte Twp. of Nicollet County. A total cost estimate produced by TSA came out to \$70,760.00. Jeff is requesting that the partnership provide cost share in the amount of \$18,794.00. Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve Jeff's request. Ayes Grams, Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

A WBIF request was made from Jim Carlson (FY23 WBIF-15) to enter into a contract for a 750 ln.ft. terrace (600 practice) located in Faxon Twp. The total cost estimate for the project is \$15,537.40, with Jim requesting 90% WBIF cost share or \$13,983.30, whichever comes in less. A motion was made by Thies and seconded by Nielsen, moving to approve Jim's request. Ayes Grams, Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

The last cost share request was made from Judy Hoff (FY23 WBIF-16) towards a contract for two water and sediment control basins (638 practice) located in Faxon Twp. The total cost estimate for the structures came in at \$15,606.50. Judy requesting 90% WBIF cost share or \$14,045.85, whichever comes in less. A motion was made by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, moving to approve Judy's request. Ayes Grams, Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

NRCS Report: See attached.

Supervisor & Staff Reports: See attached staff reports.

Other Business: Wurscher declared that the Lower MN River West will receive \$1,004,297.00 for the next installment of WBIF (FY24-25). Wurscher added that he would have to make the request next Spring for the money, and if approved, would arrive around mid-August 2024. Wurscher mentioned at a previous meeting Jeremy Maul had described another potential funding opportunity for the group. Maul stated that some of the other watersheds around the state haven't been as successful in spending their WBIF and that BWSR has been internally trying to formulate a plan on how to utilize those excess funds. After some discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Nielsen, seconded by Thies, that in the event of a possible additional funding opportunity, the fiscal agent and partnership would like to request an additional \$150,000. Ayes Grams, Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Wurscher then requested that the Supervisors turn in their 2023 3rd quarter supervisor expense reports.

Next Meeting: October 10th, 2023, starting at 4 p.m., located at 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by Wiemann seconded by Thies, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:43 p.m. Ayes Grams, Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Approved: October 10, 2023

Secretary