



112 5th Street, PO Box 161
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MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN on October 10th, 2023.

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

Members Present: Chair, Wayne Grams
Vice Chair, Kathleen Thies
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
FSA-County Executive Director, Jennifer King

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

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

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve thirty-seven paid bills for the month of September totaling \$34,280.11. Ayes Grams, Thies, Nielsen. Carried.

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

Old Business: None.

NRCS Report: See attached.

FSA Report: King announced FSA is currently operating under a continuing resolution until November 17th. She stated that CRP payments will be going out soon. King then mentioned the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) payments have been made and that the Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) payments will go out very soon.

New Business:

Cost Share:

Joey Evenson's well had been sealed by Erving Well Company, Inc. The total cost of the sealing came in at \$1,200.00 and Joey had requested a final cost share payment in the amount of \$400.00. Upon a motion

by Nielsen and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve final payment (FY22-4) at a rate of \$400.00. Ayes Grams, Thies, Nielsen. Carried.

MASWCD Resolution Ballots/Voting: Wurscher had sent out a packet of information regarding the 2023 resolutions prior to the board meeting. Wurscher stated that ballots have to be submitted by November 1st online. It was determined that no resolutions from the ballot required further discussing by the larger group.

2022 Year End Audit: Wurscher noted that he and Nieslen had reviewed the FY22 draft audit and signed the management representation letter. Peterson Company has now forwarded it on to the State of Minnesota for their review.

Local Cost Share Policy: After some discussion, it was determined to add in a non-cropped acreage payment rate of \$2,000/acre to the conservation cover practice. That payment rate would be specific to pollinator plantings. With that change to the conservation cover practice, a motion was made by Nielsen, seconded by Thies, to approve the local cost share policy presented to the Board. Ayes Grams, Thies, Nielsen. Carried.

Drone: Wurscher made a request and gave his reasoning on why the District should purchase a drone. Each Board member expressed their thoughts and upon a motion by Nielsen, seconded by Thies, it was moved to allow Wurscher to shop around and purchase a DJI Mavic 3 Pro drone and enroll two staff to attend UAS training put on by Frontier Precision. Ayes Grams, Thies, Nielsen. Carried.

Supervisor & Staff Reports: See attached staff reports.

Other Business:

Wurscher notified the Board that he had received a letter from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) in reference to FY24 dues. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve silver status by submitting a payment of \$501.00 to NACD. Ayes Grams, Thies, Nielsen. Carried.

Wurscher informed the Board that the annual MASWCD convention is scheduled from December 11th – 13th, located at the Double Tree Hilton in Bloomington. Wurscher also mentioned that Leslie Weber and her three daughters would be present for the conservationist of the year ceremony. Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was approved to allow staff and supervisors to attend the annual 2023 MASWCD convention. Ayes Grams, Thies, Nielsen. Carried.

Next Meeting: November 14th, 2023, 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 Grams, Thies, Nielsen. Carried.

Approved: November 14, 2023

Secretary