



112 5th Street, PO Box 161
Gaylord, MN 55334
(507) 702-7077

MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN on April 10th, 2024.

The meeting was called to order by Chair – Thies at 3:58 p.m.

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

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher
District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin
Water Resources Coordinator, Jack Bushman
FSA-County Executive Director, Jennifer King
NRCS-District Conservationist, Reyna Chavez

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the April 2024 agenda with the cancellation of the Tree Program Update and an addition of Minnesota Department of Health Safe Drinking Water for Private Well Users Grant. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the minutes of the March 2024 meeting. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve thirty-one paid bills for the month of March totaling \$41,399.37. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the April 2024 Treasurer's report subjected to audit. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

Old Business: None.

FSA Report: See attached.

NRCS Report: See attached.

New Business:

Lower MN River West - WBIF Update: Wurscher notified the Board the District had received the 40% grant payment on March 19th. The District, on behalf of the partnership, had also formally requested supplemental implementation funding in the amount of \$225,000. Wurscher stated at this time, the

paperwork had been completed and grant amendment signed, however the payment had not been made yet. Wurscher added that the FY22/23 WBIF grant agreement expires on 12/31/2025.

Wurscher then informed the Board that the Local Implementation Work Group (LIWG) discussed the corrective action plan. Wurscher described three action items the group were going to take. The Board consensus was in agreement with the LIWG, and Wurscher was going to submit these items to Krebs prior to the April 30th response deadline.

Local Work Group (LWG) Meeting: After some discussion, it was determined that the 2024 LWG meeting will be held on May 14th, starting at 3:30pm, located at the USDA conference room.

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Safe Drinking Water for Private Well Users: Bushman informed the Board that the MDH safe drinking water for private well users grant he had applied for was funded. Bushman refreshed the Board on the details of the grant including the partners and activities planned utilizing the money. Upon a motion by Nielsen, seconded by Grams, it was moved to accept the awarded safe drinking water for private well users grant in addition to the responsibilities associated with acting as the fiscal agent for the grant. During discussion, Wiemann asked who does the testing? Bushman replied that the individual requesting the assistance, is the one who takes the sample, then drops it off at one of the designated drop-off locations. These samples will be picked up and delivered in a timely manner to Minnesota Valley Testing Laboratories (MVTL) in New Ulm. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Supervisor & Staff Reports: See attached.

Other Business: Wurscher notified the three Board members whos' terms end in 2024 about the filing period for re-election.

Wiemann asked if there was any update on the office expansion. Wurscher replied that it was determined that the only way to move through the permitting process was to create an emergency exit door through the existing Tech 2 space heading North through the other building. Bartles has hired Dietz Builders LLC for the expansion construction. No timeline was given to Wurscher, permits still need to be acquired.

Next Meeting: May 14th, 2024, starting at 4 p.m., located at 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by Wiemann seconded by Grams, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 p.m. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

Approved: May 14, 2024

Secretary