



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

## MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, 112 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Gaylord, MN on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The meeting was called to order by Chair – Thies at 3:59 p.m.

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

**Others Present:** District Manager, Joel Wurscher  
District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin  
Water Resources Coordinator, Jack Bushman  
FSA-Program Analyst in Charge, Hayley Thies  
BWSR-Board Conservationist, Shane Bugeja

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the November 2024 meeting agenda with the addition of Ag BMP Loan under the new business category. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann, Grams. Carried.

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

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve thirty-eight paid bills for the month of October totaling \$56,686.49. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann, Grams. Carried.

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

**Old Business:** None.

**FSA Report:** See attached.

**NRCS Report:** None.

### **New Business:**

**Cost Share:** An amendment request (A-1) was made to contract FY23 WBIF-22 towards the recently constructed water and sediment control basin (WASCOB) located in Arlington Twp. With the extended rip-rap placed on both sides of the High Island Creek channel downstream of the project, an additional charge of \$9,757.00 was added to the final bill. This increased the total project cost to \$58,052.00. The

landowner is requesting cost share at a rate of 90% or \$52,246.80. The original amount contracted with the landowner was \$42,489.80. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the A-1 amendment request. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann, Grams. Carried.

With the amendment approved, the landowner then requested final payment for contract (FY23 WBIF-22) in the amount of \$52,246.80. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the final payment in the amount of \$52,246.80. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann, Grams. Carried.

**MAWQCP:** Wurscher brought forth to the Board a payment request from a Kelso Twp. producer for the completion of an application and assessment towards the Minnesota Ag. Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP). A motion was made by Nielsen, seconded by Thies, to approve the incentive payment in the amount of \$100.00. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann, Grams. Carried.

**NACD Dues:** Wurscher notified the Board that he had received a letter from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) in reference to FY25 dues. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve silver status by submitting a payment of \$501.00 to NACD. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann, Grams. Carried.

**MN Soil Health Coalition:** Wurscher then brought up the Districts' annual membership with the MN Soil Health Coalition will expire December 5<sup>th</sup>. A motion made by Wiemann, seconded by Grams, moving to pay the \$25 towards the annual membership renewal to the MN Soil Health Coalition. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann, Grams. Carried.

**2023 Year End Audit:** Wurscher passed around copies of the FY23 year-end audit report and noted that he and Grams had signed the management representation letter. He then mentioned that Peterson Company has forwarded it on to the State of Minnesota for their review.

**Area VI Meeting:** Wurscher informed the Board that an Area VI meeting has been scheduled for November 21<sup>st</sup> held at the South-Central Cooperative located in North Mankato. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve any interested staff and Supervisors to attend the November Area VI meeting hosted by LeSueur SWCD. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

**Ag BMP Loan:** A request had been brought forth to the County for an Ag BMP loan towards the purchase of an Artex manure spreader. The New Auburn Twp. producer stated that the price for this particular piece of equipment can range from \$55-58,000.00, and that he would like a loan for \$50,000. After some discussion, a motion was made by Wiemann, seconded by Nielsen, moving to approve the purchase of an Artex manure spreader as an eligible conservation practice. Ultimately, recommending the County move forward with utilization of the Ag BMP Loan program. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann, Grams. Carried.

**Supervisor & Staff Reports:** See attached staff reports.

**Other Business:** The Board discussed who will be attending the annual convention this year.

**Next Meeting:** December 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 4:38 p.m. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann, Grams. Carried.

Approved: December 10, 2024

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Secretary