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MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, 112 5th Street Gaylord, MN on January 13, 2026.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair – Nielsen at 3:56 p.m.

Members Present: Vice Chair, Robert Nielsen
Secretary, Wayne Grams
Treasurer, Kathleen Thies present virtually via Microsoft Teams
Member, Loren Evenson

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher
Senior District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin
Water Resources Coordinator, Jack Bushman
Operations Specialist, Hayley Thies
FSA – County Executive Director, Jennifer King
NRCS – District Conservationist, Christopher Engh

Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the January 2026 meeting agenda as presented. By a roll call vote, ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the minutes of the December 2025 meeting as presented. By a roll call vote, ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve fifty-nine paid bills for the month of December totaling \$269,161.20. By a roll call vote, ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the January 2026 Treasurer's report subjected to audit. By a roll call vote, ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

NRCS Report: See attached.

FSA Report: See attached.

BWSR Report: On behalf of Bugeja, Wurscher informed the Board there are 85 RCPP grants remaining for the state. Also, competitive grants for the Clean Water Fund will open in February, close in March, and be awarded in July or later.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Cost Share: The contract holder for FY25 CC-3 has requested their payment toward 3 years of residue tillage management (P.S. 329) in Moltke Township. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the cost share payment of \$4,084.50. By a roll call vote, ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

An amendment request (A-1) was made to contract PWP-4, a cost share contract for a well-water treatment system located in Arlington Township. The estimate submitted by the well owner did not include tax, but the final invoice did. The original contract was approved for \$1,156.50. By amending the contract to include 50% cost share of the \$94.38 tax, or \$47.19, the new approved amount would be \$1,180.09. Upon a motion by Evenson and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the A-1 amendment request. By a roll call vote, ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

With the amendment approved, the contract holder for PWP-4 has requested their well water treatment system cost share payment. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the requested cost share payment of \$1,180.09. By a roll call vote, ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

The contract holder for FY25 WBIF-3 has requested their payment toward 4 WASCObS (P.S. 638) in Arlington Township. The project cost totaled \$54,519.70 and the contract holder will receive an EQIP payment of \$43,106.80. Upon a motion by Evenson and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the cost share payment of \$11,412.90. By a roll call vote, ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

The contract holder for FY25 WBIF-4 has requested their payment toward 2 WASCObS (P.S. 638) in Arlington Township. The project cost totaled \$51,709.50 and the contract holder will receive an EQIP payment of \$33,729.40. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the cost share payment of \$17,980.10. By a roll call vote, ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

The contract holder for FY25 WBIF-6 has requested their payment toward 3 WASCObS (P.S. 638) in Jessenland Township. The project cost totaled \$29,159.00 and the contract holder will receive an EQIP payment of \$22,197.56. Upon a motion by Evenson and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the cost share payment of \$6,961.44. By a roll call vote, ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

The contract holder for FY25 WBIF-8 has requested their payment toward 160 acres of multi-species cover crops (P.S. 340) in Round Grove Township. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the payment of \$7,200.00. By a roll call vote, ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

The contract holder for FY25 WBIF-10 has requested all three years' payments toward 36 acres per year of multi-species cover crops (P.S. 340) in Martinsburg Township. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the payment of \$5,940.00. By a roll call vote, ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

The contract holder for FY25 WBIF-13 has requested their payment toward a WASCObS (P.S. 638) in Bernadotte Township. The project cost totaled \$16,263.77. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the cost share payment of \$14,637.39. By a roll call vote, ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

2026 Annual Plan: H. Thies provided an overview of the 2026 Annual Plan as attached. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the plan as presented. By a roll call vote, ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

IT Services and Server: Wurscher received quotes from 5 companies for monthly IT services and a new server. The company with the best rates was Mankato Computer Technology with a quote of \$552.90 per month for general IT services and \$10,816.78-\$11,625.84 for a new server with installation., Upon a

motion by Grams and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to switch IT services and purchase a new server from Mankato Computer Technology. By a roll call vote, ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

MACDE Dues: The requested amount for MACDE dues is \$25.00 per employee. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the payment of \$125.00. By a roll call vote, ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Area VI Dues: The requested amount for Area VI dues is \$400.00 per county. Upon a motion by Evenson and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the payment of \$400.00. By a roll call vote, ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

MASWCD Dues: The requested amount for MASWCD dues is \$7,559.73, a \$209.86 increase from 2025. Upon a motion by Evenson and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the payment of \$7,559.73. By a roll call vote, ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Supervisor & Staff Reports: See attached staff reports.

Other Business: Wurscher received a 2026 audit bid from Peterson Company Ltd totaling \$6,600.00, a \$400.00 increase from 2025. Upon a motion by Evenson and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the bid. By a roll call vote, ayes Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

H. Thies updated the mileage reimbursement rate to \$0.725 per mile for 2026 in accordance with the federal rate.

Next Meeting: February 10, 2026, starting at 4:00 p.m., located at 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:48 p.m. By a roll call vote, ayes Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Approved: February 10, 2026


Secretary

