



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 16, 2026.

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

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

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher
Water Resources Coordinator, Jack Bushman
Operations Specialist, Hayley Thies
FSA – Program Analyst, Cassidy Battcher
NRCS – District Conservationist, Christopher Engh

Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the April 2026 meeting agenda with the additions of Ag BMP Loans and MAWQCP. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the minutes of the March 2026 meeting as presented. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve thirty-seven paid bills for the month of March totaling \$54,677.46. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the April 2026 Treasurer's report subject to audit. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

FSA Report: See attached.

NRCS Report: See attached.

BWSR Report: Wurscher updated the Board on Bugeja's behalf that there are no RCPP grants remaining and there is not any information on renewal currently.

Old Business: Nielsen asked for an update on the Peer Session hosted at Arlington Haus by the Lower Minnesota River West Watershed. Wurscher noted that it was a well-attended event and that local producers had great conversations regarding the equipment they use to implement soil health practices.

New Business:

Cost Share: A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 WBIF-15) for a one-year single-species cover crop practice (P.S. 340) in Jessenland and Henderson Townships. The contract covers 37.8 acres with a payment rate of \$35/acre, amounting to \$2,323.00. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 CCRP-9) for a Continuous CRP contract incentive of \$250/acre. The contract is for a CP23A practice of 17.59 acres, with a contract length of 15 years. The project lands within a high priority area for altered hydrology in Washington Lake Township. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the requested incentive contract for a total of \$4,397.50. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 CCRP-10) for a Continuous CRP contract incentive of \$250/acre. The contract is for a CP23A practice of 40.91 acres, with a contract length of 15 years. The project lands within a medium priority area for altered hydrology in Bismarck Township. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the requested incentive contract for a total of \$10,227.50. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 CCRP-11) for a Continuous CRP contract incentive of \$250/acre. The contract is for a CP23A practice of 1.98 acres, with a contract length of 15 years. The project lands within a medium priority area for altered hydrology in Cornish Township. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the requested incentive contract for a total of \$495.00. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 CCRP-12) for a Continuous CRP contract incentive of \$250/acre. The contract is for a CP23A practice of 6.80 acres, with a contract length of 15 years. The project lands within both a medium and a high priority area for altered hydrology in Dryden Township. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the requested incentive contract for a total of \$1,700.00. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 CCRP-13) for a Continuous CRP contract incentive of \$250/acre. The contract is for a CP23A practice of 15.20 acres, with a contract length of 15 years. The project lands within a high priority area for altered hydrology in Penn Township. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the requested incentive contract for a total of \$3,800.00. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 CCRP-14) for a Continuous CRP contract incentive of \$250/acre. The contract is for a CP23A practice of 55.47 acres, with a contract length of 15 years. The project lands within a high priority area for altered hydrology in Jessenland Township. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the requested incentive contract for a total of \$13,867.50. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 CCRP-15) for a Continuous CRP contract incentive of \$250/acre. The contract is for a CP23A practice of 10.80 acres, with a contract length of 15 years. The project lands within a high priority area for altered hydrology in Green Isle Township. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the requested incentive contract for a total of \$2,700.00. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

An amendment request (A-1) was made to contract PWP-5, a cost share contract for a well-water treatment system located in Alfsborg Township. The estimate submitted by the well owner was from Culligan in Sleepy Eye, but work was completed by Culligan in St Peter which led to a higher bill than was initially estimated. The original contract was approved for \$1,390.51. By amending the

contract to include the additional \$841.49, the new approved amount would be \$2,232.00. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the A-1 amendment request. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

With the amendment approved, the contract holder for PWP-5 has requested their well water treatment system cost share payment. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the requested cost share payment of \$2,232.00. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

The contract holder for FY26 CC-2 has requested their payment toward a well sealing (P.S. 351) in Green Isle Township. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the cost share payment of \$1,000.00. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Computers: Wurscher made a request to the Board to purchase new computers for both Buckentin and himself. Mankato Computer Technology quoted the two new computers at \$9,377.83. After some discussion, a motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by K. Thies to approve the purchase. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Authority to Certify Well Sealings: Wurscher explained the change from utilizing P.S. 351 to MN Well Code due to JAA being required when certifying contracts with P.S. 351. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to allow Wurscher, Buckentin, and H. Thies the authority to certify contracts as the technical assistance provider using MN Well Code standards. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Ag BMP Loan Applications: A request has been brought to the County for an Ag BMP loan toward the purchase of a Highboy fertilizer spreader for spring or midseason application to reduce leaching and runoff. The producer from Grafton Township is requesting a loan for \$125,000. After some discussion, a motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, moving to approve the purchase as an eligible conservation practice. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

A request has been brought to the County for an Ag BMP loan toward the purchase of an anhydrous bar to reduce tillage passes and compaction. The producer from Grafton Township is requesting a loan for \$47,500. After some discussion, a motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, moving to disapprove the purchase as it is not an eligible conservation practice. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

MAWQCP: Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Grams it was moved to approve a \$300 incentive payment (\$100 for the application and \$200 for the certification) to an operator in Cornish Township working toward MAWQCP certification. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Supervisor & Staff Reports: See attached staff reports.

Other Business: Wurscher echoed MASWCD's call for resolutions for the June Area VI meeting and reminded the Board that any resolutions need to be passed locally before submission to the Area.

Next Meeting: May 12, 2026, starting at 4:00 p.m., located at 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 p.m. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies, Evenson. Carried.

Approved: May 12, 2026


Secretary

