



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  
May 13, 2025.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair – Wiemann at 4:01 p.m.

**Members Present:** Vice Chair, Paul Wiemann  
Secretary, Robert Nielsen  
Member, Kathleen Thies

**Others Present:** District Manager, Joel Wurscher  
Senior District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin  
Conservation Technician, Tara O'Brien  
Operations Specialist, Hayley Thies  
FSA – Executive Director, Jennifer King  
NRCS – District Conservationist, Christopher Engh  
BWSR – Board Conservationist, Shane Bugeja

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by K. Thies., it was moved to approve the May 2025 meeting agenda as presented. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the minutes of the April 2025 meeting. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve forty-nine paid bills for the month of April totaling \$56,156.60. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the May 2025 Treasurer's report subjected to audit. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

**FSA Report:** In addition to the attached report, CRP signup was announced from May 12 to June 6, 2025. If approved, CRP contracts will begin October 1, 2025.

**NRCS Report:** See attached.

**BWSR Report:** RCPP is on track for July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Lower MN River West Watershed will be featured as a success story after two years of 1W1P implementation.

**Old Business:** Wurscher provided an update to the Board regarding the ongoing issues with the building. It was determined a letter would not be sent to the landlord based on the recent progress made on some repairs.

Wurscher provided the dates of the upcoming Governance 101 training: <sup>Sept</sup> ~~November~~ 10-11, 2025, in St Cloud. This training will be held subject to funding availability.

**New Business:**

**Cost Share:** A request was made to enter into a 3-year contract (FY25 WBIF-2) toward 284 acres per year of a multi-species cover crop (\$55/ac.) located in Lake Prairie Township. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the requested cover crop cost share contract with the total amount authorized being \$46,860. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

**Area VI Meeting:** Wurscher made a request to the Board to allow attendance of all employees and supervisors at the upcoming Area IV meeting. The meeting will be hosted by Brown SWCD in North Mankato on June 24, 2025. A motion was made by K. Thies and seconded by Nielsen, approving the request. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

**Clear Lake – HEI Proposal:** Wurscher expressed interest in engaging with Houston Engineering Inc. to complete the engineering needs for the Clear Lake project. After discussions of the reduced staffing at WSB, past successes with HEI, and the status of the project, a motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by K. Thies, approving the request. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

**2025 Tree Program Recap:** Buckentin shared that 7,021 trees and 12 seed kits were sold this year. Trees sold out early in the season and it was discussed what changes can be made to next year's program to increase inventory on popular species while decreasing inventory on less popular species. The county will have needs for trees for shelterbelts and to replace diseased ash trees in the coming years.

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


**Other Business:** Wurscher requested that the recently hired Operations Specialist, H. Thies, be added to all Sibley SWCD bank accounts and receive a check card. A motion was made by K. Thies and seconded by Wiemann, approving the request. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried

With the proceeds from the tree sales, Wurscher requested approval for each employee and supervisor to have the option to purchase 2 items of SWCD logo clothing from Evolution Shirts. A motion was made by K. Thies and seconded by Nielsen, approving the request. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

**Next Meeting:** June 10, 2025, starting at 4:00 p.m., located at 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN.

**Adjourn:** Upon a motion by Nielsen seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:01 p.m. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, K. Thies. Carried.

Approved: June 10, 2025

  
Secretary