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MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN on
December 15th, 2022.

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

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

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher
District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin
Conservation Technician, Jack Bushman

Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the December 2022 agenda as presented. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the minutes of the November 2022 meeting. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve thirty-two paid bills for the month of November totaling \$55,893.12. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the December 2022 Treasurer's report subjected to audit. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Cost Share: Otto Brothers Partnership's well had been sealed by Geib Well and Water. The total cost of the sealing came in at \$1,600.00 and they have requested final cost share payment in the amount of \$400.00. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve final payment (FY22-5) at a rate of \$400.00. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

Kevin Thies requested his second and third year's payment for 80 acres of cover crop each year, using a single species mix in the amount of \$5,537.60. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams it was moved to approve Kevin's payment request from the state cost share 2021 contract (FY21-3) in the amount of \$5,537.60. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

Pete Kramer requested his first year's payment for 50 acres of cover crop using a multi-species mix in the amount of \$2,133.50. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Wiemann it was moved to approve

Pete's payment request from the state cost share 2022 contract (FY22-1) in the amount of \$2,133.50. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

Paul Platz requested his first year's payment for 68.7 acres of cover crop utilizing a single species mix in the amount of \$2,397.63. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve Paul's payment request from the state cost share 2022 contract (FY22-2) in the amount of \$2,397.63. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

Bethke Family Trust's (CAP22-2) grade stabilization structure was constructed this past fall. The total project cost came in at \$37,718.00, with EQIP paying \$12,800.90. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve final payment from the district in the amount of \$15,485.50. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve amendment #1 to contract CAP22-3 increasing the cost share amount by \$8,389.29. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

John Dacey's (CAP22-3) two water and sediment control basins were completed this past fall. The total cost of the projects came in at \$24,285.08, with EQIP paying \$6,350.15. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve final payment from the district in the amount of \$11,863.66. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

Karl H Dieball Jr's (CAP22-4) three water and sediment control basins were also built this past fall. The total project cost came in at \$11,538.27, with EQIP paying \$11,538.27. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve final payment from the district in the amount of \$2,226.48. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

Ag BMP Loan: Wurscher informed the Board that Bode Dairy and Feedlots would like to apply for another Ag BMP loan towards a manure spreader for nutrient management purposes. Wurscher stated that the County emphasizes utilizing that program towards upgrading septic systems and wells, however this would be an eligible best management practice and the current county remaining balance could account for this purchase. A motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, moving to approve this purchase of a manure spreader as an acceptable best management practice and recommend moving forward with the Ag BMP loan program. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Wiemann. Carried. Wiemann then requested that Wurscher follow up with Beranek at the County on the current process and whether or not the County Board reviews these loans.

Area VI Dues: After some discussion, a motion was made by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, moving to pay \$1,000 in dues towards Area VI Association of SWCDs. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

2023 Supervisor Positions/Committee Assignments: A motion was made by Nielson and seconded by Grams, moving to approve the board positions as follows: Chair – Grams, Vice Chair – Thies, Secretary – Evenson, Treasurer – Wiemann, Member – Nielsen. Committee assignments were included in the motion and were determined to stay the same as they were in 2022. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

2023 Banking: ProGrowth Bank in Gaylord was the official depository in 2022 for the SWCD. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to leave all banking matters as they were in 2022. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Thies, Wiemann. Carried.

NRCS Report: No report.

Supervisor & Staff Report: See attached staff report.

Other Business: Wurscher gave an update on the latest developments with the District's partnership with FHP and selling plat books. He passed around some mock-up designs he had submitted to Tom Kinn. Wurscher also provided the latest news on discussions towards a Farm Bill position in Gaylord.

Nielsen gave a brief update on the 2022 resolutions brought forth to MASWCD up at convention. He noted that all resolutions had passed except for allowing renewable energy on permanent conservation easements.

Next Meeting: January 10, 2023, starting at 4 p.m., located at 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by Wiemann seconded by Thies, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:11 p.m. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Thies, Wiemann. Carried.

Approved: January 10, 2023

Secretary