



## MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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

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

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

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

Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve thirty-seven paid bills for the month of April totaling \$56,604.84. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

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

**FSA Report:** See attached.

**NRCS Report:** See attached.

**BWSR Report:** Bugeja reminded the Board that there are no RCPP grants remaining and the focus of the program has shifted to certification and payment of contracted practices. He also announced that there are grants available for managing invasives for resilient landscapes. The grant application deadline is June 30.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

**Cost Share:** A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 WBIF-16) for a one-year multi-species cover crop practice (P.S. 340) in Round Grove Township. The contract covers 218 acres with a payment rate of \$45/acre, amounting to \$9,810.00. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 CCRP-16) for a Continuous CRP contract incentive of \$250/acre. The contract is for a CP23A practice of 17 acres, with a contract length of 15 years. The project lands within a medium priority area for altered hydrology in Henderson Township. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the requested incentive contract for a total of \$4,250.00. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

**RCPP Update:** Wurscher updated the Board on the current status of the RCPP program. A total of 4 grants were received, totaling \$540,000 of funding for the district. To date, 15 contracts have been entered into for cover crops, accounting for 3,156.80 acres, while 9 contracts have been entered into for no-till/strip-till practices, accounting for 7,404.40 acres.

**1W1P – Minnesota River – Mankato CWMP:** Wurscher provided the plan and resolution to the Board ahead of the meeting. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the resolution to adopt the Minnesota River – Mankato CWMP for the area of Sibley County that lies within the watershed boundary. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

**2026 Tree Program Recap:** Buckentin shared that 6,231 trees and 9 seed kits were sold this year. Trends with the sale were discussed and Buckentin will continue tweaking the program to meet the community's needs. Wurscher requested approval for each employee and supervisor to have the option to purchase 2 items of SWCD logo clothing from Evolution Shirts with the proceeds from the tree sale. A motion was made by K. Thies and seconded by Nielsen, approving the request. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

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

**Other Business:**

**MAWQCP:** Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by K. Thies it was moved to approve a \$200 incentive payment for certification to an operator in Moltke Township. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

**Area VI Meeting:** Wurscher announced the next Area meeting will be hosted by Watonwan SWCD on June 25 at SCSC in North Mankato. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to allow all staff and supervisors to attend the meeting. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

**Next Meeting:** June 9, 2026, starting at 4:00 p.m., located at 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN.

**Adjourn:** Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Grams, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:59 p.m. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

Approved: June 9, 2026

  
Secretary