



112 5th Street, PO Box 161
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MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN on October 8th, 2024.

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

Members Present: Chair, Kathleen Thies
Vice Chair, Loren Evenson
Treasurer, Robert Nielsen

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher
District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin
Water Resources Coordinator, Jack Bushman
Conservation Technician, Tara O'Brien
FSA-Acting County Executive Director, Hayley Thies
NRCS-Soil Conservationist, Christopher Engh
BWSR-Board Conservationist, Shane Bugeja

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the October 2024 agenda as presented. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the minutes of the September 2024 meeting. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve twenty-two paid bills for the month of September totaling \$31,401.62. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the October 2024 Treasurer's report subjected to audit. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

Old Business: None.

FSA Report: See attached.

NRCS Report: See attached.

New Business:

Cost Share: A request was made to enter into a contract (FY25 CC-2) towards a water and sediment control basin (WASCOB) located in Arlington Twp. A bid from the selected contractor came in at \$13,802.65 for the project. The landowner is requesting cost share at a rate of 90%, \$4,448.00 coming from the conservation contracts grant, while the remaining amount from SWCD Aid. Upon a motion by

Nielsen and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the request. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

Peer to Peer Mentor: A request was made to enter into a 1-year peer to peer mentor contract (SHC-FY24-72-03) towards 40 hrs (\$75/hr.). Upon a motion by Evenson and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the requested contract with the total amount authorized being \$3,000.00. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

Local Cost Share Policy: In the board packet, Wurscher had provided a copy of the local cost share policy with three recommended changes. After some discussion, a motion was made by Nielsen, seconded by Evenson, to approve the local cost share policy as presented to the Board. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

MASWCD Resolution Ballots/Voting: Wurscher had sent out a packet of information regarding the 2024 resolutions prior to the board meeting. Wurscher stated that the resolution ballots have to be submitted by 5pm on November 1st. It was determined that no resolutions required further discussing by the larger group. The Board also determined that they would turn in their ballots to Wurscher to submit online by the deadline. Then, a motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Thies, moving to approve all interested staff and supervisors attending the 2024 MASWCD annual convention held on December 2nd – 4th, located at the Double Tree in Bloomington. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

CPL Grant Opportunity: Wurscher provided some details to the Board about a potential project at a crossing just downstream of the newly replaced outlet structure of Silver Lake. Instead of just repairing what is currently present, there is an opportunity to improve the situation with a two-culvert system. One culvert would take on flows during drawdown, while the other would be a carp velocity tube preventing invasive fish from moving into the system. Wurscher added that this upgrade would provide an additional 1-2' in drawdown potential increasing the chances of fishkill, while exposing more shoreline for better emergent vegetation establishment. Wurscher presented the preliminary design and cost estimate that was developed by MN DNR staff. Wurscher then stated that a conservation partners legacy (CPL) grant was identified as the best solution to fund said project. A motion was then made by Nielsen, seconded by Evenson, moving to support and submit a CPL grant application towards the Silver Lake AIS project. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

Supervisor & Staff Reports: See attached staff reports.

BWSR Report: See attached.

Other Business: A motion was made by Thies and seconded by Evenson, moving to approve that the District shall pay for Karl Schauer to attend the MASWCD convention. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

Next Meeting: November 12th, 2024, starting at 4 p.m., located at 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by Wiemann seconded by Evenson, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 p.m. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

Approved: November 12, 2024

Secretary