

112 5th Street, PO Box 161
Gaylord, MN 55334
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MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, 112 5th Street Gaylord, MN on October 14, 2025.

The meeting was called to order by Chair – Evenson at 3:59 p.m.

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

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher
Senior District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin
Water Resources Coordinator, Jack Bushman
Conservation Technician, Tara O'Brien
Operations Specialist, Hayley Thies

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

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

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve forty-four paid bills for the month of September totaling \$49,236.29. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

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

FSA Report: None

NRCS Report: None

BWSR Report: Wurscher informed the Board that operations grants have been approved. A request for Interest for buffer funds was submitted for the district.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Cost Share: The contract holder for FY25 CCRP-3 has requested their CCRP incentive payment. The contract is for 21 acres of CP23A with an incentive of \$250/acre. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the requested incentive payment of \$5,250. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

The contract holder for FY25 CCRP-4 has requested their CCRP incentive payment. The contract is for 53.12 acres of CP23A with an incentive of \$250/acre. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the requested incentive payment of \$13,280. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

The contract holder for FY25 CCRP-2 has requested to cancel their CCRP incentive contract. The land was sold, and the new owner will not be enrolling the acreage into CRP. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the requested cancellation. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (PWP-2) toward a drinking water treatment system located in Lafayette South Township. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract with the total amount authorized being 100% of the project costs not to exceed \$3,000.00. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (PWP-3) toward a drinking water treatment system located in Green Isle Township. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the requested cost share contract with the total amount authorized being 50% of the project costs not to exceed \$3,000.00. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

Private Well Testing Grant: A request was made to allow the District Manager contract approval authority toward the Well Treatment Cost Share Applications. Upon a motion by K. Thies and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the requested authority with the stipulations that the Board be given an update of the grant's contracts approved at each meeting and the drinking water is re-tested after the installation of the approved treatment systems. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

Peer to Peer Mentorship Program: The contract holder for SHC-FY24-72-03 has requested payment of their contract. TSA confirmed that the mentor completed their 40-hour requirement for the contract. The payment rate for the contract is \$75/hour. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by K. Thies, it was moved to approve the requested cost share of \$3,000. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

A request was made to enter into a contract (SHC-FY24-72-06). The contract will run from October 15, 2025, to October 16, 2026. The contract will require 40 hours of peer-to-peer mentorship and will be paid at a rate of \$75/hour. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the requested contract. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

MASWCD Resolution Voting: Discussion was held regarding MASWCD Resolutions on the ballot this year and Board members were given the option to vote online or on paper. No discussion was held regarding the contents of the resolutions, but Board members with questions should contact Wurscher to discuss prior to the November 1 submission deadline.

Paid Family and Medical Leave: Wurscher supplied the Board with an overview of the MN PFML program. The personnel committee recommended the insurance be sought through a private insurer, premiums to be paid 100% by the employer, no top off of wages, and intermittent leave to be used a full workday at a time. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the recommendations made by the personnel committee. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

Supervisor & Staff Reports: See attached staff reports.

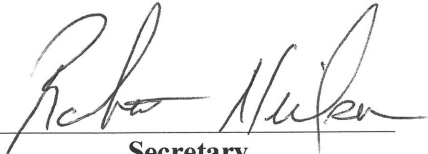
Other Business: Wurscher made a request to the Board to select the rate of contribution for the NACD dues. A motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Evenson, approving the same contribution as last year - \$501. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

Wurscher provided a reminder to the Board about MASWCD Annual Convention. The convention will be held December 1-3 in Bloomington and the deadline to register is November 7.

Next Meeting: November 12, 2025, 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 4:55 p.m. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, K. Thies. Carried.

Approved: November 12, 2025


Secretary