



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, 2499 5th Ave., New Auburn, MN on August 9th, 2022.

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

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

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher
District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin
Conservation Technician – Jack Bushman
Sibley County Commissioner - Joy Cohrs
Sibley County Commissioner – Steve Saxton

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

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

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve thirty-five paid bills for the month of July totaling \$308,825.96. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

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

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Farm Bill Biologist: Wurscher announced to the Board that there is interest from the area Pheasant Forever (PF) Chapters in hiring a Farm Bill Biologist position. A representative from PF had contacted Wurscher to gage the interest of the local office. There is a NRCS and PF agreement in place towards a position of this nature that would cover roughly 50% of the wages, provide a computer, and provide access to a federal government vehicle to perform field work tasks. PF is seeking the other 50% contribution from SWCDs. After some discussion, a consensus was made to explore this opportunity further, especially if another county is interested in partnering.

CPL Grant - High Island Lake Dam: Wurscher gave a brief update regarding the CPL grant. Wurscher stated that a final CPL grant reimbursement request was submitted as well as all required reporting relating to the grant in order to close it out. A request for reimbursement was also made to the MN DNR tapping into the dam safety dollars that were set aside. Wurscher noted that at the time of final inspection by DNR, there were some safety concerns of extending the catwalk and handrails further west. Currently there are some supply chain issues in acquiring those materials, however Land Pride Construction has stated it will be addressed early this Fall. Lastly, Wurscher told the Board that he had made a site visit of the project with CPL staff on August 1st.

1W1P Updates: Wurscher provided the board with reports from each of the three active 1W1Ps within Sibley County; Lower MN River-West, Central Minnesota River (Middle MN/Hawk Creek), South Fork Crow River.

NRCS Report: No report.

Supervisor & Staff Report: See attached staff report.

Other Business: None.

Next Meeting: September 13, 2022, 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 4:37 p.m. Ayes Nielsen, Grams, Evenson, Thies, Wiemann. Carried.

Approved: September 13, 2022

Secretary