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MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, Sibley County Courthouse Basement on July 14, 2020.

The meeting was called to order by Chair – Evenson at 4:00 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
District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin
Conservation Technician, Jack Bushman
District Conservationist - NRCS, April Sullivan

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

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the minutes of the June 2020 meeting upon corrections. Ayes Evenson, Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Nielsen. Carried.

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies it was moved to approve 30 paid bills for the month of June totaling \$49,414.68. Ayes Thies, Grams, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson. Carried.

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the July 2020 Treasurer's report subjected to audit. Ayes Nielsen, Thies, Grams, Evenson, Wiemann. Carried.

Old Business: Discussion was continued about possible future grant opportunities towards a surface water management plan (SWMP) for the City of Henderson. Rachel Pichelmann (SEH) and Robyn Geldner (Councilman) were present to field questions from the board. Robyn provided a letter representing the City's stance on a possible partnership with the SWCD by pursuing the Clean Water Fund (CWF) AIG. Robyn listed many challenges the city faces when dealing with surface water and significant changes in elevation. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve partnering with the City of Henderson on an accelerated implementation grant (AIG) when the next request for proposal comes out. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

Cost Share: The District received a request from Pete Weber (FY19-5) to enter into a contract for a water and sediment control basin (WASCOB) (P.S.638) on his property located in Washington Lake Twp. Sec. 25. Estimated costs for the project are \$6,959.16. To bring the cost share up to 75% in conjunction with EQIP, the district would contract with Pete for \$1,639.15. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams it was moved to approve Pete's request. Ayes Evenson, Thies, Grams, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried

A second structural practice request was made to the board, this time from Bruce Platz (CAP19-7) to enter into a contract for a WASCOB on his property located in Cornish Twp. Sec.25. Estimated costs of the project are \$5,534.10, with the district providing cost share of \$1,339.05, in conjunction with his approved EQIP contract

bringing the total cost share amount up to 75%. Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Nielsen it was moved to approve this request. Ayes Evenson, Thies, Grams, Nielsen, Wiemann. Carried.

Another request was made by Bruce Platz (CAP19-8) to enter into a contract for a WASCOD on his property also located in Cornish Twp. Sec. 33. Estimated costs for this project are \$5,882.25, with the district providing cost share of \$1,186.70, in conjunction with his approved EQIP contract bringing the total cost share amount up to 75%. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Nielsen it was moved to approve this request. Ayes Evenson, Thies, Grams, Nielsen, Wiemann. Carried.

Allen Fredin's well has been sealed and he is requesting final payment. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve final payment for the Clean Water Fund contract (FY19CWF-21) at a rate of \$334.21. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

L&J Anderson Trust would like to cancel their Buffer FY18-9 contract. The buffer was seeding to meet the state requirements and was not seeding into an approved mix for cost share. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the cancellation of Buffer FY18-9. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

MOA - NRCS: Prior to the board meeting, Wurscher emailed to each board member for review, a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between USDA-NRCS and the SWCD. The MOA outlines the partnership and responsibilities that lie with each party in order to effectively deliver technical and financial assistance to landowners. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the MOA as presented. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

Annual SWCD Picnic: Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to have the annual picnic in conjunction with the August 11th board meeting out at Clear Lake Park. No extended invitations will be made for the potluck this year due to safety concerns relating to Covid-19. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

NRCS Report: See attached.

Supervisor & Staff Report: See attached.

Other Business: Wurscher notified the board that the Stealth trailer had some graffiti on it. He mentioned he called the police and that a policeman came out to document.

Next Meeting: August 11, 2020, starting at 4 p.m., Clear Lake Park, 33150 615th Ave., Gibbon, MN 55335.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by Wiemann seconded by Grams, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:16 p.m. Ayes Wiemann, Evenson, Grams, Thies, Nielsen. Carried.

Approved: August 11, 2020

Secretary