



MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN 55334

March 10, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Chair – Evenson at 3:58p.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
Water Planner, Ron Otto
Conservation Technician, Jack Bushman
Soil Conservationist – NRCS, Katelyn Mattila

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

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

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve all paid bills and the Treasurer's reports for January and February of 2020. Ayes Grams, Evenson, Wiemann, Thies, Nielsen. Carried.

Old Business: None.

Cost Share: Cole Robinson's well had been sealed and he is requesting final payment in the amount of \$500.00. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the final payment for his Clean Water Fund contract (FY19CWF-18) at a rate of \$500.00. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Evenson, Grams, Nielsen. Carried.

A request was presented to the Board to enter into a cost-share contract with Lyle Black (FY19CWF-19, FY19-4) for a well sealing on his property located in Severance Twp. Lyle had a quote from Schaefer Well Co. of \$700.00. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the contract for Lyle Black at 50% or \$350.00, whichever comes in less. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

A request was made from St. Peter's Lutheran Church to cancel their cost-share contract (WCA18-2). They were unable to successfully reach and seal their unused well. The Board expressed their public health concerns over leaving this well unsealed. However, upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the cancellation of the contract. Ayes Evenson, Thies, Grams, Nielsen, Wiemann. Carried.

FY20 WPLMN: Bushman presented to the board a grant opportunity from the MPCA. The two-year grant

would entail water monitoring at two locations along the High Island Creek. In total, the grant would bring into the District \$20,874.15 and provide a 0.08 FTE. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve moving forward with this grant. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

MN Dept of Health – Safe Drinking Water for Private Well Users Grant: Another grant opportunity was presented to the Board. The grant would be to address high levels of arsenic within the county by first testing drinking water from private wells, and if found at elevated levels, address the problem with a tiered cost share program. The grant is given out to just one entity with a total of \$100,000 awarded to the successful applicant. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve submitting the grant proposal to the MDH by the March 16th deadline. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

SC TSA: Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the annual contribution to the South-Central Technical Service Area in the amount of \$3,550.00. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

Capitol Day Briefing: Wurscher notified the board of the details surrounding the MASWCD event up at the state's capitol. Wurscher also went through with the Board the 2020 legislative priorities for MASWCD. No board members were available to attend this year's event.

Tree Program Update: Buckentin enlightened the board on the status of the 2020 tree program. Buckentin told the board that up to this point, only 44 orders have been made. Sales have been slow up to this point and more outreach had been done than ever before. Buckentin asked the board for suggestions on how to make improvements and increase sales.

AIS – Phase II: Wurscher informed the board of the proposed AIS activities for 2020 on Clear Lake. The SWCD plans on continuing its work with WSB, this time, PIT/radio tagging common carp. Ideally, this data would identify spawning grounds and congregation areas for potential future management.

NRCS Report: Mattila updated the Board on two new CRP programs that are available. Currently, NRCS has 30 applications for this year's EQIP sign-up between Sibley and Nicollet Counties. Mattila added that CSP payments are now finished and that general CSP applications are due by May 29th.

Supervisor & Staff Report: See attached.

Other Business: An invoice was brought forth to the board relating to the CPL Grant on Altnow WMA. This invoice was from Tony's Outdoor Services in the amount of \$22,000. The bill was for brush management services including cutting, mulching, burning and spraying of undesirable species. Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to pay Tony's Outdoor Services \$22,000. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

Wurscher notified the board of the upcoming Area VI meeting held in Winnebago on March 31st. Wurscher also reminded the Board that their quarterly expense reports are due at the end of March.

Next Meeting: April 14, 2020, starting at 4 p.m. located at 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:06 p.m. Ayes Wiemann, Grams, Evenson, Thies, Nielsen. Carried.

Approved: April 14, 2020

Secretary