



Sibley SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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MINNESOTA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil and Water Conservation District, 111 6th Street, Gaylord, MN 55334,
April 11, 2017.

Meeting was called to order by Chair – Nielsen at 4:10 P.M.

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

Others Present: District Technician/Water Planner, Ron Otto
District Technician, Joel Wurscher
NRCS District Conservationist, April Sullivan
Niccollet/Sibley Administrative Assistant, Melissa Lancaster
District Manager, Kevin Ostermann
Rush River/High Island Coordinator, Coleton Draeger - Absent
County Commissioner, Joy Cohrs

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

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the minutes of the March 2016 meeting. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried

Upon a motion by Evenson and seconded by Thies it was moved to approve 22 paid bills for March 2016 totaling \$13,775.50. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the April 2017 Treasurer's Report subject to audit. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried

Old Business: none

Cost Share: none

WCA Appeal: the board went through the finds of facts pertaining to the Verne Schlueter wetland appeal that were drafted by attorney John Kolb. After the review the board instructed

the staff to revise the finds of fact according to the board's recommendation. This information will then be presented at the May 9th board meeting for final approval.

Watershed Position: Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Thies it was moved to approve the recommendation of the District Manager and Personnel Committee to hire Coleton Draeger for the Watershed Coordinator Position. Starting wage for this position is \$21.01/hr. Benefits and leave that Draeger had accumulated through Sibley County will be transferred to his new position with the District. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried

Co-location Discussion: The District Manager informed the Sibley Board that after consulting with the Nicollet County Commissioners and the Nicollet Soil & Water Board it has been agreed upon that the Nicollet Soil & Water Conservation Office will continue to be in St. Peter, MN and will not co-locate at this time with the Sibley Soil & Water Office. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies it was moved to approve that Sibley SWCD will move forward with being independent by looking for new building space and hiring a new District Manager. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

Interim District Manager: Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies it was moved to approve Joel Wurscher as the Interim District Manager for Sibley County. Wurscher will train with Ostermann and be reviewed by the Board in June of 2017. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

Equipment Purchase: Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams it was moved to approve Sibley staff to get estimates for new office equipment that they will need. Items include server, copier/printer, desks, file cabinets and phones. Prices will be discussed at the May Board meeting and equipment will be purchased out of Capacity funds. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried

Governance 101 Training: Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve all staff and supervisors to attend the Governance 101 training that will be held Sept 14-15 in Bloomington, MN. The training is sponsored by MCIT. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried

NRCS Report – April Sullivan reported - see attached.

Supervisor & Staff Report: Wurscher reported on the buffer meeting, projects he has been working on, as well as an update on the tree program (see attached report). Otto reported on meetings he attended, WCA, and mailing list updates (see attached report).

Other Business:

Next Meeting: May 9, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to adjourn the meeting. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:35 P.M.

Approved May 9, 2017

Secretary