



## SIBLEY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Gaylord, MN 55334  
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# MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, 111 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Gaylord, MN 55334,  
June 13, 2017.

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: Interim District Manager, Joel Wurscher  
District Manager, Kevin Ostermann  
Watershed Technician/Water Planner, Ron Otto  
Watershed Grants Coordinator, Coleton Draeger  
Farm Bill Technician, Max Rykhus  
NRCS District Conservationist, April Sullivan

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

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the minutes of the April 2017 meeting. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Evenson it was moved to approve 17 paid bills for May 2017 totaling \$16,989.88. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Nielsen, Evenson. Carried.

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

**Old Business:** Wurscher followed up with the Board on the 2017 tree program. Total tree program sales were \$16,668.48 with \$2,336.98 of profit to the district. This spring the district sold 4,231 total trees/shrubs, 166 tree mats, 1 roll of matting and 37 tree tubes.

**District Manager's Position:** Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the hiring of Joel Wurscher as the Sibley SWCD District manager starting at a grade 16 effective June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Grams, Thies, Wiemann. Carried.

**Cost Share:** Contract FY15-17 for Linda Haupt's well sealing is complete. Landowner is requesting final payment in the amount of \$550.00 with TA of \$137.50. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve FY15-17 for Linda Haupt in the amount of \$550.00 with TA of

\$137.50. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Grams, Thies, Wiemann. Carried.

**Buffer Law Update:** Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the Resolution 2017-1 in regards to the administration of the Minnesota Buffer Law “Other Watercourses”. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Grams, Thies, Wiemann. Carried.

**2016 Capacity Grant:** Wurscher presented a revised list of equipment needed for the Sibley SWCD and the estimated cost of each item (see attached list). Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies it was moved to approve the amendment to the 2016 Capacity Grant. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried. A motion was then made by Grams and seconded by Thies to approve the expenditures that were presented to the board on the attached list. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

**Building Update:** There was discussion between staff and the Board about new office space and floor plans. Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Wiemann it was moved to approve proceeding on a 10 year lease with Allen Bartles at \$13.67/sq.ft. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

**Area VI Meeting:** Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Thies it was moved to approve all staff and Supervisors to attend the Area VI Meeting which will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday June 29<sup>th</sup> at The Wow Zone in Mankato. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

**MASWCD Leadership Institute:** Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams it was moved to approve any staff and Supervisors to attend the 2017-2018 Leadership Institute. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

**Summer Intern:** Wurscher discussed with the board hiring a summer intern. It was approved by BWSR to spend capacity dollars on an intern position. The board noted that it was getting late in the year to start the search and that it would be wise to start earlier before college kids are home for the summer. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Thies it was moved to approve hiring a summer intern at \$12/hr. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

**Sibley County Fair:** Discussions occurred between staff and Board members about shifts at the upcoming Sibley County Fair Booth.

**NRCS Report** – April Sullivan gave a verbal and written report updating the Board on EQIP, CSP, CRP, Wetland/HEL and ACEP. She also gave an update on cooperative working agreements between SWCD and NRCS.

**Supervisor & Staff Report:** Wurscher, Otto, Rykhus and Draeger reported – see attached.

**Other Business:** Discussions were had amongst the board about the 2017-2018 Leadership Institute. No decisions were made at this time.

**Next Meeting:** July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

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

Approved June 13, 2017

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**Secretary**