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MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, 111 6th Street, Gaylord, MN 55334,
July 11, 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: District Manager, Joel Wurscher
Watershed Technician/Water Planner, Ron Otto
Watershed Grants Coordinator, Coleton Draeger
NRCS District Conservationist, April Sullivan
District Manager, Kevin Ostermann

Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the agenda with the additions.
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 May
2017 meeting. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies it was moved to approve 19 paid bills for June 2017
totaling \$18,343.15. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Nielsen, Evenson. Carried.

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

Old Business: Wurscher presented to the board the financial reports created by Julie Krebs (BWSR) for
both phase 1 and 2 of disaster relief grant funds. These reports were created due to the reconciliation
process. This process is required for all grants of \$50,000 and larger. Upon a motion by Thies and
seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the financial report for phase 1 of disaster relief. Ayes
Nielsen, Evenson, Grams, Thies, Wiemann. Carried. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Thies, it
was moved to approve the financial report for phase 2 of disaster relief. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Grams,
Thies, Wiemann. Carried.

Wurscher brought up for discussion acquiring a new telephone number prior to moving. Wurscher
received a quote from RS Fiber since the prior quote was a bundled package of both telephone and

internet. For just a telephone number, it would cost \$29.90 a month. After some discussion, it was determined by the board that it would be important to get this number as soon as possible to advertise.

Next, the topic of the fair booth came up. Otto passed around a sign-up sheet for covering the booth. The Sibley County Fair will be held August 2nd – 6th.

Lastly, Wurscher updated the board that a CD had matured on July 6th, 2017. The money from this CD (\$12,064.51) was deposited into the checking account. Over the past year, the CD had gained \$30.09 in interest.

Cost Share: Wurscher discussed contract amendments for extensions on three flood relief cost share contracts. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to extend contract FR14P2-5 (Duane Kistner) from 8/1/17 to 12/1/17. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Grams, Thies, Wiemann. Carried. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Thies, it was moved to extend contract FR14P2-4 (Howard Brinkman) from 8/1/17 to 12/1/17. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Grams, Thies, Wiemann. Carried. Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to extend contract FR14-5 (Harold Sievers) from 7/30/17 to 12/1/17. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Grams, Thies, Wiemann. Carried.

Watershed Agreement: Draeger brought the board up to speed on the status of the watershed agreement. The agreement is in the process of being amended and has been for quite some time. This agreement states that the Sibley SWCD will now invoice the County for work completed under the 319 project. This project runs until August 31st, 2019.

Conservationists of the Year: After some discussion a motion was then made by Thies and seconded by Wiemann to nominate Paul Platz as the 2017 conservationist of the year. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

Signing Authority: Wurscher proposed to the board taking Ostermann off and adding Draeger to the list of those with signing authority under the district's ProGrowth bank accounts. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve these changes to the ProGrowth bank accounts. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

Wurscher also questioned the board who should have the signing authority to sign the lease when it comes time to move to the new location. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to have the District Manager and Board Chair sign the new lease agreement. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Evenson, Nielsen.

Job Approval Authority (JAA): Wiemann brought up the discussion of JAA since it was discussed at the last Area 6 meeting. Wurscher and Sullivan discussed what JAA is, how one acquires it, and which JAA would be the most useful to attain according to the conservation practices we (NRCS & SWCD) see most frequently in Sibley County.

Operational/Cooperative Working Agreements: Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Evenson it was moved to approve the Operational Working Agreement. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies it was moved to approve the Cooperative Working Agreement. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried. (see attached)

2018 Buffer Cost Share Grant: Sibley SWCD has been awarded \$40,000 to put towards cost share implementation of riparian buffers or alternative practices along public waters or public ditches. The expiration of this grant is December 31, 2019, or when all of the funds have been expended, whichever comes first. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies it was moved to approve the 2018 Riparian Buffer Cost Share Program Grant Agreement. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

2018 County Budget: Ostermann and Wurscher presented their proposed 2018 county budget to the board. The district will request no additional money in comparison to last year. The district has a few more grants coming in, but also will have more expenditures in rent and wages. Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Grams it was moved to approve the proposed 2018 budget and send it in to Roxy Traxler. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

NRCS Report – Sullivan reported – see attached.

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

Other Business: It was discussed by the board and a motion was made by Thies, seconded by Grams, to advertise for a District Technician position. This position has been vacant since Wurscher has moved on to the District Manager position.

Wurscher gave a brief update to the board about the current CREP sign-up. The district will be hosting an informational meeting about CREP in conjunction with NRCS and FSA. This meeting will be located at the Sibley County Service Center on July 26th, 2017 starting at 2pm.

Next Meeting: August 15th, 2017 at 4:00 p.m., followed by a potluck. The next meeting will be held at Melsha's pond.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Thies, it was moved to adjourn the meeting. Ayes Thies, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 P.M.

Approved: August 15, 2017

Secretary