



111 6<sup>th</sup> Street, PO Box 161  
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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,  
August 15, 2017.

The meeting was called to order by Chair – Nielsen at 4:03 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  
County Commissioner, Joy Cohrs  
Board Conservationists, Jenny Mocal-Johnson  
Former Board member, Gary Schafer

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

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

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Evenson it was moved to approve 34 paid bills for July 2017 totaling \$77,833.80. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Nielsen, Evenson. Carried.

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

**Old Business:** Wurscher reported to the board that Paul Platz had accepted the Sibley SWCD Conservationist of the Year award. Mr. Platz sounded very excited about the recognition and that they would be able to make it to the state convention in December.

Wurscher also reported to the board that he had made a visit to the new office location. The visit was made to direct the electrician where to install electrical outlets and data ports. At the time of the visit, the office walls were framed up and sheet rock was going to be installed within the next week or two.

**Cost Share:** Wurscher updated the board on several ongoing construction projects included a grade stabilization structure and streambank stabilization. Wurscher then informed the board about the new buffer cost share that will soon be available. A workplan and policy needs to be approved by BWSR before any activity can occur under this grant. To date, one landowner has inquired about signing a cost share application for these funds.

**District Technician Position:** Prior to the board meeting, the personnel committee met to discuss the position opening and the 14 applications were reviewed. After some board discussion, a motion was made by Wiemann and seconded by Thies to offer the position to Jeremy Buckentin at \$25.00/hr. If Jeremy doesn't accept the position within 48 hours, the district will move on to the next top 5 qualified candidates. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

**County Fair:** The board members shared their experiences while tending the booth. Wurscher posed the question to the board what the district should do in the future with the booth. After much discussion, it was decided by the board to table all county fair discussion until next May/June.

**CPL Grant:** Draeger informed the board about CPL Grants and the process to apply to one. Draeger also informed the board that he has been working with DNR and Pheasants Forever in writing grants pertaining to WMA management. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams it was moved to approve the district submitting applications towards CPL Grants. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

**Governance Training:** Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies it was moved to approve any staff and Supervisors to attend the Governance 101 training. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

**BWSR Academy:** Upon a motion by Evenson and seconded by Thies it was moved to approve staff attendance at the 2017 BWSR academy. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

**NRCS Report** – Sullivan reported – see attached.

**Supervisor & Staff Report:** Otto and Draeger reported – see attached. Wurscher reported to the board a brief update about CREP. Wurscher submitted three applications for CREP to date. Wurscher gave an update about the Farmbill Technician position that is currently vacant. Wurscher then informed the board that the summer intern position would be done at the end of the week. Wurscher communicated to the board of all the accomplishments she had achieved over the summer.

**Other Business:** Wurscher presented a plaque to Gary Schafer on behalf of the District in recognition of the 22 years of being on the District Board.

**Next Meeting:** September 12<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 4:55 P.M.

Approved: September 12, 2017

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**Secretary**