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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,  
October 10, 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  
                                  District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin  
                                  Watershed Technician/Water Planner, Ron Otto  
                                  Farmbill Technician, McKoy Rodning  
                                  NRCS District Conservationist, April Sullivan  
                                  Sibley County Commissioner, Joy Cohrs

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

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

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies it was moved to approve 26 paid bills for September 2017 totaling \$31,906.84. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

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

**Old Business:** Wurscher asked the board to turn in their resolution ballots.

**Cost Share:** Sylvia Reinhardt's grade stabilization structure (FR14-9) came in higher than what was originally budgeted. The extra costs incurred were due to continuing erosion of the site since the estimates were originally made, in turn increasing the amount of compacted fill needed. Upon a motion by Evenson and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the Amendment 1 for contract FR14-9 of an additional \$3,670.00 to be allocated towards the project. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Grams, Thies, Wiemann. Carried.

Like previously mention, contract FR14-9 for Sylvia Reinhardt's grade stabilization structure was completed. The landowner is requesting final payment for the amount of \$23,170.00, with TA of \$4,875.00. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve FR14-9 for Sylvia Reinhardt in the amount of \$23,170.00 with TA of \$4,875.00. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Grams, Thies, Wiemann. Carried.

Contract FR14P3-2 for Dean Hathaway's streambank stabilization was finished. The landowner is requesting final payment for the amount of \$27,810.47, with TA of \$4,000.00. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve FR14P3-2 for Dean Hathaway in the amount of \$27,810.47 with TA of \$4,000.00. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Grams, Thies, Wiemann. Carried.

Contract FR14-5 for Harold Sievers' grade stabilization structure is complete. The landowner is requesting final payment for the amount of \$12,610.00, with TA of \$3,152.50. Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve FR14-5 for Harold Sievers in the amount of \$12,610.00 with TA of \$3,152.50. Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Grams, Thies, Wiemann. Carried.

A request was made to the Board to enter into a Buffer Cost-Share contract with Melvin Dahlke for 3.21 acres of buffer strip on his property located near Mud Lake (New Auburn Twp.). Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the Buffer Cost Share Contract (Buffer FY18-1) for Melvin Dahlke at a flat rate of \$300.00 per acre. Ayes Thies, Grams, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson. Carried.

Another request was presented to the Board to enter into a Buffer Cost-Share contract with Todd Trebelhorn for 3.86 acres of buffer strips on his property located Bismarck Twp. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the Buffer Cost Share Contract (Buffer FY18-2) for Todd Trebelhorn at a flat rate of \$300.00 per acre. Ayes Thies, Grams, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson. Carried.

A third request was presented to the Board to enter into a Buffer Cost-Share contract with Ron Trebelhorn for a 0.80 acre buffer strip on his property located in Transit Twp. Upon a motion by Evenson and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the Buffer Cost Share Contract (Buffer FY18-3) for Ron Trebelhorn at a flat rate of \$300.00 per acre. Ayes Thies, Grams, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson. Carried.

The last request presented to the Board was to enter into a Buffer Cost-Share contract with John Renner for 0.77 acres of buffer strip on his property located in Transit Twp. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the Buffer Cost Share Contract (Buffer FY18-4) for John Renner at a flat rate of \$300.00 per acre. Ayes Thies, Grams, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson. Carried.

**AIS Program:** Wurscher notified the board that the county held a meeting to offer the SWCD to take over the AIS program. Historically the Environmental Services Dept. took the task on, but since have been restructured. The county felt that a natural fit for this program would be down at the district office. The AIS contract must remain with the county, but the budget and activities would be up to the district. The county received \$29,808 in 2014 and \$66,238 annually thereafter. After some discussion, a motion was made by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, to approve taking on the AIS program starting the 2018 calendar year. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Evenson, Grams, Nielsen. Carried.

**Watershed Coordinator/SWCD Technician Position:** Prior to the board meeting, the personnel committee met to discuss the position opening due to the departure of Draeger to the McLeod SWCD. After some board discussion, a motion was made by Wiemann and seconded by Grams to offer the position to the selected candidate that was previously interviewed during the last position opening in August. This position would be offered at the Sibley County grade 10 minimum. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

**WPLMN/319 TMDL Grant:** With the addition of staff, a motion was made by Grams and seconded by Evenson, to move extending the WPLMN grant an additional two years. This grant focuses on water monitoring various water quality parameters at two locations on the High Island Creek. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

**2017 NACD Membership Dues:** Historically the district had paid \$775 for Gold status. Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve payment towards the annual NACD dues in the amount of \$501 (Silver Status). Ayes Nielsen, Evenson, Grams, Thies, Wiemann. Carried.

**Storage Unit:** Wurscher disclosed to the board that current space is very limited in the office. Wurscher mentioned to the board renting a storage unit as a solution for the time being until the move to the new space. Otto did some research and located a unit available in Gaylord for \$65 per month. The district has taken over some of NRCS' space for staff, so it has been agreed upon that NRCS would also utilize the proposed storage unit. A motion was made by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, to approve temporarily renting a storage unit when/if needed. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Evenson, Grams, Nielsen. Carried.

**Annual Convention:** A motion was made by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, to approve permission for all supervisors and staff to attend the 2017 annual MASWCD convention held at the Double Tree Hotel in Bloomington. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Evenson, Grams, Nielsen. Carried.

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

**Supervisor & Staff Report:** Otto – see attached. Buckentin reported briefly to the board about the construction projects he has been working on describing the various phases of each project. Buckentin also informed the board that he had met with TSA staff. Rodning reported about a CREP proposal mailing he put together and sent out to 31 landowners in Sibley County. Rodning added that he had been working on 68 CRP eligibilities between both counties and has 97 upcoming expiring contracts that he has to perform inspections on.

**Other Business:** Wurscher notified the board that he received word from DNR that the SWCD had been awarded three CPL grants to perform restoration work on WMA's within the County. The three WMA's were Altnows (\$24,200), Severance (\$13,200), and Sibley (\$26,950) totaling \$64,350.

Wurscher informed the board that Verne Schlueter had stopped in to talk about restorable wetlands on the western side of the county and CRP rates.

**Next Meeting:** November 14<sup>th</sup>, 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, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams, Wiemann. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:37 P.M.

Approved: November 14, 2017

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**Secretary**