



112 5th Street, PO Box 161
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MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN on
January 10th, 2023.

The meeting was called to order by Chair – Grams at 3:59 p.m.

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

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher
Sibley County FSA – Jennifer King

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the January 2023 agenda with additions. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the minutes of the December 2022 meeting. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve forty-eight paid bills for the month of December totaling \$87,369.72. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the January 2023 Treasurer's report subjected to audit. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Old Business: Wurscher provided the Board the information they had requested at the prior month's meeting on how the County handles the Ag BMP loan program after the SWCD Board approves loans as an eligible conservation practice.

Wurscher passed around his mock up designs and updated the Board on the progress of becoming a dealer of Sibley County plat books. After much discussion, a motion was made by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, moving to rescind the board action taken during the November board meeting. Included in the motion was to pursue an ad in the plat book, giving the staff the choice whether to promote the district or the AIS program. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

New Business:

FSA – COC Elections and Program Update: King presented to the Board the results of the recent COC election for LAA-3. Wiemann asked King who currently held positions on the COC. King then provided to the Board program and staffing updates in regard to USDA – FSA.

2023 SWCD Annual Plan: A draft of the plan was sent out prior to the board meeting in the mail for review. Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the 2023 Sibley SWCD Annual Plan as presented. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

MASWCD Dues: Wurscher received an invoice for the FY23 MASWCD dues in the amount of \$6,244.30. This amount was up from the 2022 invoice of \$4,590.62. After much discussion, a motion was made by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, moving to approve payment in the amount of \$6,244.30 with the caveat that Chair Grams seeks out a better explanation of the large hike in dues from last year. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Peterson Audit Bid: Wurscher presented to the Board an audit bid by Peterson Company, LTD for FY22. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve Peterson Company, LTD's audit bid in the amount of \$3,550, plus \$175 per lease. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

NRCS Contribution Agreement: Wurscher informed the Board that he has had discussions with Stich about a possible opportunity for CRP related contribution agreements with NRCS. Wurscher stated that these agreements pay out \$150 per site to perform status reviews on expiring 2025 CRP contracts. Sibley County has 40 expiring contracts slated, so the District would have the potential to earn \$6,000. There also is the possibility for the agreement to include CRP cost share practice certifications at the same rate per site. A motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, to give Wurscher the authority to engage and sign a contribution agreement with NRCS for the services talked about, if presented to the District. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

NRCS Report: See attached report.

Supervisor & Staff Report: See attached staff report.

Other Business: Wurscher notified the board that the semi-annual SWCD newsletters were sent out in the mail.

Next Meeting: February 14, 2023, starting at 4 p.m., located at 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by Thies seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:56 p.m. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Approved: February 14, 2023

Secretary