



MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN on December 10th, 2024.

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

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

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher
District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin
Water Resources Coordinator, Jack Bushman
Conservation Technician, Tara O'Brien
FSA-Program Analyst in Charge, Hayley Thies
NRCS-Soil Conservationist, Christopher Engh
BWSR-Board Conservationist, Shane Bugeja

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the December 2024 meeting agenda as presented. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann, Grams. Carried.

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the minutes of the November 2024 meeting. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann, Grams. Carried.

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve twenty-eight paid bills for the month of November totaling \$95,503.92. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann, Grams. Carried.

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the December 2024 Treasurer's report subjected to audit. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann, Grams. Carried.

Old Business: O'Brien informed the Board that she had started an Instagram and a Facebook page on behalf of the district. She provided links and a QR code to the new accounts.

FSA Report: See attached.

NRCS Report: See attached.

BWSR Report: Bugeja mentioned that like USDA, BWSR is waiting on a new Farm Bill. Specifically, several RCCP grants and the CRP incentive grant have all been impacted/delayed without a Farm Bill. He

also informed the Board that he has been very busy with grant extensions since numerous grants have a December 31st deadline.

New Business:

Cost Share: The contract holder for SH FY23-1 has requested the second and third year payments for 79 acres per year of multi-species cover crops. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the payment request in the amount of \$6,493.80. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann, Grams. Carried.

Next, the contract holder for FY24 CC-1, FY25 CC-1 has requested all three years payments towards 116 acres per year of multi-species cover crops. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the payment request in the amount of \$19,140.00. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann, Grams. Carried.

The third item up was a request from the contract holder for FY23 WBIF-17. This request was for all 3 years of payments towards 237 acres per year of multi-species cover crops. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the payment request in the amount of \$39,105.00. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann, Grams. Carried.

Then, the contract holder for FY23 WBIF-20 requested a payment for 40 acres of a single species cover crop. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the payment request in the amount of \$1,400.00. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann, Grams. Carried.

Lastly, a request made from the contract holder for FY23 WBIF-21. This request was for all 3 years of payments towards 450 acres per year of multi-species cover crops. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the payment request in the amount of \$74,250.00. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann, Grams. Carried.

2024 Performance Evaluations: Wurscher announced that a personnel committee meeting was held on November 20th to discuss annual reviews. After some discussion, a motion was made by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, moving to approve the personnel committee's recommendations for each employee using the approved 2025 Sibley County performance matrix starting the first pay period in January. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann, Grams. Carried.

2025 Supervisor Committees/Assignments:

A motion was made by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, moving to approve the 2025 board positions as follows: Chair –Evenson, Vice Chair – Wiemann, Secretary – Nielsen, Treasurer – Grams, Member – Thies. This motion also included leaving all committee assignments as they were in 2024. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann, Grams. Carried.

2025 Banking: Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to leave all banking matters as they were in 2024. ProGrowth Bank in Gaylord was the official depository and Wiemann has signing authority on all bank accounts. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann, Grams. Carried.

Supervisor & Staff Reports: See attached staff reports. Thies and Nielsen reported on their experiences at the MASWCD convention held December 2nd-4th.

Other Business: Wurscher reminded the Board to get their 4th quarter expense reports turned in.

Next Meeting: January 14th, 2025, starting at 4 p.m., located at 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by Wiemann seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:51 p.m. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann, Grams. Carried.

Approved: January 14, 2025

Secretary