



MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN 55334

December 11, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Chair – Thies at 4:00 P.M.

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

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher
District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin
Water Planner, Ron Otto
Conservation Technician, Jack Bushman

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

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the minutes of the November 2019 meeting. Ayes Grams, Evenson, Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve 42 paid bills for November 2019 totaling \$66,604.55. Ayes Grams, Evenson, Wiemann, Thies, Nielsen. Carried

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the December 2019 Treasurer's report subject to audit. Ayes Grams, Evenson, Thies, Nielsen, Wiemann. Carried

Old Business: None.

Cost Share: L&J Anderson Trust would like to request an extension to his buffer cost share contract (Buffer FY18-9). The current contract expires 12/31/2019. Currently the buffer is planted into an unapproved mix for cost share purposes and they would like to re-seed the area with the approved switchgrass mix provided by the district. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve extending L&J Anderson Trust's contract until 12/31/2020. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Evenson, Nielsen, Grams. Carried.

John Anderson's 0.55 acres of buffer strips were seeded. John is requesting final payment in the amount of \$165.00. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the final payment for Buffer Cost Share contract (Buffer FY18-48) at a flat rate of \$300.00 per acre (\$165.00). Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Nielsen, Evenson. Carried.

Barbara Miller's 2.49 acres of buffer strips were seeded. Barbara is requesting final payment in the amount of \$747.00. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the final payment for Buffer Cost Share contract (Buffer FY18-58) at a flat rate of \$300.00 per acre (\$747.00). Ayes Wiemann,

Thies, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

Rhoda Woehler's well has been sealed and she is requesting final payment in the amount of \$600.00. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the final payment for Clean Water Fund Contract (FY19CWF-9) at a rate of \$600.00. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Evenson, Grams, Nielsen. Carried.

Lucille Stelzer Trust's well has been sealed as well and they are requesting final payment in the amount of \$337.50. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the final payment for Clean Water Fund Contract (FY19CWF-10) at a rate of \$337.50. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Evenson, Grams, Nielsen. Carried.

Everett Bratsch's well has been sealed and is requesting final payment in the amount of \$435.00. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve for final payment the Clean Water Fund contract (FY19CWF-14) at a rate of \$435.00. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

Nathaniel Doehling is requesting his second and third years payment for 80 acres each year of a multi species mix of cover crops in the amount of \$7,934.40. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve Nathaniel's last two years payments from the Capacity 2018 contract (CAP18-4) in the amount of \$7,934.40. Ayes Thies, Grams, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Emily Doehling is requesting her second and third years payment for 44 acres each year of a multi species mix of cover crops in the amount of \$4,363.92. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve Emily's last two years payments from the Capacity 2018 contract (CAP18-5) in the amount of \$4,363.92. Ayes Evenson, Thies, Grams, Nielsen, Wiemann. Carried.

Contract FY19-3 for David A. Young Rev. Trust's WASCOB structure was completed. The total project cost came in at \$12,245.00, with EQIP paying \$8,691.09. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve final payment of \$492.66, bringing the total cost share up to 75%. Ayes Evenson, Thies, Grams, Nielsen, Wiemann. Carried

2020 Wages: Upon a motion made by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the personnel committee's recommendation of all staff increasing by one step on the County's performance increment scale starting the first pay period in January. The motion also included the personnel committee's recommendation of Bushman moving up one grade level on the County scale due to increased workload and tasks beyond his current job description. Ayes Thies, Grams, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried

2020 Sibley SWCD Annual Plan: A draft of the plan was sent out prior to the board meeting for review. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the 2020 Sibley SWCD Annual Plan including the changes from comments received. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson, Thies. Carried

2020 Sibley SWCD Supervisor Positions and Committee Assignments: Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the board positions and committee assignments as printed in the 2020 Sibley SWCD Annual Plan. Included in the motion was eliminating the EQIP committee. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Thies, Grams, Evenson. Carried

Banking: Currently ProGrowth Bank in Gaylord is the official depository. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to leave all banking matters as it was in 2019 and maintain ProGrowth Bank as the official depository for 2020. Ayes Wiemann, Nielsen, Thies, Grams, Evenson. Carried

WRAC Per Diems: Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the WRAC committee member per diems for 2019 as presented by Otto. Ayes Evenson, Wiemann, Grams, Nielsen, Thies. Carried

NRCS Report: No report.

Supervisor & Staff Report: See attached.

Other Business: Wurscher discussed with the board the changes that were made to the budget request that was submitted to the County in August. The County allocation to the SWCD including pass through grants, will now be \$179,735 for 2020.

Wurscher notified the board that Peterson and Company submitted the final 2018 audit to the State of Minnesota and BWSR. Copies of said audit were given to each board member.

On behalf of the District, Wurscher thanked Nielsen and Wiemann for their 10 years of service on the Board.

Next Meeting: January 14, 2020, starting at 4 p.m. located at 112 5th Street, Gaylord, MN.

Adjourn: Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:32 p.m. Ayes Wiemann, Grams, Evenson, Thies, Nielsen. Carried

Approved: January 14, 2020

Secretary