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## MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, 112 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Gaylord, MN 55334  
**November 12, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Chair – Thies at 4:02 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  
Water Planner/Watershed Technician, Ron Otto  
Conservation Technician, Jack Bushman  
District Conservationist - NRCS, April Sullivan  
Soil Conservationist - NRCS, Katelyn Mattila

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

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

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve 30 paid bills for October 2019 totaling \$34,640.89. Ayes Thies, Grams, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

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

**Old Business:** None.

**Cost Share:** Tom Rabe has made a written request to cancel his Capacity Cost Share (CAP19-1) contract intended for 40 acres of cover crop for three years totaling 120 acres. Tom cited that this was his second year in a row he was unable to get his cover crop in due to weather. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to cancel Tom Rabe's CAP19-1 contract. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

L&T Pioske Farms are requesting their second and third years' payment for 80 acres each year of a single species mix of cover crops in the amount of \$6,790.40. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve L&T Pioske Farms last two years' payments from the Capacity 2017 contract (CAP17-2) in the amount of \$6,790.40. Ayes Grams, Evenson, Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Thomas Henke is requesting his first year payment for 80 acres of a single species mix of cover crops in the amount of \$2,721.60. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve Tom's first year payment from the Capacity 2019 contract (CAP19-4) in the amount of \$2,721.60. Ayes Grams, Thies, Evenson, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

Contract (CAP18-3) for Garth Kramer including three water and sediment control basins has been completed. The total came in at \$23,000. Garth is requesting final payment for \$1,307.18 in Capacity Cost Share in addition to \$15,516.83 from EQUIP. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve final payment for contract CAP18-3 in the amount of \$1,307.18. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, Thies, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

Lonnie Lewin's well has been sealed and is requesting final payment in the amount of \$574.10. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the final payment for Clean Water Fund Contract (FY19CWF-15) at a rate of \$574.10. Ayes Thies, Grams, Wiemann, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

Randy Byro's 4.10 acres of buffer strip were seeded. Randy is requesting final payment in the amount of \$1,230.00. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the final payment for Buffer Cost Share Contract (Buffer FY18-59) at a flat rate of \$300.00 per acre (\$1,230.00). Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

**CPL Grants:** A final payment request was made from Frank Heldberg (H&W Land Management) of \$9,980.00 towards his work on Windot WMA. Frank worked for 99 hours cutting and spraying trees. Upon a motion by Grams and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the final payment of \$9,980.00 to Frank for his services on Windot WMA pending approval of the DNR Land Manager. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

A partial payment request was also made from Frank Heldberg of \$3,993.75 towards his work on Sigler WMA. Frank worked for 36.25 hours cutting and spraying trees on the South West side of this WMA. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Grams, it was moved to approve the partial payment of \$3,993.75 to Frank for his services on Sigler WMA. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Evenson, Nielsen. Carried.

**Area VI Meeting:** Wurscher notified the Board that the next Area VI meeting will be hosted by Renville SWCD and will be held at the Community Center in Franklin on Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Grams it was moved to approve any staff and supervisors to attend the next Area VI meeting. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

**MASWCD Annual Convention:** A motion was made by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, to approve all supervisors and staff to attend the 2019 annual MASWCD convention. It was determined that supervisors would make their own registrations and reservations. The convention will be held at the Double Tree Hotel in Bloomington December 8-10th. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Evenson, Grams, Nielsen. Carried.

**Update - FY20 Cover Crop Demonstration Grant:** Wurscher and Bushman described the submission of the grant application. Bushman and Holly Kalbus (LeSueur County) co-wrote the grant application for the Lower MN Watershed. They requested \$250,000 seeking to increase the adoption of cover crops across the watershed using components of education, mentorship, and cost share programs. Bushman noted that results may be available as soon as January 2020.

**2018 Buffer Cost Share Extension:** Wurscher notified that board that he had submitted a request for a one year extension on the FY18 Buffer Cost Share grant. Before the November Board meeting, four contracts remained outstanding. The extension gives producers until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to satisfy their contracts.

**NACD Dues:** Wurscher informed the board that it is time to renew their NACD membership for FY20. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann it was moved to approve maintaining Silver status by submitting a payment of \$501.00 to NACD. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

**NRCS Report:** See attached.

**Supervisor & Staff Report:** See attached.

**Other Business:** Wurscher passed around the upcoming winter issue of the SWCD newsletter, which should be distributed by the end of November.

Wurscher discussed with the board an opportunity to earn some income by providing engineering services for the Middle MN watershed. A recent meeting was held in New Ulm discussing different options for engineering services within the Middle MN watershed. A pot consisting of \$45,000 is set aside for this specific task and there isn't a lot of experience/JAA for staff within this area. The decision amongst the group was to reach out those identified that could possibly assist, followed by speaking with TSA, and lastly, turn to private engineers. After some discussion, it

was determined that if Buckentin was comfortable, Sibley SWCD would then pursue working with the watershed on a charge for services basis with the conditions that Buckentin's work in Sibley County comes first.

Conversation occurred what and if the SWCD would be donating an auction item at the state convention this year.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday December 11, 2019, starting at 4 p.m., located at 112 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Gaylord, MN.

**Adjourn:** Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:07 p.m. Ayes Wiemann, Evenson, Nielsen, Grams, Thies. Carried.

Approved: December 11, 2019

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**Secretary**