



112 5<sup>th</sup> Street, PO Box 161  
Gaylord, MN 55334  
(507) 702-7077

## MINNESOTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Minutes of the Sibley Soil & Water Conservation District, 112 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Gaylord, MN 55334,  
January 9, 2018.

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

Members Present:      Chair, Bob 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  
                                 Conservation Technician, Erik Goetsch  
                                 Farmbill Technician, McKoy Rodning  
                                 District Conservationist - NRCS, April Sullivan

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

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

Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Evenson it was moved to approve 42 paid bills for December 2018 totaling \$151,551.29. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the January 2018 Treasurer's Report subject to audit. Ayes Thies, Evenson, Grams, Wiemann. Carried.

**Old Business:** The district received an invoice (\$3,007.20) for the 2018 MASWCD dues. Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Evenson it was moved to approve payment of the invoice. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

Wurscher passed around a 2018 calendar of events as Wiemann had suggested at the last meeting.

Wurscher discussed with the board the plan for pay increases in the upcoming year. A motion was made by Wiemann and seconded by Evenson to follow the same methods for pay increases that were used in 2017. Ayes Evenson, Grams, Thies, Wiemann. Carried.

**Appoint Officers/Committee Designations:** Nielsen arrived and the board discussed continuing with a rotation for positions. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies it was moved to approve the board positions following the table below. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

<b>Officers</b>	<b>Supervisors</b>
Chair	Wayne Grams
Vice Chair	Kathleen Thies
Secretary	Loren Evenson
Treasurer	Paul Wiemann

2018 Committee Assignments as discussed in the table below. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to accept the 2018 committee assignments. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

<b>2018 Committee Assignments</b>			
<b>Committee</b>		<b>Alternate</b>	<b>Meetings</b>
South Central SWCD TSA	Robert Nielsen	Kathleen Thies	Quarterly
Personnel Committee	Paul Wiemann	Robert Nielsen	Once a Year
Sibley Co. Water Resource	Wayne Grams	Robert Nielsen	Quarterly
Legislative	Loren Evenson	Wayne Grams	Once a Year
Budget Committee	Paul Wiemann	Kathleen Thies	Once a Year
EQIP Committee	Paul Wiemann	Robert Nielsen	Once a Year
Buffer Committee	Kathleen Thies	Robert Nielsen	TBD

**Cost Share:** A request was presented to the Board to enter into a Buffer Cost-Share contract with Jesse Taralseth for 3.20 acres of buffer strip located in Severance/Moltke Twp. Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the Buffer Cost Share Contract (Buffer FY18-12) at a flat rate of \$300.00 per acre (\$1,149.00). Ayes Thies, Nielsen, Wiemann, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

Another request was made to the Board to enter into a Buffer Cost-Share contract with B&K Estates LLC for 0.63 acres of buffer strip on property located in Sibley Twp. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the Buffer Cost Share Contract (Buffer FY18-13) at a flat rate of \$300.00 per acre (\$189.00). Ayes Thies, Nielsen, Wiemann, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

A third request was presented to the Board to enter into a Buffer Cost-Share contract with Dennis Fisher for 0.48 acres of buffer strip on his property located in Sibley Twp. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the Buffer Cost Share Contract (Buffer FY18-14) at a flat rate of \$300.00 per acre (\$144.00). Ayes Thies, Nielsen, Wiemann, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

Another request was made to the Board to enter into a Buffer Cost-Share contract with Renaye Schoeppner for 1.34 acres of buffer strip on property located in Sibley Twp. Upon a motion by Evenson and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the Buffer Cost Share Contract (Buffer FY18-15) at a flat rate of \$300.00 per acre (\$402.00). Ayes Thies, Nielsen, Wiemann, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

A fifth request was presented to the Board to enter into a Buffer Cost-Share contract with Arlene Berdan for a 0.40 acre buffer strip on her property located in Alfsborg Twp. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the Buffer Cost Share Contract (Buffer FY18-16) at a flat rate of \$300.00 per acre (\$120.00). Ayes Thies, Nielsen, Wiemann, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

Another request was made to the Board to enter into a Buffer Cost-Share contract with Curtis Kahle for 1.06 acres of buffer strip on his property located in Sibley Twp. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the Buffer Cost Share Contract (Buffer FY18-19) at a flat rate of \$300.00 per acre (\$318.00). Ayes Thies, Nielsen, Wiemann, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

A seventh request was presented to the Board to enter into a Buffer Cost-Share contract with Woestehoff

Family Farm Properties LLC for 2.31 acres of buffer strip on his properties located in Dryden/Jessenland Twp. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the Buffer Cost Share Contract (Buffer FY18-21) at a flat rate of \$300.00 per acre (\$693.00). Ayes Thies, Nielsen, Wiemann, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

Another request was made to the Board to enter into a Buffer Cost-Share contract with Stark Revocable Trust for 1.40 acres of buffer strip on property located in Moltke Twp. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the Buffer Cost Share Contract (Buffer FY18-22) at a flat rate of \$300.00 per acre (\$420.00). Ayes Thies, Nielsen, Wiemann, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

A ninth request was presented to the Board to enter into a Buffer Cost-Share contract with Reed Ahlbrecht for 5.49 acres of buffer strip on his property located in Grafton Twp. Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the Buffer Cost Share Contract (Buffer FY18-24) at a flat rate of \$300.00 per acre (\$1,647.00). Ayes Thies, Nielsen, Wiemann, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

A tenth request was made to the Board to enter into a Buffer Cost-Share contract with Otto Gutknecht for 2.10 acres of buffer strip on properties located in Bismarck/Transit Twp. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the Buffer Cost Share Contract (Buffer FY18-25) at a flat rate of \$300.00 per acre (\$630.00). Ayes Thies, Nielsen, Wiemann, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

Another request was presented to the Board to enter into a Buffer Cost-Share contract with R&D Farms LLC for 1.60 acres of buffer strip on property located in Faxon Twp. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to approve the Buffer Cost Share Contract (Buffer FY18-26) at a flat rate of \$300.00 per acre (\$480.00). Ayes Thies, Nielsen, Wiemann, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

Another request was made to the Board to enter into a Buffer Cost-Share contract with Dave Chevalier for 2.34 acres of buffer strip on property located in Jessenland Twp. Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to approve the Buffer Cost Share Contract (Buffer FY18-23) at a flat rate of \$300.00 per acre (\$702.00). Ayes Thies, Nielsen, Wiemann, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

Lastly, a request was made to the Board to enter into a Buffer Cost-Share contract with Frederic Shoening for 2.04 acres of buffer strip on his property located in Grafton Twp. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the Buffer Cost Share Contract (Buffer FY18-27) at a flat rate of \$300.00 per acre (\$612.00). Ayes Thies, Nielsen, Wiemann, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

**Non-Structural Management Plan:** Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Evenson, it was moved to accept the 2018 Non-Structural Management Practices Policy (see attached). Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Evenson, Grams. Carried.

**2016 Financial Audit:** A request was presented to the Board to approve Peterson Company LTD. to approve the 2016 year-end audit. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Thies it was moved to approve this financial audit report. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

**Reconciliations:** Wurscher discussed with the board a review/reconciliation that was performed earlier in the month by BWSR staff. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen it was moved to approve this financial report for the 2016 Capacity grant. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

**Final Financial Report – SCS FY15:** A motion by Nielsen and seconded by Thies, it was moved to approve the final financial report for the State Cost Share FY 2015 grant. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

**NRCS Report** – Sullivan arrived to give her NRCS report. Sullivan noted that USDA moved in to their new location and that a lot of what she has been doing lately has revolved around that. Sullivan noted

that NRCS had completed one CREP plan and is working on another. Sullivan and Schmidt had been working towards the EQIP eligibility date. Lastly, Sullivan mentioned that the 1026 backlog is getting shorter by the day.

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

**Other Business:** The District received and reviewed the invoices for insurance coverage through the Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust (MCIT). Wurscher brought to the board for approval two invoices from MCIT for the district's 2018 renewals. Total amount for the insurance premiums paid is \$5,025.00. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve payments of the MCIT invoices. Ayes Nielsen, Wiemann, Evenson, Thies, Grams. Carried.

Wurscher passed around a flyer for the Day at the Capitol event. This event is to take place on March 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at the Embassy Suites in downtown St. Paul.

Otto brought up the topic to the board of charging fees for WCA appeals to the SWCD board. After much discussion, it was determined not to charge at this time, but should be reviewed later if needed.

**Next Meeting:** February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. located at 112 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Gaylord, MN.

**Adjourn:** Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to adjourn the meeting. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann, Thies, Grams. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:13 P.M.

Approved: February 13, 2018

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**Secretary**