



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,  
April 10, 2018.

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

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

Others Present: District Manager, Joel Wurscher  
District Technician, Jeremy Buckentin  
Watershed Technician/Water Planner, Ron Otto  
District Conservationist - NRCS, April Sullivan

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

Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to approve the minutes of the March 2018 meeting upon corrections. Ayes Thies, Nielsen, Wiemann, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann it was moved to approve 34 paid bills for March 2018 totaling \$37,694.07. Ayes Thies, Nielsen, Wiemann, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

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

**Old Business:** The Board discussed the tabled topic from the February meeting of re-hiring the currently vacant Farm Bill Technician position. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann it was moved to approve hiring a new Farm Bill Technician in conjunction with Nicollet SWCD. Ayes Evenson, Thies, Grams, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

**Cost Share:** A request was made from Tom Rabe (CAP18-1) to enter into a contract for 40 acres of cover crop on several properties located in Cornish Twp. Cost share provided towards cover crops would be a 3 year time span commitment totaling \$5,092.80. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies it was moved to approve this request. Ayes Evenson, Thies, Grams, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

The District received a request from Dave Evans (FR14 Phase 1 & 2) to enter into a contract for a re-

build of a grade stabilization structure on his property located in Henderson Twp. Estimated costs of the project are \$26,134.00, with the district providing cost share of \$24,331.82 with TA of \$54.00. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Thies it was moved to approve this request. Ayes Evenson, Thies, Grams, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

**Conservation Technician:** Wurscher gave the board a brief update on the status of the vacant position.

**ByLaws:** Wurscher had sent out the proposed new bylaws for Sibley SWCD. It was decided on a motion by Wiemann and second by Nielsen to move making the correction on page 4, stating the Board, not the Chairman, may establish committees. Ayes Evenson, Thies, Grams, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried. Then, a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Thies moved to approve the bylaws upon the correction. Ayes Evenson, Thies, Grams, Wiemann, Nielsen. Carried.

**Treasurer Signing Authority:** The consensus of the board was to remain status quo on those with signing authority.

**CPL Grant-Sibley WMA:** Wurscher brought forth to the board a CPL Grant bill from Tony's Outdoor Services in the amount of \$24,500.00. This bill was for Tony's services of brush management, burning and treating stumps on Sibley WMA. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to pay Tony's Outdoor Services \$24,500.00. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

**CLIMB Theatre Contract:** Wurscher informed the Board about the details of the contract signed with CLIMB theatre using money from their AIS budget.

**New Website:** Buckentin gave the board an interactive tour of the new website design he has been working on the past month. The new website will go live in June when the district's contract with GoDaddy runs out.

**MN DNR Well Testing:** Wurscher brought forth to the Board a request from the MN DNR to perform some well testing around the county. The MN DNR offered \$30 per well, five sites, four times a year. Discussions centered around the desire to perform tasks, however compensation was not sufficient to cover staff time. The Board advised Wurscher to respond with these sentiments back to MN DNR.

**Resolutions:** Wurscher asked the Board if they had any resolutions. There were none by the Board at this time, however the submittal date isn't until July 21<sup>st</sup>. Wurscher then notified the Board that the election filing period opens up on May 22 and closes June 5<sup>th</sup>.

**NRCS Report:** See attached.

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

**Other Business:** Wurscher presented to the Board an amended grant agreement towards the buffer cost share grant, which included an additional \$6,517. Upon a motion by Wiemann and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to accept and sign this amended grant agreement. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

Wurscher presented to the Board on behalf of Queenan Productions a grant proposal totaling \$19,200 to the Carl and Verna Schmidt foundation. Anne Queenan, of Queenan Productions, needs a fiscal agent for this grant proposal and has asked Sibley SWCD to provide this capacity. Anne is proposing completing three more stories about conservation within the Lower MN River Watershed. These short stories will be filmed, edited and duplicated as DVD's for distribution at outreach events. Anne has already worked with the SWCD through the WRAPS project on a short film that highlighted cover crops on the Hartmann farm south of Gibbon. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to

become Queenan Production's fiscal agent for this grant proposal. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

Wurscher asked the Board if another clothing purchase using district funds would be possible. Upon a motion by Nielsen and seconded by Wiemann, it was moved to allow the purchase of up to two articles of clothing containing the SWCD logo for each staff and supervisor. Ayes Thies, Wiemann, Nielsen, Grams, Evenson. Carried.

**Next Meeting:** May 8, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. located at 112 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Gaylord, MN.

**Adjourn:** Upon a motion by Thies and seconded by Nielsen, it was moved to adjourn the meeting. Ayes Evenson, Nielsen, Wiemann, Thies, Grams. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:52 P.M.

Approved: May 8, 2018

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**Secretary**