



## North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District

Regular Meeting Minutes  
June 14, 2017  
Northland Office Building  
307 First St S, Suite 118  
Virginia MN 55792

**Supervisors Present:** Chuck Bainter, Peggy Pearson, Mark Peterson, Gary Rantala

**Staff Present:** Anita Provinzino, District Administrator

**Others Present:** Kurt Beckstrom, MASWCD; Rolland Cleveland, MASWCD; Marge Sella, USDA NRCS;

The meeting was called to order by Chair Peggy Pearson at 10:32 a.m. A quorum was present.

1. Agenda - Motion by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve the agenda.  
Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala  
Opposed: None  
Motion Carried
2. Minutes – Motion by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to approve the minutes as written.  
Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala  
Opposed: None  
Motion Carried
3. Treasurer's Report – Motion by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the Treasurer's Report as updated on 6/13/17.  
Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala  
Opposed: None  
Motion Carried
4. Accounts Payable & Accounts Receivable – Motion by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve the accounts payable and accounts receivable as updated 6/13/17 except the items listed on agenda as Item 12.  
Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala  
Opposed: None  
Motion Carried
5. Guest Introductions & Comments – Kurt Beckstrom and Rolland Cleveland of the Minnesota Association of SWCD's responded the Board's request to review the dues split for North and South SWCD's to accurately reflect the property tax and population based on each District boundaries by indicating even if the calculations were done, the dues would likely not change substantially because of the Association of Minnesota Counties dues structure for St. Louis County – which is one factor in MASWCD's dues. They listened to Board and staff concerns about MASWCD's unresponsiveness over the past two years resulting in current non-payment of dues.

### REPORTS:

#### 6. Supervisor & Committee Reports

- a. Cook County Citizen Lake Monitoring – Board members indicated they watched the video on this program. It is of interest to the Board if funding permits. Cook County SWCD pays for it through MPCA and Capacity funds, plus lake association contributions.

- b. Audit Committee – Gary reported that he, Chuck and Anita interviewed two audit firms and have a recommendation for the Board to consider.
  - c. Chuck's reported all resolutions were approved at the Area 3 Resolutions Meeting. Chuck indicated a request was made for District's to consider donating to Envirothon.
  - d. Mark attended the Forestry meeting in McGregor in May. He indicated Wadena county has a 1/8% sales tax which benefits the SWCD. Discussion on wild rice easements and responses to the proposed BWSR forester survey were reviewed.
  - e. Peggy reported that the RC& D Stream Restoration Conference is on hold until perhaps 2018. No progress on the proposed Recap project.
7. NRCS District Conservationist Report – See report on file. Marge indicated that NRCS has secured the rainfall simulator for the fair and will conduct demonstrations on Thursday and Friday.
  8. District Administrator Report – See report on file.
    - a. MPCA CE Update – Anita indicated the new contract has not yet been signed, although MPCA staff have stated it will happen by June 30.
  9. Resource Conservationist - See report on file.
  10. Water Resources Specialist Report - See report on file.
  11. Forester Report – See report on file.
    - a. Anita reviewed the 2017 tree sale recap. Mark recommended the District offer some species in bundles of 5 or 10 in 2018.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

12. AIS Resort Payments – precontract – Motion by Mark Peterson/Chuck Bainter to approve payments for inspections done prior to contract signature date for Head O' Lakes Resort and Retreat Lodge.
  - Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala
  - Opposed: None
  - Motion Carried
13. Audit Firm Contract Award – Motion by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to hire Peterson Company Ltd to audit the District for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018.
  - Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala
  - Opposed: None
  - Motion Carried
14. FY16-3 Cost Share Contract Cancellation – Motion by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to cancel the contract due to death of the land owner.
  - Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala
  - Opposed: None
  - Motion Carried
15. FY-17-2 Cost Share Contract with Landowner – Motion by Mark Peterson/Chuck Bainter to approve a cost share contract with Jeff Maki for shoreline protection up to \$7341.75 as follows: \$6840 from FY17 State Cost Share and \$501.75 from FY16 Capacity Cost Share.
  - Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala
  - Opposed: None
  - Motion Carried
16. FY18 DNR Groundwater Level Monitoring Agreement – 5 wells – Motion by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve the agreement with the DNR as presented.

Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

17. NRCS Cooperative Working Agreement – Motion by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve the cooperative working agreement with USDA NRCS.

Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

18. Upcoming Meetings and Trainings

a. Watercraft Decontamination Demonstration at Country Store in Cook, June 27 – Anita stated this is tentative, she is awaiting confirmation from the County Administrator's office.

b. 25 x 25 Governor's Town Hall Meeting – September 12 in Ely – Anita indicated the District is taking a role in planning this meeting and will share information as it becomes available.

c. TSA 3 Meeting on June 28 – Gary will attend

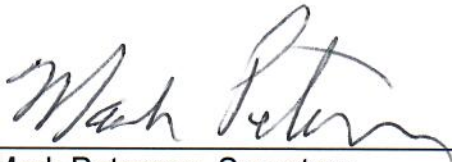
d. Forestry Meeting is July 20 in McGregor – Mark will attend

e. St. Louis County Fair is August 9-13

f. Fall Field Forage Day is September 29 in Aitkin County

19. Confirm Next Meeting Date – The next meeting date was set for Wednesday, July 12.

20. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m. with motion by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter.



Mark Peterson, Secretary

July 12, 2017

Date