



**North St. Louis Soil and Water
Conservation District**

Northland Office Building
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Minutes of North St. Louis SWCD Board of Supervisors meeting Monday, February 9, 2015

Supervisors present: Margaret Pearson, Chair
Gary Rantala, Vice-Chair
Mark Peterson, Treasurer
Chuck Bainter, Secretary

Supervisors absent: None

Others present: Pam Tomevi, Contracted Administrator
Anita Provinzino, District Administrator
Marjorie Sella, NRCS District Conservationist
Ryan Hughes, BWSR Board Conservationist

Chair Pearson called the meeting to order at 10:38 AM

Motion – Approve agenda as presented. Gary/Mark/Unanimous

Motion – Approve meeting minutes from January 12, 2015 meeting with corrections to format and spelling of Anita Provinzino. Chuck/Gary/Unanimous

Motion – Approve Treasurer’s Report ending January 31, 2015 as presented. Gary/Mark/Unanimous

Motion – Approve Accounts Receivable \$8,804.78 and Accounts Payable \$8,098.10 as presented.
Mark/Chuck/Unanimous.

Motion – Approve reimbursement of \$10.87 for office supplies to Anita Provinzino. Gary/Mark/Unanimous

REPORTS:

Supervisors Reports:

Mark reported on his attendance at the MN SWCD Forestry Association meeting where discussion included the Long Eared Bat may not go on endangered species list and logger reimbursements. Additional discussion included assistance from Roger Nelson, DNR who has secured services to remove blown down trees along Hwy 53 by Eveleth.

Gary relayed information regarding rusty crayfish in Birch Lake near Babbitt and proposed addressing erosion of an old damn near Hwy 169 by Ely if funding opportunities are available.

NRCS Report:

Marjorie reported on a law change for farm exemptions on vehicles where papers can be carried in the glove compartment versus having a farm plate on the vehicle. Printed report covered conservation assistance including EQIP schedule, administration and upcoming activities. Local Work Group meeting is scheduled for today at 1:30pm at the NRCS office.

Contract Administrator Report:

Pam reported on fiscal management, contracted programs, district administration including help from county staff, MPCA contract and grant, WCA, and other correspondence.

Motion – Authorize the Chair to sign the 2015 Conservation Delivery Final Financial Report.

Gary/Mark/Unanimous

OLD BUSINESS:

Motion – Table the request for payment on Cost Share project 13-01 due to lack of documentation received prior to the Board meeting. Gary/Mark/Unanimous

Discussion on district staffing – The office will be open to the public on Mondays and Tuesdays and by appointment as appropriate and the District Administrator will report initial results at March meeting. Anita provided an overview of her work experience and positive feedback with existing county workers in the Northland Building.

Motion – Resource Conservationist position hiring process to start with Pam, Anita, and the personnel committee. A St. Louis County technical staff member will be asked to participate on the interview team and report recommendations at April 13th board meeting. Chuck/Mark/Unanimous

Discussion on District Tree Program – Board agreed to change tree sale pick up dates to May 7th and 8th to coincide with Fishing Opener on May 9th. Additional changes to the tree sale brochure and procedure were noted by Pam and Anita. Anita will work on setting up a Facebook page and look at other media outlets to promote the tree sale program.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion – Approve the 2015 funding application to St. Louis County. Gary/Mark/Unanimous

Discussion – MPCA contracts and grants. Work is scheduled to begin in April/May and the Resource Conservationist position will be instrumental in this effort.

Discussion – St. Louis County AIS Planning Meeting was attended by Mark and Anita. Mark reported more than \$680K will be available to the County once they get an AIS Plan approved including objectives and timeline. Once the plan is approved, the District will be able to apply for money to work in this area and should work with local groups to help in this program to help our water resource.

Discussion – Local Work Group meeting today will be attended by Mark and Chuck. Ryan Hughes indicated a five year amendment to the Local Water Management Plan is in process. Chuck is the representative for that committee.

Next meeting: Monday, March 9, 2015 10:30AM Northland Building.

Motion – Meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM. Mark/Chuck/Unanimous