



North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District
Meeting Minutes
March 9 ,2015
Northland Office Building
307 First St S, Suite 118
Virginia MN 55792

Supervisors Present: Peggy Pearson, Chuck Bainter, Mark Peterson

Others Present: Anita Provinzino, District Administrator; Pam Tomevi, Koochichng SWCD District Administrator; Roger Marks, NRCS. Derrick Passe, Lake County SWCD

Chairperson Peggy Pearson called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

1. **Motion** to approve the Agenda was made by Mark Peterson. Seconded by Chuck Bainter. Motion Carried Unanimously.
2. **Motion** to approve Minutes dated February 9, 2015 made by Mark Peterson. Seconded by Chuck Bainter. Motion Carried Unanimously.
Motion by Chuck Bainter, seconded by Mark Peterson to approve change to the January minutes to Gary/Chuck/Unanimous on the motion to appoint committees. Motion Carried Unanimously.
3. **Motion** to approve Treasurer's Report ending February 28, 2015 by Chuck Bainter. Seconded by Mark Peterson. Motion Carried Unanimously.
4. **Motion** to approve Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable by Mark Peterson. Seconded by Chuck Bainter. Motion Carried Unanimously.
5. Guest Introductions – none present at this time

REPORTS:

6. Supervisor Reports
 - a. Mark Peterson reported on the Boots on Your Ground program of the MN Forestry Association whereby landowners can pay \$50 to have a forester walk their property.
 - b. Mark Peterson reported on the Forestry Association's Gathering of Partners of Natural Resources in Grand Rapids on May 15-17.
 - c. Chuck Bainter reported on the Local Work Group meeting that was held in February. There was a report on the golden wing warbler. There is also information on a using wood biomass to make plastic.
7. NRCS District Conservationist Report – Roger distributed the NRCS report. They are currently ranking applications. Contact is anticipated by the end of March.
8. District Administrator Report – Anita reported on the work she has been doing. She also indicated the office computer has randomly shut down via the blue screen error. Pam reported on the CPL Conifer Enhancement grant and the Orr Trout Stream projects. She also indicated she will complete the year-end financial report for BWSR by March 22nd.

OLD BUSINESS:

9. State Cost Share

Motion by Chuck Bainter to approve the request for payment on cost-share project 13-01. Mark Peterson seconded the motion. Motion Carried Unanimously.

10. District Staffing

- a. Resource Conservationist applications – 11 applications were received with 10 being complete and on time. Applications will be reviewed by Gary Rantala, Mark Peterson, Pam Tomevi and partners such as SLC staff.
- b. Interview date was tentatively scheduled for the week of March 23rd.

11. Tree Program

- a. Anita reported tree sales were going well. There are still trees of all species available. A facebook page has been created. She will prepare a press release and otherwise get the word out to continue sales.
- b. **Motion** by Mark Peterson to accepting credit cards as form of payment for tree sale utilizing Square. This will be connected directly to the bank account. Seconded by Chuck Bainter. Motion Carried Unanimously.

12. Board Vacancy – It was determined the Board would like to appoint a new supervisor from District 3 at its May meeting. This will allow time for materials and application updates, as well as recruiting potential candidates.

- a. MASWCD has indicated the District needs to submit several items before they are able to consider the request for lower dues. **Motion** by Chuck Bainter seconded by Mark Peterson to send recovery plan and request full dues relief. No additional documentation to be sent. Motion Carried Unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

13. SWAG Grant – Derrick Passe, Lake County SWCD gave a report on the activities of the SWAG grant. There are 22 lakes and 9 rivers included in this grant. He has been working with the Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion in anticipation of the Governor's Fishing Opener. There will be opportunities for NSL SWCD to partner with various lake associations.

14. **Motion** by Mark Peterson seconded by Chuck Bainter to authorize Pam Tomevi to prepare workplans and contracts within budget for the CCM Contracts. Motion Carried Unanimously.

15. Check Signing Authority

- a. **Motion** by Chuck Bainter seconded by Mark Peterson to allow District Administrator as check signer
- b. Board approved Anita to explore direct deposit options for payroll checks.
- c. **Motion** by Chuck Bainter seconded by Mark Peterson to allow district administrator to pay routine bills due before next meeting date, with approval of Board after. Motion Carried Unanimously.

16. Upcoming Meetings and Training

- a. LittleFork River Watershed meeting on March 19th at 4:30 p.m. in French Township presented by Koochiching County SWCD staff. Mention will be made that NSL SWCD is looking for supervisor candidate from that area.

17. Next Meeting Date: Monday, April 13, 2015

18. **Motion** to adjourn by Mark Peterson, seconded by Peggy Pearson. Motion Carried Unanimously.