



North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District
Regular Board Meeting
Monday, May 11, 2015
Northland Office Building
307 First St S, Suite 118
Virginia MN 55792

Supervisors Present: Chuck Bainter, Margaret (Peggy) Pearson, Mark Peterson and Gary Rantala

Supervisors Absent: None

Others Present: Anita Provinzino, District Administrator, Jared Ecklund, Resource Conservationist, Pam Tomevi, Koochiching County SWCD District Administrator, Sam Soderman, Koochiching County SWCD Resource Conservationist, Marge Sella, USDA NRCS; Ryan Hughes, Minnesota BWSR

The meeting was called to order at 10:37 a.m. by Chair Peggy Pearson

Motion to amend the Agenda to include Cost Share Application under general business by Chuck Bainter supported by Mark Peterson. Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson and Rantala. **Motion Carried.**

Motion to approve Minutes dated April 13, 2015 by Gary Rantala supported by Chuck Bainter Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson and Rantala. **Motion Carried.**

Motion to approve payment of tree sale invoices upon receipt by Chuck Bainter, supported by Mark Peterson. Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson and Rantala. **Motion Carried.**

Motion to approve Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable by Mark Peterson, supported by Chuck Bainter. Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson and Rantala. **Motion Carried.**

Guest Introductions: Jared Ecklund was introduced as the District's new Resource Conservationist. Sam Soderman of Koochiching County SWCD was introduced.

REPORTS:

Supervisor & Committee Reports

Peggy Pearson indicated she will attend next week's RC & D meeting.

Mark will attend the Gathering Partners of Natural Resources Spring conference in Grand Rapids and a meeting in McGregor in May.

NRCS District Conservationist Report

Marge spoke of the Forest Service's Boots on the Ground program where a landowner can have a forester walk their property for a nominal fee. She suggested NRCS and SWCD have monthly staff meetings to familiarize and

collaborate. She spoke of AgLearn, the USDA's web-based training program which SWCD staff could get access to utilize.

See written report for additional details.

District Administrator Report – See written report which includes copies of 2014 Annual Climatology Report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tree Sale – Anita and Jared reported the trees were successfully picked up on May 7 and May 8 with thanks to Supervisors Bainter, Pearson and Peterson. There are a couple of people who will be picking their trees up this week. After that, the Board suggested trees be sold to other SWCD's and then donated to nonprofits or schools such as: Northwoods School, Fayal Township, Mt Iron Buhl Schools, and Laurentian Environmental Learning Center.

Ideas for next year include having a sign-up sheet at the pickup for customers to write their tree preferences down. The District could then check with other districts to fulfill those orders

Board Vacancy - One application was received, the candidate was out of town and unable to be present at the May meeting. The Board requested the applicant be invited to the June meeting.

MASWCD Chuck has not yet written a letter to MASWCD as discussed last month.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ratify email votes

- Hire Jared Ecklund as Resource Conservationist – Motion to ratify by Chuck Bainter supported by Mark Peterson. Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson and Rantala. **Motion Carried.**
- Accept \$49,000 from St. Louis County – Motion by Gary Rantala supported by Mark Peterson to accept \$49,000 Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson and Rantala. **Motion Carried.**

MASWCD Resolution Process – Pam indicated the Area III Resolution Meeting will be held on June 5 in McGregor. Deadline to register is May 21st. The District has no resolutions to present. Gary Rantala will attend and others may ride with him, if attending.

MASWCD Annual Awards – Chuck Bainter indicated he would like to see the District nominate candidates for the awards. Marge indicated that NRCS, the County and the DNR would be good resources to suggest candidates for the awards.

Upcoming Meetings and Training – Motion by Gary Rantala, supported by Mark Peterson to approve Jared Ecklund's attendance and all expenses for Wetland

Conservation Training & Certification. Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson and Rantala. **Motion Carried.**

General Business – A cost share application was reviewed for potential funding. It was determined the project was specifically excluded from cost share funding as it does not appear to meet the guidelines. There does not appear to be any water quality or erosion issues present.

Ryan Hughes indicated there is a public hearing to amend the St. Louis County Water Plan on Thursday May 14.

Pam Tomevi requested approval of a floating staff person from Koochiching County who will be working in/with North St. Louis County. Motion to support by Chuck Bainter, seconded by Gary Rantala. Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson and Rantala. **Motion Carried.**

Next Meeting Date: Monday, June 8, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.

Motion to adjourn at 12:06 p.m. by Gary Rantala supported by Chuck Bainter. Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson and Rantala. **Motion Carried.**

Chuck Bainter
Board Secretary

Date