



## North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District

Regular Meeting Minutes  
**August 9, 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:** Marge Sella, USDA NRCS; Erin Loeffler, MN BWSR

The meeting was called to order by Chair Peggy Pearson at 10:34 a.m. A quorum was present.

1. Agenda - Motion by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to add "other meetings" as item 18f to the agenda.  
Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala  
Opposed: None  
Motion Carried
2. Minutes – Motion by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter 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 of 7/31/17.  
Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala  
Opposed: None  
Motion Carried
4. Accounts Payable & Accounts Receivable – Motion by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve the accounts payable and accounts receivable as updated on 5/17/17.  
Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala  
Opposed: None  
Motion Carried
5. Guest Introductions & Comments – Erin Loeffler commended staff on the 2015 Cost Share Grant Closeout, advised Board of the scope of the Community Partners Project on Retreat Lodge Road and encouraged support and understanding as project proceeds; and estimated 2018 capacity grant agreements will be available soon.

### REPORTS:

6. Supervisor & Committee Reports
  - a. Mark passed out flyers on the Visitor Day at North Central Research & Outreach Center in Grand Rapids on August 24. He indicated the Area Forestry meeting provided SFIA updates, discussed lobbying using Ron Hartnick (sp?) and had a presentation on landscape programs. The next meeting will be 9/28. He attended the meeting on the St Louis River Watershed hosted by SSL SWCD in Palo. The primary topic of conversation was the impairment status of Mud Hen Lake. Mark is enrolled in the Master Woodland Course. The MN Forestry Association will hold their Fall Field Day on October 13 & 14.

- b. Chuck is encouraging citizen water monitoring. He secured a booth from MPCA for use at the St. Louis County Fair.
- c. Peggy indicated that RC &D will work toward a stream workshop in October 2018.
- 7. NRCS District Conservationist Report – See report on file.
- 8. District Administrator Report – See report on file, plus
  - a. Anita indicated the St. Louis County Attorney's office has indicated that email votes are not permitted as they do not allow public participation. No further email votes will be taken. Special meetings will be called if there is something that cannot wait for the next meeting.
- 9. Resource Conservationist - See report on file.
- 10. Water Resources Specialist Report - See report on file.
- 11. Forester Report – See report on file.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 12. Board Supervisor from Hibbing/Chisholm/Balkan – Anita indicated she has spoken with a resident from that area and is awaiting a response. She encouraged others to keep the opening in mind. There will be a posting at the District's booth at the Fair.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 13. Bank Transfers by District Administrator – Anita indicated that Frandsen Bank staff advised that as a signer on the account she can make fund transfers. Motion by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to allow Anita to transfer funds after monthly board approval.
  - Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala
  - Opposed: None
  - Motion Carried
- 14. Forester Shared Services Agreement Hourly Rate Increase – No action was taken until an actual cost per hour rate and effective date can be obtained from South St Louis SWCD.
- 15. 2018 DNR CPL Grant Application for Orr Area Trout Streams – Motion by Mark Peterson/Chuck Bainter to approve Board Resolution 2017-6 authorizing the District Administrator to submit a grant application for up to \$50,000 to the DNR Conservation Partners Legacy program for additional work on Orr area trout streams and sign all documents related to such funding.
  - Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala
  - Opposed: None
  - Motion Carried
- 16. New Cost Share Contract with Landowner 2017-3 – Motion by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve Community Partners Cost Share Contract 2017-03 with Matt Urness on the Ash River for a total cost estimate of \$9912. Project funding will not exceed 75% of total project cost. A maximum of \$7434 is authorized using \$926.29 of 2016 Capacity Cost Share & \$6507.71 of 2017 Capacity Cost Share Funds.
  - Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala
  - Opposed: None
  - Motion Carried
  - Opposed: None
  - Motion Carried
- 17. New Grant Application to Initiative Foundation – Boat Traffic Data Analysis - Motion by Mark Peterson/Gary Rantala to approve Board Resolution 2017-7 authorizing joining a

grant application by the Vermilion Lake Association and a \$5000 in-kind staff time match.

Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

18. Upcoming Meetings and Trainings

- a. County Fair booth Staffing – August 9-13 – Anita indicated there are still some open time slots at the fair booth and encouraged staffing it.
- b. International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board meeting with Resource Management Agencies – Tower – Aug 16 – Emily & Anita will be presenting to this group on the Aquatic Invasive Species Inspection & Decontamination Program.
- c. On-site Audit – August 17 – Anita indicated that the auditors will be at the office on August 17 to conduct the on-site portion of the audit.
- d. 25 by 25 Governor's Town Hall Meeting – Sep 12 in Ely 6:30-8:30 p.m. – staff will attend this meeting
- e. BWSR Listening Session – Sep 13 – Mt Iron – 9 to noon – staff will attend this meeting with John Jaschke, BWSR's Executive Director
- f. Other
  - i. Rim Easements – Grand Rapids – August 28 – staff will attend.
  - ii. NRCS Conservation Planning Training – Redwing – 8/15-18 – Motion by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter authorizing hotel, mileage, and meal costs for Phil's attendance at this workshop that will count toward job approval authority. There was a cancelation that lead to this opening for Phil.  
Affirmative: Bainter, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala  
Opposed: None  
Motion Carried
  - iii. Area 3 Annual Meeting – Isle – September 20 & 21 – Chuck Bainter and Mark Peterson will attend the first day. Anita will attend both days.

19. Confirm Next Meeting Date – The next meeting was set for Wednesday, September 13 at 1:30 p.m. to allow staff to attend a BWSR Listening Session in the morning.

20. The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m. by Chair Peggy Pearson.



Mark Peterson, Secretary

September 13, 2017  
Date