



## North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2018

Northland Office Building, Suite 118  
307 First St S. Virginia MN 55792

**Supervisors Present:** Chuck Bainter, Frank Modich, Peggy Pearson, Mark Peterson & Gary Rantala  
**Staff Present:** Anita Provinzino, District Administrator and Becca Reiss, Community Conservationist  
**Others Present:** Erin Loeffler, BWSR, Marge Sella, USDA NRCS  
**Guests Present:** Paul Sandstrom, Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development

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

1. Agenda – Motion by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the agenda.  
Affirmative: Bainter, Modich, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala  
Opposed: None  
Motion Carried
2. Minutes – Motion by Frank Modich/Gary Rantala to approve the minutes as written.  
Affirmative: Bainter, Modich, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala  
Opposed: None  
Motion Carried
3. Treasurer's Report – Motion by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve the May 2018 Treasurer's Report.  
Affirmative: Bainter, Modich, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala  
Opposed: None  
Motion Carried
4. Accounts Payable & Accounts Receivable – Motion by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to approve accounts payable and accounts receivable.  
Affirmative: Bainter, Modich, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala  
Opposed: None  
Motion Carried
5. Guest Introductions & Comments – Paul Sandstrom of the Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development gave a talk on the nonprofit's activities which serves Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake and St. Louis counties plus the Grand Portage reservation. He is currently planning their biennial conference on stream restoration.

### REPORTS:

6. Supervisor & Committee Reports
  - a. Mark reported on the Area 3 Forestry meeting held in May. He indicated Ryan Hughes of BWSR listened to the need for a BWSR Forester, Aitkin county's AIS program gives free bait bags to encourage people not to release bait into the lake, Mitch Lundeen had no update on the tree sale survey to the region's SWCDs., there was a speaker from the St. Croix River Association and discussion on a proposed biomass facility fed by wood pellets to generate gas for Duluth.
  - b. Gary reported on the Area 3 Annual Meeting where updates were received on the legislative session, buffer law, BWSR, and Mitch Lundeen, regional forester. One

resolution from Aitkin County regarding a regional BWSR forester was proposed and accepted.

- c. Personnel Committee – Chuck and Gary met with Anita this morning to conduct her performance evaluation. They also discussed proposed changes to all staff job descriptions and a recommendation for 2018 salary increases.
7. NRCS District Conservationist Report – See report on file.
8. District Administrator Report – See report on file. Board members were given the 2018 MASWCD Candidate Prospectus for the offices of MASCWD President & Vice President.
9. Resource Conservationist - See report on file.
10. Water Resources Specialist Report – See report on file.
11. Forester Report – See report on file.
12. Community Conservationist Report – Becca Reiss was introduced to the Board as the District's Community Conservationist. She started work on May 7. See report on file.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

13. New Office Space –Anita is awaiting the drawing of a ramp to allow access to the building. Once that is received, Anita will work with the building owner on proposed changes to the building and begin negotiating a lease.
14. Area 3 Annual Meeting Planning Update – Anita indicated an invitation was extended at the Area 3 Resolutions meeting. Those in attendance requested the meeting be held later in the day and the tours earlier. Anita will look at reformatting the agenda.
15. AIS Resort Campground Marina Agreements – Motion by Gary Rantala/Frank Modich to approve Private Access AIS Inspection agreements retroactive to May 11, 2018 with Gruben's Marina, Ludlow's Island Resort, McKinley Park Campground, Muskego Point Resort, Pehrson Lodge, Spring Bay Resort and White Eagle Resort – all on Lake Vermilion plus Birch Forest Lodge and Cabin O' Pines Lodge on Pelican Lake.  
Affirmative: Bainter, Modich, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala  
Opposed: None  
Motion Carried
16. Strategic Plan Draft Report – An ad-hoc strategic planning committee consisting of Chuck Bainter, Frank Modich and all staff was appointed to review the mission and develop goals.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

17. Change funding sources on two existing cost share contracts – Board Resolution 2018-5 – Motion by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to approve Board Resolution 2018-5.  
Affirmative: Bainter, Modich, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala  
Opposed: None  
Motion Carried
18. Full Cost Share Payment to Land Occupier - Contract FY17-3 – Motion by Frank Modich/Mark Peterson to full cost share payment in the amount of \$9977.25 to Matt Urness for completed streambank restoration project on the Ash River.  
Affirmative: Bainter, Modich, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala  
Opposed: None  
Motion Carried
19. New Cost Share Contract with Land Occupier – Motion by Mark Peterson/Chuck Bainter to approve cost share contract FY18-01 with Mark Swan for stormwater runoff control on Lake Vermilion in the amount not to exceed \$11459.25 or 75% of total project cost, whichever is less.

Affirmative: Bainter, Modich, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

20. FY 2019 DNR Groundwater Monitoring Agreement Strategic Plan Report – Discussion regarding the breakeven analysis indicating a loss to the District whether measuring 4 or 5 wells in the area. Motion by Mark Peterson/Chuck Bainter to approve a DNR groundwater monitoring contract for 5 wells at \$30 per data set and to authorize the District Administrator to sign all documents related to said contract.

Affirmative: Bainter, Modich, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

21. Salary Recommendation for District Administrator – Gary & Chuck indicated they conducted a satisfactory performance review of Anita Provinzino. Motion by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve 2.5% salary increase retroactive to 2/2/18.

Affirmative: Bainter, Modich, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

22. Envirothon 2019 needs an SWCD to plan – one-year commitment – Motion by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District planning the 2019 Envirothon with the understanding that Lake County SWCD will resume in 2020.

Affirmative: Bainter, Modich, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

23. Credit Card for Becca - \$1500 limit – Motion by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to approve a credit card for Becca Reiss with a \$1500 limit.

Affirmative: Bainter, Modich, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala

Opposed: None

Motion Carried

24. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and Trainings

a. TSA Meeting – June 27

b. Today's training – Open Meeting Law Video – 5 minutes – postponed due to lack of a laptop computer

c. Other – MASWCD & NRCS are sponsoring a training on conducting locally led work group meetings - July 31 in Grand Rapids. Anita will attend.

25. Confirm Next Meeting – Wednesday, August 8 at 10:30 a.m.

26. Adjourn – Motion by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to adjourn at 12:57 p.m.

  
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Mark Peterson, Secretary

July 11, 2018

Date