

North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District
505 3rd St N, Ste A
Virginia MN 55792

Regular Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2020

Supervisors Present at Roll Call: Chuck Bainter, Peggy Pearson, Mark Peterson, Gary Rantala
Staff Present: Anita Provinzino, District Administrator; Becca Reiss, Community Conservationist; Beth Kleinke, Forester; Phil Norvitch, Resource Conservationist; Natalya Walker, AIS Program Coordinator
Others Present: Erin Loeffler, MN Board of Water & Soil Resources; Beth Points, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

The electronic meeting using Zoom was called to order by Chair Peggy Pearson at 10:35 a.m. A quorum was present.

1. Agenda – Motion by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve the agenda. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

2. Minutes – Motion by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to approve the March 11, 2020 minutes as written. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

3. Minutes – Motion by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to approve the March 18, 2020 minutes as written. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

4. Treasurer's Report & Program Summary for March – Motion by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve the February Treasurer's Report and Program Summary. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

5. Accounts Payable & Accounts Receivable – Motion by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve accounts payable and accounts receivable dated 4/8/2020 with addition of checks to Educators Benefits Consultants for \$125 and Innovo Benefits Administration for \$1518.34, totaling \$1643.34.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

6. Guest Introductions & Comments – none present

Frank Modich was admitted to the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

7. COVID-19 Impacts Update

1. Motion by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to authorize video meetings as preferred method of holding board meetings during this health pandemic and the 'Stay at Home' order by Governor Walz with those unable to utilize video conferencing attending by telephone; or all attending by conference call as a last resort. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

2. Field Work –Motion by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to acknowledge staff safety is the priority and to allow staff to decide to do field work or not, provided funding will reimburse and all CDC/State pandemic prevention recommendations are followed. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

- b. Poster/Coloring Contest – Becca indicated the contest is being extended thru 4/17 because some educators had not yet introduced it to their students. She is likely going to have an online vote due to the cancelation of Earth Fest.

- c. Tree Sale – Discussion about potential impacts, yet unknown.

- i. Stock availability

- ii. Pick up changes

8. Accept St. Louis County Aquatic Invasive Species Grant & Board Resolution 2020-5 – Motion by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve Board Resolution 2020-5 accepting aquatic invasive species prevention funding from St. Louis County. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

9. Community Conservationist Wage Review – Motion by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to approve a 3% wage increase effective May 7, 2020 for Becca Reiss and to thank her for two years of service to the District. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

10. Inter-seeder discussion – A conversation was held regarding the implications of purchasing an inter-seeder (also called a no-till drill) to rent. It is currently outside the scope of the District's services. The Board felt more information is needed regarding contracting, repairs, liability and the cost/benefit of purchasing/renting one. Staff will speak with Carlton and Pine SWCD's.

11. Regional Farm Bill Forester – Accept Resignation – Motion by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to accept Roger Marks resignation and thank him for his service to the District. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye

Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

12. Regional Farm Bill Specialist Job Offer – Motion by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to offer position to Sam Smith contingent on a successful background check. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

13. Resolutions for MASWCD – Mark Peterson and Gary Rantala were appointed to an ad-hoc committee to look at sunseting resolutions.
14. 2019 Year End (Preliminary) vs. Budget – Anita presented the 2019 budget versus preliminary year end numbers. Gary thanked Anita and Hillary for their work on this.
15. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings
- a. Local Work Group Meeting – May 13 @ 1:00 – will be held using Zoom

REPORTS:

16. District Administrator Report – See report on file plus motion by Gary Rantala/Frank Modich to authorize staff to use Emergency Family Medical Leave retroactive to 4-1-2020 before policy is developed, to be in compliance with Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

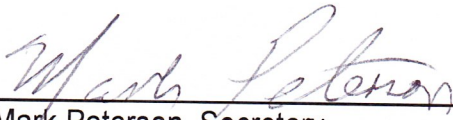
17. Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator Report – see report on file
18. Community Conservationist Report – see report on file. Plus Mark requested Becca's article for the Vermilion Lake Association newsletter be forwarded to the Board.
19. Forester Report – see report on file
20. Regional Farm Bill Forester Report – None
21. Resource Conservationist Report – see report on file
22. NRCS Report – Beth indicated Josh Hanson is the new acting director effective March 30 for 120 days. The position opened and closed with no applicants. It has not reopened. EQIP deadline was March 14.
23. Supervisor & Committee Reports – None

CLOSING:

24. Confirm Next Meeting – Wednesday, May 13 at 10:30 a.m.
25. Adjourn – Motion by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to adjourn meeting at 11:58 p.m. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried


 Mark Peterson, Secretary

May 13, 2020
 Date