



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

Regular Meeting Minutes  
June 10, 2020

**Supervisors Present at Roll Call:** Chuck Bainter, Frank Modich, Peggy Pearson, Mark Peterson and Gary Rantala

**Staff Present:** Anita Provinzino, District Administrator; Becca Reiss, Community Conservationist; Beth Kleinke, Regional Farm Bill Forester; Grace Van Hammond, AIS Intern; Natalya Walker, AIS Program Coordinator

**Others Present:** Erin Loeffler, MN Board of Water & Soil Resources; Joshua Hanson and Beth Points, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

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

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

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

2. Minutes – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve the May 13, 2020 minutes as written. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

3. Treasurer's Report & Program Summary for May – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to approve the Treasurer's Reports and Program Summaries. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

4. Accounts Payable & Accounts Receivable – Moved by Gary Rantala/Frank Modich to approve accounts payable and accounts receivable dated 6/9/2020.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

5. Guest Introductions & Comments – Grace Van Hammond was introduced as an AIS intern focused on the watercraft inspection program. Grace is studying at University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point. The Board welcomed Grace to the District.

Erin Loeffler, BWSR, indicated 1) the state remains on a hiring freeze, 2) current predictions are

The mission of the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District is to encourage sustainable use of our natural resources  
by engaging people in soil and water conservation in northern St. Louis County.

that Clean Water Funds will be reduced by 10% and not 25% as previously anticipated 3) she believes Anita will provide a valuable contribution to the MASWCD capacity fund workgroup and 4) the funding for the planning of the St. Louis River One Watershed, One Plan was secured and will not be affected by COVID-19 funding shortfalls.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 6. COVID-19 Impacts Update – Anita indicated she drafted the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan as a best practice, since it is not required at this time for the District. Moved by Frank Modich/Gary Rantala to approve the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

- 7. Cost Share Contract Amendment – City of Eveleth – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve Amendment 1 to City of Eveleth’s Cost Share Contract FY19-01 increasing maximum funding from \$10,983 to a maximum of \$17,470.84, not to exceed 75% of total project cost. This is based on a quote of \$23,294.25. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

- 8. Cost Share Contract Amendment – Gary Wiskow et. al – Moved by Frank Modich/Gary Rantala to approve Amendment 1 to Gary Wiskow contract FY19-02 increasing maximum funding from \$12,781.50 to a maximum of \$14,608.75, not to exceed 75% of total project cost. This is based on a quote of \$19,478.50. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

- 9. DNR AIS Behavior Change Grant Agreement & Board Resolution 2020-6 – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve Board Resolution 2020-6 accepting funding for DNR AIS Behavior Change Grant focused on proper bait disposal. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

- 10. DNR Groundwater Monitoring Contract for FY2021 – Discussion held about upcoming contract renewal. Measurements must be recorded to the hundredth of an inch for accuracy.

- 11. MPCA Public Participation contract for Rainy Headwaters & Vermilion River Watersheds & Board Resolution 2020-7 – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve Board Resolution 2020-7 accepting funding for said funding. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried



- 12. Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator Report – see report on file.
- 13. Community Conservationist Report – see report on file.
- 14. Forester Report – see report on file.
- 15. Resource Conservationist Report – see report on file
- 16. NRCS Report –Josh Hanson stated the District Conservationist position closed on Monday the 11th. There is an internal EQIP deadline in late May. Funding awards are expected in June. Staff are conducting field checks. He anticipates hiring a conservation technician in the summer for the Virginia office.

Beth Kleinke joined the meeting.

17. Supervisor & Committee Reports

- a. Filing for Supervisor Elections, May 19-June 2 – Chuck indicated he cannot run for two offices on the same ballot, he will need to choose between the school board and the SWCD board. He asked if anyone knows of candidates from his area we could encourage to run. Anita will send press release to area media outlets, as is standard practice.
- b. Mark asked if we could add swamp white oak to the tree sale. The concern with offering it is that there is no way to know if the seed source is from a stock that will survive winters here. Beth will forward Mark the information about NRCS' research facility in North Dakota so he can apply to be a test grower.
- c. Gary thanked all staff for their work during the pandemic.

**CLOSING:**

- 18. Confirm Next Meeting – Wednesday, June 10 at 10:30 a.m.
- 19. Adjourn – Motion by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to adjourn meeting at 11:48 p.m. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

  
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 Mark Peterson, Secretary

June 10, 2020  
 Date