



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

Regular Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2020

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

The electronic meeting using Zoom was called to order by Chair Peggy Pearson at 10:33 a.m. A quorum was present.

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

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye

Motion Carried

2. Minutes – Motion by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to approve the April 8, 2020 minutes as written. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye

Motion Carried

3. Treasurer's Report & Program Summary for March & April – Motion by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the Treasurer's Reports and Program Summaries. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye

Motion Carried

4. Accounts Payable & Accounts Receivable – Motion by Frank Modich/Mark Peterson to approve accounts payable and accounts receivable dated 5/11/2020 with addition of a \$20 refund to a customer related to the tree sale.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye

Motion Carried

5. Guest Introductions & Comments – Josh Hanson is the Acting District Conservationist for the Duluth office. He is based in Little Falls, MN.

Gary Rantala joined the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

6. COVID-19 Impacts Update

- a. Motion by Gary Rantala/Frank Modich to approve the COVID-19 Emergency Family Medical Leave Policy. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

- b. Field Work Safety Guidelines – Motion by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve policy on Field Work Safety Guidelines under Social Distancing. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

c. Discussion was held on potential funding impacts. No action was taken.

d. Discussion was held on potential hiring impacts. No action was taken.

7. Inter-seeder discussion – Anita provided information from Pine County SWCD who has been operating a rental program for about 5 years. She also recapped a conversation with Carlton County SWCD, who is just getting into the rental business. Mark reported there is a private individual willing to rent their inter-seeder. Anita indicated that Carlton SWCD will be renting outside of their county, within a certain radius. The consensus was that there are other options available and now is not the time to pursue a rental program.

8. Regional Farm Bill Specialist Job Offer – Motion by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to offer the position to Beth Kleinke. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

9. Resolutions for MASWCD – Motion by Mark Peterson/Gary Rantala to support sunseting resolutions:

1. Pollinator Habitat on Public Land
8. Preserve AG Class Designation
13. Upland Detention Storage
14. Accurate WRAPS schedule needed
15. Supervisor per Diem
- 16 Ag Conservation Program
17. Conservation Stewardship Program.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

10. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings

- a. Local Work Group Meeting – May 13 @ 1:00 – will be held using Zoom
- b. Area 3 Resolutions Meeting – there has been no word on when/where/how this meeting will be held.
- c. Peggy indicated the Laurentian RC&D meeting will be held using Zoom on May 18.

REPORTS:

11. District Administrator Report – See report on file.

- 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.

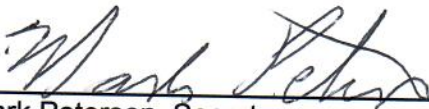
CLOSING:

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



Mark Peterson, Secretary

June 10, 2020

Date