



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

Special Meeting Minutes
November 12, 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; and Natalya Walker, AIS Program Coordinator

Others Present: Erin Loeffler, Board Conservationist, Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources; Allison Praet, District Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

The electronic meeting using Zoom was called to order by Chair Peggy Pearson at 10:30 a.m. A quorum was present.

1. Agenda – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve the agenda updated 11/9/2020.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

2. Minutes – Moved by Frank Modich/Gary Rantala to approve the October 14, 2020 minutes as written. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

3. Treasurer's Report & Program Summary for October– Moved by Gary Rantala/Frank Modich to approve the Treasurer's Report and Program Summary. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

4. Accounts Payable & Accounts Receivable – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to approve accounts payable and accounts receivable. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

5. Guest Introductions & Comments – None

NEW BUSINESS:

6. Accounting Technician Posting– Motion by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to allow Anita to post position at an appropriate FTE based on ongoing conversations with Mille Lacs SWCD regarding potential job share.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

7. AIS 2020 Year in Review – Natalya presented an overview of the aquatic invasive species program results for 2020. Gary & Peggy thanked her for her work.
8. AIS - 2021 Application & Board Resolution 2020-15 - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to approve the Board Resolution 2020-15 for 2021 AIS program funding.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

9. AIS – Koochiching Co Environmental Services contract overage & payment - Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve the contract overage of \$307.68 and payment of same. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

10. BWSR Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Easements Master Joint Powers Agreement (Renewal 2020-2025) & Board Resolution 2020-16 - Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve Board Resolution 2020-16. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

11. COVID-19 Impacts Update, if any - None
12. Home Office Expenses – Moved by Mark Peterson/Gary Rantala to approve home office expenses for supervisors. After discussion including need for items to be used exclusively for SWCD business, Mark Peterson/Gary Rantala approved amending the motion to allow a list of expenditures to be presented. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

13. Financial Dashboard, updated with 2019 audited numbers – Anita presented the 2012-2019 financial dashboard showing the District's financial position eight years.

14. Forester Job Offer - Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to allow hiring Lauren Soergel as a full-time Forester at \$20.50/hour plus benefits, pending successful background checks.
Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

15. Operating Reserve Contribution & Board Resolution 2020-17 – Motion by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve Board Resolution 2020-17 assigning \$15,000 to operating reserves. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

16. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings
- Forestry – 11/19/20
 - Resource Conservation & Development – 11/23/20
 - Technical Service Area – 11/25/20
 - Other

REPORTS:

- District Administrator Report – See report on file.
- Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator Report – see report on file.
- Community Conservationist Report – see report on file.
- Forester Report – see report on file.
- Resource Conservationist Report – see report on file
- NRCS Report – Allison Praet indicated the annual Memorandum of Understanding will be ready for approval in December. CSP payments are complete for the year. EQIP application deadline is 11/20/2020.
- Supervisor & Committee Reports
 - Budget Committee – has not met
 - Other – Gary indicated he is considering an application to the BWSR Board.

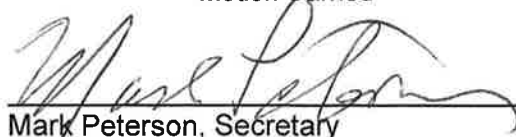
CLOSING:

- Confirm Next Meeting – The next meeting was set for Wednesday, December 9 at 10:30 a.m. due to the Veterans Day Holiday.
- Adjourn – Moved by Frank Modich/Mark Peterson to adjourn meeting at 11:38 a.m.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried


Mark Peterson, Secretary


Date