

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

Regular Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2020

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

Staff Present: Anita Provinzino, District Administrator; Beth Kleinke, Regional Farm Bill Forester; Lauren Soergel, Forester; Natalya Walker, AIS Program Coordinator; and Phil Norvitch, Resource Conservationist;

Others Present: None

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 Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala 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 November 12, 2020 special meeting 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 October– Moved by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to approve the Treasurer's Report and Program Summary. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

4. Accounts Payable & Accounts Receivable – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve accounts payable and accounts receivable as updated 12/9/2020. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

5. Guest Introductions & Comments – Lauren Soergel was introduced to the Board. Lauren is the District's new forester. She has a BS degree in botany from UW-Stevens Point. She started on Monday. We are thrilled to have her join us.

NEW BUSINESS:

6. Accounting Technician Posting– Motion by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to allow Anita to offer the accounting technician at the rate of \$22.18 per hour plus benefits for approximately half-time to either of the top two candidates, contingent upon a successful background check.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

7. BWSR Grant Closeouts – 2018 Capacity & 2019 Cost Share - Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve the grant closeouts. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

8. 2020 Budget Revision & Board Resolution 2020-18 - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve Board Resolution 2020-18 for the budget revision. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

9. 2021 Budget Proposal & Board Resolution 2020-19 - Moved by Frank Modich/Mark Peterson to approve Board Resolution 2020-19 for the 2021 budget. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

10. COVID-19 Impacts Update, if any - None

11. Conservation Corps Grant Application Discussion – Becca Reiss is working with the Vermilion Lake Association and may submit a grant application to have a Conservation Corp Crew plant native plants for shoreline erosion and stabilization on individual landowner parcels. Because we do not have a list of interested landowners, we will keep the size of the grant small (2 days). If we are successful this year, we will create a list of landowners and determine whether or not to reapply for more days of planting in 2022.

12. Home Office Expense List for Mark Peterson – Motion by Gary Rantala/Frank Modich to approve paying expenses for ink cartridges and a speaker phone to Mark Peterson in the amount of \$113.92. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

13. NRCS Memorandum of Agreement – Motion by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to allow the District Administrator to sign the Memorandum of Agreement as long as there are no material changes to it and if there are material changes it is to be brought back to the board for consideration. Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

14. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings - None

REPORTS:

15. District Administrator Report – See report on file.
 16. Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator Report – see report on file.
 17. Community Conservationist Report – see report on file.
 18. Forester Report – see report on file.
 19. Resource Conservationist Report – No written report this month. Phi indicated he has been working on cost share reporting, buffer parcel 1/3 review, wetland conservation activities and updated the board on the culvert installation violation in Hibbing.
 20. NRCS Report – None
 21. Supervisor & Committee Reports
 a. Forestry Committee – Mark reported on the meeting and referred to documents emailed separately to the board. John Carlson spoke on the Landscape Stewardship Plan that is in development. Minnesota has the 3rd oldest forests in the nation, much of this is due to the inability to harvest as much as in past years roughly two million acres, down from 5 million. Part of this is due to a decline of loggers and reduced demand for spruce and balsam. There are new products in development that need EPA approval: wood pellets and a liquid fuel, which could impact the demand, if approved.
 b. Resource Conservation & Development – See separate email
 c. MASWCD Annual Convention – Gary and Mark attended along with Anita. They were impressed with the online convention format and the keynote speaker. Mark also attended the free training on how to use zoom.
 d. Other – Ad-hoc Budget Committee – Mark and Chuck met with Anita to review the 2021 budget draft.

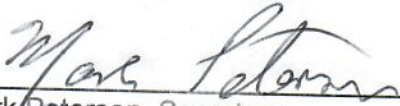
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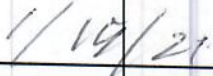
22. Confirm Next Meeting – The next meeting was set for Wednesday, January 13 at 10:30 a.m.
 23. Adjourn – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to adjourn meeting at 11:33 a.m.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried


 Mark Peterson, Secretary


 Date