



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

Regular Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2021

Supervisors Present at Roll Call: Chuck Bainter, Peggy Pearson, and Mark Peterson
Staff Present: Anita Provinzino, District Administrator; Becca Reiss, Community Conservationist; Lauren Soergel, Forester; Beth Kleinke, Regional Farm Bill Forester; Nancy Dougherty, Accounting Technician; Natalya Walker, Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Coordinator; and Phil Norvitch, Resource Conservationist
Others Present: Erin Loeffler, MN Board of Water & Soil Resources; Allison Praet, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

The meeting was called to order at 10:31 a.m. by Chair, Peggy Pearson.

1. Agenda - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the agenda.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye

Motion Carried

2. Minutes of January 13, 2021 Annual – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the minutes as written.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye

Motion Carried

3. Financial Reports & Program Summary for January – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the financial report and program summary.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye

Motion Carried

4. Accounts Payable & Accounts Receivable – Moved by Mark Peterson/Chuck Bainter to approve the accounts payable and accounts receivable.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye

Motion Carried

5. Guest Introductions and Comments – Nancy Dougherty introduced herself to the board as the new accounting technician. She was welcomed aboard. Erin Loeffler indicated that the Landscape Stewardship Plan is going out for public review soon.

NEW BUSINESS

6. AIS Interns - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to hire two interns, pending successful background checks, to work as temporary Watercraft Inspector Supervisors for the upcoming season as budgeted.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye

Motion Carried

7. AIS Supplies Order – Approve \$10,000 order - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to authorize up to \$10,000 in supplies to begin the AIS inspection season.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye

Motion Carried

8. 2021 BWSR Billable Rate – retroactive to January 1 – Moved by Mark Peterson/Chuck Bainter to approve the BWSR Billable Rates retroactive to January 1, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye

Motion Carried

9. COVID-19 Impacts Update, if any – None

Gary Rantala joined the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

10. Legislative Update – Anita Provinzino reviewed the MASWCD legislative platform.

Frank Modich joined the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

11. MDA Noxious Weed & Invasive Plant Grant & Board Resolution 2020-1 – Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve Board Resolution 2020-1.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

12. Resolution Development for MASWCD – Gary Rantala and Chuck Bainter were appointed to an ad-hoc resolutions committee.

13. Resource Conservationist Wage Review effective 2/22/21 – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve a 3.5% wage increase for Phil Norvitch effective on 2/22/21. The board thanked Phil for five years of service.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

14. St. Louis County Funding & Board Resolution 2021-2 – Moved by Frank Modich/Mark Peterson to approve Board Resolution 2021-2.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

15. Tree Sale Spending Limit Increase of \$1,500 – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve spending up to an additional \$1,500 not including shipping on tree stock due to high demand. Gary suggested checking with Bailey's Nursery for stock.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye

Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

16. 2020 Draft Year End Financial Review & Dashboard, if available – Anita Provinzino reported the 2020 books are not yet completed. This will be presented at the next meeting.
17. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings
 - a. MASWCD Legislative Day at the Capitol – March 18 – Registration is due by March 12 which is after the next meeting.
 - b. Other - none

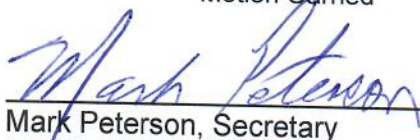
REPORTS

18. District Administrator Report – See report on file
19. Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator Report – See report on file
20. Community Conservationist Report – See report on file
21. Forester Report– See report on file
22. Regional Farm Bill Forester Report– See report on file
23. Resource Conservationist Report– See report on file
24. NRCS District Conservationist Report- Allison Praet stated that Callie Bertsch has been hired as the new NRCS State Forester. Allison anticipates a soil conservationist and a soil conservation technician will be hired for the Virginia office. Also, the office staff serving the Duluth office has left, leaving that contracted position open. She is uncertain when that position will be replaced. The northeast area has 156 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications in 4 counties. The application ranking is due on March 5. Those selected will move on to the pre-approval process.
25. Supervisor & Committee Reports –
 - a. Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development – emailed previously. Peggy did not attend.
 - b. SWCD Forestry Association – January 21 – emailed previously. Mark stated he was asked to be the treasurer. He indicated he will only do it if the SWCD is the fiscal agent and staff do the banking/reporting. Supervisors and staff had concerns about exactly what is being asked and what has happened historically. There were questions about whether online banking would allow the account to stay at the existing bank and the structure to remain intact. Mark indicated he did not want dues checks mailed to his home address, staff agreed the checks could be mailed to the SWCD office. More information is needed before a decision can be reached.
 - c. Technical Service Area 3 – January 27 – Gary reported he was elected the chair. One of the engineering technicians took the engineering test recently and is awaiting the results.
 - d. St. Louis River 1W1P Policy Committee – January 28 – emailed previously. Chuck indicated there was a presentation on the survey results. There was a low number of responses from area industry. It was suggested the planning website (www.southstlouisswcd.org/1w1p) be updated more frequently.
26. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.
27. Adjourn – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to adjourn the meeting at 12:03 a.m.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried


 Mark Peterson, Secretary

3/15/21
 Date