



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

Regular Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2021

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; Lauren Soergel, Forester; 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; and Russ Kurhajetz, Area 3 President

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Chair, Peggy Pearson.

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 of February 10 Regular Meeting – Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to approve the minutes as written.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

3. Financial Reports & Program Summary for February – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve the financial 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/Frank Modich to approve the accounts payable and accounts receivable.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

5. Guest Introductions and Comments – Russ Kurhajetz spoke about the several ideas the executive board has for Area 3, including: having options to participate in the June resolutions meeting both in-person and electronically; a survey requesting supervisor input on the number of meetings per year and the intent/ideas for them as well as interest in having an Area meeting during the state convention; encouraging SWCDs to highlight their Clean Water Fund story using the template MASWCD provided (we’ve done this); recommending supervisors use this story and the talking points to attend Legislative Days and meetings with legislators plus calling or writing them.

Erin Loeffler spoke about the budget forecast, BWSR’s first Spring Training Academy, the upcoming meeting with area managers and Matias Valero of the Technical Service Area III; the BWSR board meets on March 25th and the 1W1P planning grant request for proposals is on the agenda. She also indicated the Becca, Phil and Anita did an amazing job putting together a one-page document on the proposed changes to 1W1P planning boundaries for the Rainy River Headwaters/Vermilion River watershed.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Accounting Technician Position - Moved by Gary Rantala/Frank Modich to approve the Personnel Committee and Anita to hire a person to quickly fill the accounting technician position.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

7. AIS Prevention Services Agreements
 - a. Always There Staffing
 - b. Koochiching County
 - c. Lake County SWCD
 - d. White Iron Chain of Lakes Association

Moved by Mark Peterson/Chuck Bainter to approve all four of the above service agreements.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

8. BWSR 1W1P Planning Grant Preparations for Rainy River Headwaters/Vermilion River Watershed
 - a. Overview of Proposed Boundary Revision
 - b. Board Resolution 2021-3 (fiscal agent, planning boundary)

Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve Board Resolution 2021-3.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

9. COVID-19 Impacts Update, if any – None
10. Green Corps Application & Board Resolution 2021-4 – Moved by Mark Peterson/Chuck Bainter to approve Board Resolution 2021-4.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

11. Legislative Update – Anita Provinzino gave an update on the status of bills.
12. 2020 Draft Year End Financial Review & Dashboard – Anita Provinzino reviewed the draft 2020 year-end financials and dashboard. These will be updated and presented again once the audit is complete.
13. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings
 - a. MASWCD Legislative Day at the Capitol – March 18 – Chuck and Anita will attend
 - b. SWCD Forestry Association Meeting – March 18 – Mark will attend in person
 - c. Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development – March 22 – Peggy will attend
 - d. Technical Service Area 3 – March 24 – Gary will attend
 - e. Local Work Group Training – March 31 – Board was encouraged to attend
 - f. Other – Chuck and/or Anita will attend meetings with legislators if scheduling permits.


REPORTS

14. District Administrator Report – See report on file
15. Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator Report – See report on file
16. Community Conservationist Report – See report on file
17. Forester Report– See report on file
18. Regional Farm Bill Forester Report– See report on file
19. Resource Conservationist Report– See report on file
20. NRCS District Conservationist Report- Allison Praet indicated there is a new contract administrative person starting in Duluth on Monday. She stated a final job offer was made to a soil conservationist and that person will start in Virginia on April 12. A soil conservation technician will also be hired for the Virginia office soon. Allison has been attending the Locally Led Training on Local Work Groups. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) application ranking deadline is now March 26. Those selected will move on to the pre-approval process. There is a new program coming out, Conservation Incentives Contract, that will use 5% of EQIP funding.
21. Supervisor & Committee Reports –
 - a. MASWCD Resolutions Committee – Anita indicated a meeting did not get scheduled.
22. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.
23. Adjourn – Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried



 Mark Peterson, Secretary

4/17/21

 Date