



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

Regular Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2021

Supervisors Present at Roll Call: Chuck Bainter, Frank Modich, Peggy Pearson, and Mark Peterson
Staff Present: Anita Provinzino, District Administrator; 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; and 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 Frank Modich/Mark Peterson to approve the agenda.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye

Motion Carried

2. Minutes of April 14, 2021 Regular Meeting – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the minutes as written.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye

Motion Carried

Gary Rantala joined the meeting.

3. Financial Reports & Program Summary for April – Moved by Gary Rantala/Frank Modich 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/Mark Peterson to approve the accounts payable and accounts receivable plus an invoice to Lake States Evergreen in the amount of \$2,022.98.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

5. Guest Introductions and Comments – Erin Loeffler indicated BWSR Academy is being planned as a face-to-face event in October.

NEW BUSINESS

6. 1W1P Memorandum of Agreement for Rainy River Headwaters & Vermilion River Watershed Planning – Moved by Frank Modich/Gary Rantala to approve the Memorandum of Agreement.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

7. 1W1P Memorandum of Agreement with Voyageurs National Park – Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to approved the draft Memorandum of Agreement as long as there are no material changes to the final version.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

8. BWSR Performance Review & Assistance Program Grant Application and Board Resolution 2021-5 – Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve Board Resolution 2021-5 authorizing submission of a grant application for long-term planning.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

9. Staffing

- a. Change Lauren Soergel to regular status effective 5/7/21 – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to change Lauren Soergel to regular employment status after completion of 6 month probationary period.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

- b. Regional Farm Bill Specialist – Approval to Hire - Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to hire Zachary Evans as Regional Farm Bill Specialist pending a successful background check. His anticipated start date is July 6, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

Bainter	Aye
Modich	Aye
Pearson	Aye
Peterson	Aye
Rantala	Aye

Motion Carried

10. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings
 - a. Area 3 Meeting – June 3 – Gary Rantala and Anita Provinzino will attend the Area 3 Resolutions meeting, virtually.
 - b. SWCD Forestry Association Meeting – May 20 – Mark Peterson indicated he will attend.
 - c. Local Work Group Meeting – today at 1:00 – Chuck Painter and Peggy Pearson will attend.
 - d. Other – Peggy indicated Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development will hold their meeting on May 24.

REPORTS

11. District Administrator Report – See report on file
 - a. TSA Engineering Contributions 1Q21 – See report on file
12. Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator Report – See report on file. Natalya indicated that Gruben's Marina is interested in piloting a self-inspection app.
13. Community Conservationist Report – See report on file
14. District Forester Report– See report on file
15. Resource Conservationist Report– See report on file
16. NRCS District Conservationist Report- Allison stated NRCS' contracted administrative support person is transferring to Virginia, leaving an opening in Duluth. They have two earth team volunteers. In St. Louis County (not broken out by District) there were 86 applications, 31 are pre-approved, 20 are approved.
17. Supervisor & Committee Reports – none

CLOSING

18. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.
19. Adjourn – Moved by Gary Rantala/Frank Modich to adjourn the 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