



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

Special Meeting Minutes  
August 11, 2021

**The meeting was held in person at the St. Louis County Public Works Building in Virginia and via Zoom.**

**Supervisors Present at Roll Call:** Chuck Bainter, Peggy Pearson, and Mark Peterson were present in-person.

**Staff Present:** Anita Provinzino, District Administrator, was present in-person. Phil Norvitch, Becca Reiss and Natalya Walker joined via Zoom.

**Others Present:** Erin Loeffler, MN Board of Water & Soil Resources, and Allison Praet, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service joined via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 10:34 a.m. by Chair, Peggy Pearson.

1. Agenda - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
2. Minutes of July 14, 2021 Regular Meeting – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried
3. Financial Reports & Program Summary – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the financial report and program summary. Motion carried
4. Accounts Payable & Accounts Receivable – Moved by Mark Peterson/Chuck Bainter to approve the accounts payable and accounts receivable adding reimbursement requests from Zach Evans for \$378.88 and Phil Norvitch for \$248.64 plus updating the amounts for Lundgren Motors to \$658.18, Range Coop to \$1266.46 and WA Fisher to \$418.83. Motion carried
5. Guest Introductions and Comments
  - a. Erin Loeffler, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, indicated that the 1W1P planning grants were being reviewed in committee today. Recommendations will be acted on in August.

*Gary Rantala arrived in person at 10:42 a.m.*

#### NEW BUSINESS

6. Board Supervisor Per Diem Review – Moved by Mark Peterson/Gary Rantala to increase the supervisor per diem to the maximum of \$125 effective August 21. Motion carried 3:1 with Bainter voting against.
7. COVID-19 Impacts Update, if any – With the delta variant of COVID-19, no changes are recommended. Continued caution is urged.
8. Forest Stewardship Plan Rate Review – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to increase the base rate for stewardship plan writing from \$225 to \$275, leaving the \$7 per acre fee as is, effective September 1, 2021; current customers excepted. Motion carried.
9. 2022 Tree Stock Initial Spending Limit - \$10,000 – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve a \$10,000 initial spending limit for tree stock, not including deer repellent or shipping. Motion carried.

10. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings
  - a. Avoiding phone, email and texting scams – Anita reviewed the information included in the board packet about phishing, smishing.
  - b. Area 3 Annual Meeting – September 21 – Duluth – Information will be forwarded when received.
  - c. St. Louis River 1W1P Policy Committee – August 26
  - d. Other – None this month

## REPORTS

11. District Administrator Report – See report on file. Anita indicated she stopped by the County Commissioners meeting yesterday to introduce herself to Commissioner Ashley Grimm. This was her first opportunity to meet Commissioner Grimm in person, given the pandemic.
12. Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator Report – See report on file.
13. Community Conservationist Report – See report on file
14. District Forester Report– See report on file
  - a. Job Approval Authority Areas – See report on file
15. Regional Farm Bill Forester – Anita reported that Zach has been getting access to and learning NRCS computers systems, refreshing his GIS and mapping software skills, meeting with all SWCD foresters and shadowing Lauren and Allison Praet in the last month. He is beginning to certify contracts.
16. Resource Conservationist Report– See report on file
17. NRCS District Conservationist Report- Allison indicated that she and Zach had a meeting with the other SWCD foresters relating to the Arrowhead Forest Partnership grant. NRCS is finalizing contracts, hiring in Duluth and has hired a contract assistant in the Duluth office. She will forward the plan from the Local Work Group to Anita for this boards' approval.
18. Supervisor & Committee Reports
  - a. Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development – July 26 – Peggy reported they approved paying Ted Lovdahl mileage and expenses as he is no longer an SWCD supervisor. Work continues on forestry-related carbon credits.

Chuck attended the Minnesota Association of RC&D Council's meeting on August 5. He spoke of the bio-char project where there are 2 farms in both the northeast and southeast parts of the state participating in it.

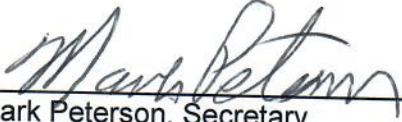
- b. St. Louis River 1W1P Policy Committee – July 22 – Chuck indicated the committee approved the first goals for the plan, and expect more in the future.
- c. SWCD Forestry Association – July 15 – Mark attended the meeting which followed a tour of the Badoura Nursery in Akeley. He also mentioned a presentation on forest assisted migration by David Abazs, U of MN NE Sustainable Development Partnership.
- d. Other –  
Mark asked Anita to draft a letter for all board supervisors to sign and to be sent to all area legislators. The letter should thank them for the current allocation and outline work done with capacity funding.

Gary stated he sent an email to MASWCD for drought to be a convention topic.

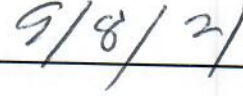
CLOSING

19. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. Location to be announced.

20. Adjourn – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to adjourn the meeting at 12:27 p.m.  
Motion carried



Mark Peterson, Secretary



Date