



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

Special Meeting Minutes
September 8, 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, Mark Peterson, and Gary Rantala were present in-person. Frank Modich attended via Zoom.

Staff Present: Anita Provinzino, District Administrator, was present in-person. Zach Evans, Regional Farm Bill Forester; and Diana Stanojevich, Accounting Technician 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 10:35 a.m. by Chair, Peggy Pearson.

1. Agenda - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
2. Minutes of August 11, 2021 Special Meeting – Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried
3. Financial Reports & Program Summary – Moved by Gary Rantala/Frank Modich to approve the financial report and program summary. Motion carried
4. Accounts Payable & Accounts Receivable – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the accounts payable and accounts receivable as updated today. Motion carried
5. Guest Introductions and Comments
 - a. Diana Stanojevich was introduced as the new accounting technician. She provided an overview of her background and experience. The Board welcomed her to the District.
 - b. Erin Loeffler, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, indicated that the BWSR Grants Committee was meeting today to determine Local Capacity, Natural Resources Block Grant and One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) Implementation funding amount recommendations by SWCD that will be brought to the BWSR Board in September.

NEW BUSINESS

6. BWSR Grants
 - a. FY22 & FY23 Conservation Delivery and Cost Share Grants & Board Resolution 2021-7 – Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve Board Resolution 2021-7 accepting said funding and setting signatory authority. Motion Carried.
 - b. BWSR 1W1P Planning Grant for planning area covering Rainy River Headwaters & Vermilion River Watersheds
 - i. Board Resolution 2021-8 – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve Board Resolution 2021-8 accepting said funding and setting signatory authority. Motion Carried.
 - ii. Memorandum of Agreement – Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to approve the Memorandum of Agreement. Motion Carried.
 - iii. Appoint Policy Committee Member – Chair Pearson appointed Chuck Bainter to the Rainy River Headwaters/Vermilion River Watersheds Planning Area 1W1P Policy Committee.

7. COVID-19 Impacts Update, if any –
 - a. Request from State of Minnesota to Provide Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination or Testing Policy #1446 – Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to support complying with this request (which is effective today). Motion carried.
8. MPCA Draft WRAPS Summary Reports on Public Comment thru 10/29/21 – The board was reminded the public comment period for both WRAPS for the Rainy River Headwaters and Vermilion River Watersheds are on a 60-day public comment period. Prior to its release, the District provided feedback to support a longer public comment period (30 is required) due to the wildfires burning in the watersheds and their impact on residents, property owners, and various agency staff. The board was both encouraged to comment and to ask others to comment.
9. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings
 - a. Area 3 Annual Meeting – September 21 – Duluth – Mark Peterson and Chuck Bainter will attend.
 - b. Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development – September 27 – Chuck will attend
 - c. SWCD Forestry Association – September 16 – Mark will attend. They will tour some of UPM Blandin Paper Mill's property.
 - d. Technical Service Area 3 – September 22 – Gary will attend.
 - e. Other – None this month

REPORTS

10. District Administrator Report – See report on file.
11. Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator Report – See report on file.
12. Community Conservationist Report – See report on file
13. District Forester Report – See report on file
14. Regional Farm Bill Forester – See report on file
15. Resource Conservationist Report– See report on file
16. NRCS District Conservationist Report- Allison gave an update on NRCS offices.
 - a. NRCS Conservation Plans - Allison requested the District sign off on 13 conservation plans in the District indicating knowledge of NRCS' work.
17. Supervisor & Committee Reports
 - a. St. Louis River 1W1P Policy Committee – August 26 – Chuck indicated the committee approved the second half of the goals for the plan. They also reviewed the draft mission and vision statements.
 - b. Other –
Mark indicated having a chipper available, perhaps through the Firewise USA® program would be useful to landowners.

CLOSING

18. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting was set for Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. Location to be announced.
19. Adjourn – Moved by Gary Rantala/Frank Modich to adjourn the meeting at 11:38 p.m. Motion carried



Mark Peterson, Secretary

10/20/21

Date