

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

Special Meeting Minutes
December 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, Frank Modich, Peggy Pearson, and Mark Peterson were present in-person.

Staff Present: Anita Provinzino, District Administrator; and Natalya Walker, Forester/AIS Program Coordinator; were present in-person. Zach Evans, Regional Farm Bill Forester; Phil Norvitch, Resource Conservationist; Becca Reiss, Community Conservationist and Tuomas Sivula, MN GreenCorps Member all joined via Zoom.

Others Present: Beth Kleinke, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, joined via Zoom.

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

1. Agenda - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
2. Minutes of November 10, 2021 Special Meeting – Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter 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 Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to approve the accounts payable and accounts receivable as updated 12/8/21. Motion carried
5. Guest Introductions and Comments – none present

NEW BUSINESS

6. AIS Program Coordinator
 - a. Updated Job Description - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the updated job description. Motion carried.
 - b. Approval to Hire - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to approve hiring any of the top candidates. Motion carried.

Gary Rantala arrived at the meeting. He was delayed due to a lengthy detour from an accident.

7. Budget for 2022
 - a. Employee Stipend Review – Moved by Mark Peterson/Frank Modich to approve increasing the monthly employee stipend from \$600 to \$750 effective January 2022 with the recommendation to evaluate this more frequently. Motion carried.
 - b. 2022 Budget & Board Resolution 2021-11 – Moved by Gary Rantala/Frank Modich to approve the 2022 draft budget. Motion carried.
8. COVID-19 Impacts Update, if any – none
9. Grant Applications
 - a. Conservation Corps Clean Water Funds & Board Resolution 2021-12
 - b. DNR No Child Left Inside & Board Resolution 2021-13
 - c. MPCA Climate Grant & Board Resolution 2021-14
10. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings – None until January

REPORTS


11. District Administrator Report – See report on file
12. Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator/Forester Report – See report on file

The mission of the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District is to encourage sustainable use of our natural resources by engaging people in soil and water conservation in northern St. Louis County.

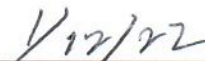
13. Community Conservationist Report – See report on file
14. Regional Farm Bill Forester – See report on file
15. Resource Conservationist Report – See report on file
16. NRCS District Conservationist Report- See report on file
17. Supervisor & Committee Reports
 - a. Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development – Peggy reported there is over \$37,000 in the account, Paul Sandstrom was paid \$4,800 and Ted Lovdahl was paid \$148.50 for mileage. They continue to finalize plans for Minnesota RC&D winter meeting. Paul continues his work on carbon credits and bio char. They await news from Enbridge about a reforestation grant. Peggy previewed and Anita will send out the Nature Conservancy's request for support to plant one million trees by 2040.
 - b. SWCD Forestry Association – Mark reported on the last meeting's presentations on a proposed new mill in Cohasset by 2024 and carbon sequestration. Anita will send those out. He also reported on the legislative panel with Representatives Rob Ecklund, and Dale Lueck plus Senator Carrie Ruud.

CLOSING

18. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting was set for Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. Location to be announced.
19. Adjourn – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 p.m.
Motion carried



Mark Peterson, Secretary



January 12, 2022