



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

Special Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2022

Due to COVID-19, the annual meeting was held in person at the Virginia Public Library in the lower-level conference room at the Virginia Public Library, 215 S 5th Ave, Virginia. A zoom link was available.

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

Staff Present: Anita Provinzino, District Administrator was present in-person. Zach Evans, Regional Farm Bill Forester; Kelsea Goettl, Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator; Phil Norvitch, Resource Conservationist; and Natalya Walker, Forester/AIS Program Coordinator; all joined via Zoom.

Others Present: Allison Praett, 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/Frank Modich to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
2. Minutes of January 12, 2022 Special/Annual Meeting – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve the minutes as corrected. 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/Frank Modich to approve the accounts payable and accounts receivable. Motion carried
5. Guest Introductions and Comments – Kelsea Goettl was welcomed to the District as its Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator. She provided an overview of her education and experience to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Audit Engagement Letter - Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to approve hiring Peterson Company Ltd for the 2021 audit in the amount of \$3000. Motion carried
7. AIS Spring Supplies Order Spending Limit – Request \$12,000. Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to approve \$12,000 for spring watercraft inspection program supplies. Motion carried.
8. COVID-19 Impacts Update, if any: none
9. County Grants & Board Resolution 2022-04 – Moved by Mark Peterson/Chuck Bainter to approve Board Resolution 2022-04 accepting all county grants and authorizing signers. Motion carried.
10. Mississippi River-Grant Rapids 1W1P pre-planning & Board Resolution 2022-05 – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to approve Board Resolution 2022-05. Motion carried.
11. BWSR Cooperative Weed Management Area Grant Opportunity & Board Resolution 2022-06 - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve application for a CWMA grant if staff feel there is enough support to do so & approve Board Resolution 2022-06. Motion carried.
12. Staffing
 - a. Zach Evans – remove probationary status – Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to remove Zach's probationary status after a successful performance evaluation by Anita Provinzino. Motion Carried

- b. Kelsea Goettl – approve credit card with \$5000 limit – Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to authorize a credit card with a \$5000 limit for business use by Kelsea Goettl. Motion carried.
- c. Phil Norvitch – Annual salary adjustment effective 2/22/22 - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to grant a 3.5% increase effective 2/22/22 following a successful performance evaluation by Anita Provinzino. Phil was thanked for six years of service to the District. Motion carried.

13. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings

- a. St. Louis River 1W1P Policy Committee – February 24
- b. Minnesota Association of Resource Conservation & Development – February 11
- c. Legislative Briefing via Zoom – February 10
- d. Legislative Day – March 9 – No one will attend in-person reception in St. Paul.
- e. Other

REPORTS

14. District Administrator Report – See report on file

- a. 19 BWSR Capacity Final Financial Report
- b. 20 BWSR Buffer Final Financial Report
- c. 21 BWSR Conservation Delivery Final Financial Report
- d. SLC Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Funding Recommendations

15. Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator/Forester Report – See report on file

16. Community Conservationist Report – See report on file

17. Regional Farm Bill Forester – Zach reported he is ranking and assessing 50 EQIP applications. He and Natalya went on a site visit last week and will compile the information next week.

18. Resource Conservationist Report – See report on file

19. NRCS District Conservationist Report- See report on file

20. Supervisor & Committee Reports

- a. Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development – January 24 – Report emailed
- b. St Louis River 1W1P Policy Committee – January 27 – Report emailed.
- c. SWCD Forestry Association – January 20 – Report emailed.
- d. Technical Service Area 3 – January 26 – Gary indicated the TSA 3 elected the same officers as the prior year. Budgeting and protocol training is available through BWSR. They are changing banks. A new engineer-in-training was hired.

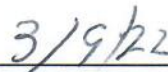
CLOSING

21. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting was set for Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. Location to be announced.

22. Adjourn – Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to adjourn the meeting at 11:26 a.m. Motion carried



Mark Peterson, Secretary



March 9, 2022



**North St. Louis
Soil and Water Conservation District**

505 3rd St N, Ste A
Virginia MN 55792
(218) 749-2000

WHEREAS, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District has been awarded the following funding for 2022 from St. Louis County:

\$430,000	Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention
\$60,000	General Services
\$9,003	Wetland Conservation Act
<u>\$9,000</u>	Natural Resources Block Grant
\$508,003	TOTAL

AND WHEREAS, the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board desires to accept this funding to provide services related to its mission.

NOW THERE BE IT RESOLVED, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors accepts said funding and hereby authorizes the District Administrator or Board Chair to sign all documents related to said funding.

Motion Made by: *Peterson*
Seconded by: *Bainter*

Affirmative: *Bainter, Modich, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala*

Opposed: *none*

Certification of Recording Officer

I, the undersigned, hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the North St Louis SWCD Board on the 9th day of February 2022; and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Peterson".

Mark Peterson, Board Secretary

**North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Resolution 2022-05
to support a Mississippi River – Grand Rapids Watershed
One Watershed, One Plan**

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources has developed policies for coordination and development of comprehensive watershed management plans, also known as One Watershed, One Plan, consistent with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.801, Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.301, Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, authorizes Minnesota Counties to develop and implement a local water management plan; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103C.331, subdivision 11, Comprehensive Plan, authorizes Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Districts to develop and implement a comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, the counties and soil and water conservation districts within the Mississippi River – Grand Rapids Watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code 07010103), as delineated in the attached One Watershed, One Plan Suggested Boundary Map, have interest in developing a comprehensive watershed management plan for this area.

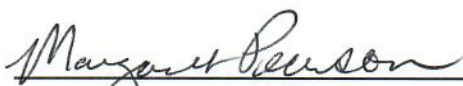
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District recognizes and supports watershed-scale planning efforts consistent with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.801, also known as One Watershed, One Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the counties and soil and water conservation districts within the Mississippi River – Grand Rapids Watershed for watershed-scale planning efforts in the future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District supports an application to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for a planning grant to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan and anticipates entering into a Memorandum of Agreement with the counties and soil and water conservation districts, within the Mississippi River – Grand Rapids Watershed, to collaborate on this effort, pending selection as a recipient of a planning grant.

Certificate of Recording Officer

I, the undersigned hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District Board at its monthly board meeting held on this the 9th of February 2022 and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.



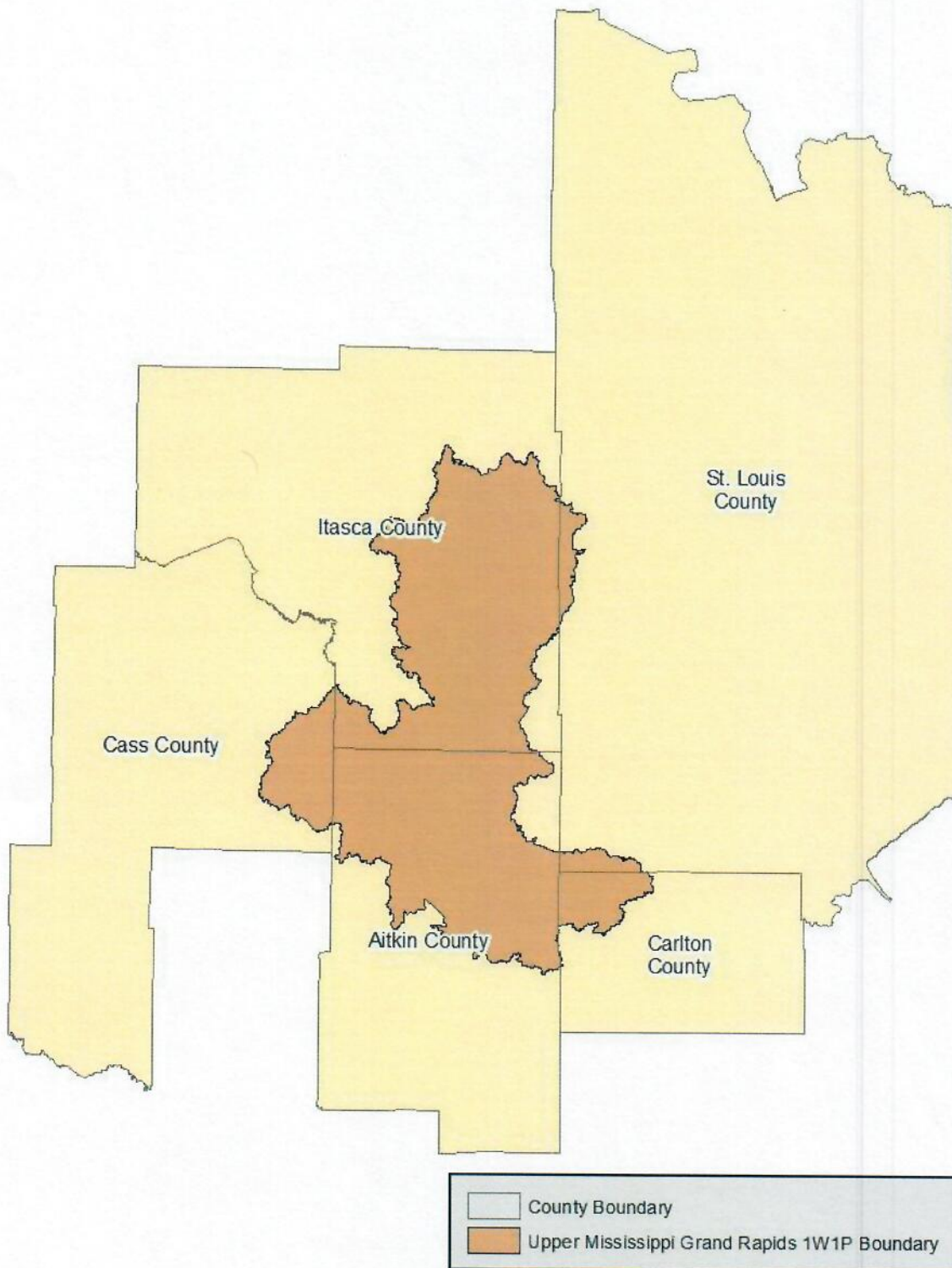
Margaret Pearson, North St. Louis SWCD Board Chair

Motion Made by: Bainter
Second: Modich

Aye: Bainter, Modich, Pearson
Peterson, Rantala

Nay: none

Mississippi River Grand Rapids Watershed Planning Boundary Hydrologic Unit Code (07010103)





Resolution 2022-06

**North St. Louis
Soil and Water Conservation District**

505 3rd St N, Ste A
Virginia MN 55792
(218) 749-2000
www.nslswcd.org

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources announced a round of Cooperative Weed Management Area grants for up to \$20,000, with a 25% match, to manage noxious weeds or invasive plants in defined areas, and

WHEREAS, the District has existing partnerships in the Ely area who could contribute the match by volunteering time and equipment, along with some SWCD staff time.

WHEREAS, there is more weed control work to be done, and

WHEREAS, the District staff would develop and submit a funding proposal to that meets the guidelines; and

WHEREAS, this funding would support the District's three goals 1) Provide Services, 2) Spread the Message and 3) Strengthen our Capacity; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board authorizes application to and desires to accept this funding, if awarded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors authorizes the District Administrator or Board Chair to apply for, secure and sign all documents related to such award.

Motion Made by: *Baister*
Seconded by: *Peterson*

Affirmative: *Baister, Madrich, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala*

Opposed: *None*

Certification of Recording Officer

I, the undersigned, hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the North St Louis SWCD Board on the 9th day of February 2022 and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.

Mark Peterson
Mark Peterson, Board Secretary

2/9/22
February 9, 2022