

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

Special Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2022

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

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; Becca Reiss, Community Conservationist; Tuomas Sivula, GreenCorps member, all joined periodically via Zoom.

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m. by Chair, Peggy Pearson.

1. Agenda - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
2. Minutes of January 12, 2022 Special Meeting – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve the minutes. 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 Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve the accounts payable and accounts receivable. Motion carried
5. Guest Introductions and Comments – None present

NEW BUSINESS

6. Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program
 - a. Always There Staffing Agreement Renewal – Moved by Frank Modich/Gary Rantala to renew the existing staffing agreement for 2022 and 2023 per paragraph 15. Motion carried.
 - b. Approval to Hire 2 Interns as Inspector Supervisors – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to authorize hiring two interns for watercraft inspector supervisors. Motion carried.
 - c. Lake County SWCD Agreement Renewal – Moved to Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the agreement with Lake County SWCD to provide watercraft inspection services in Lake County. Motion carried.
 - d. Sturgeon Chain of Lakes Association Proposed Subcontract – Anita informed the board the Sturgeon Chain Lake Association has requested the District provide watercraft inspection services to five lakes. After speaking with St. Louis County, it appears the District will need to be a subcontractor of the lake association, if terms can be agreed.
7. BWSR Billable Rate – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to approve the BWSR billable rates for all grants, contracts and funding sources that don't have a separate rate included; retroactive to January 1st 2022. Motion carried.
8. COVID-19 Impacts Update, if any: none
9. GreenCorps Grant Application & Board Resolution 2022-07– Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve Board Resolution 2022-07 approving application to

and authorizing signers for a 2022-2023 GreenCorps staff agreement, if awarded. Motion carried.

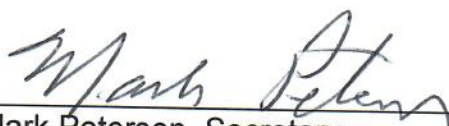
10. Financial Review & Dashboard 2021 preliminary year-end – Anita reviewed the District's financial performance since 2015.
11. Priorities for Statutory SWCD Aid Funding Discussion – The board discussed funding priorities for proposed statutory aid for SWCDs. This would be in statute and come through the Department of Revenue. It is not a tax. It is the same as what counties and cities receive. Priorities include long-term stability for SWCDs and latitude to utilize the money as needed.
12. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings
 - a. Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development – March 28
 - b. St. Louis River 1W1P Policy Committee – March 24
 - c. SWCD Forestry Association – March 17
 - d. Technical Service Area 3 – March 22
 - e. Other

REPORTS

13. District Administrator Report – See report on file
14. Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator/Forester Report – See report on file
15. Community Conservationist Report – See report on file
16. Regional Farm Bill Forester – See report on file
17. Resource Conservationist Report – See report on file
18. NRCS District Conservationist Report & Civil Rights Responsibilities - See report on file. Beth Kleinke reviewed the Civil Rights Responsibilities.
19. Supervisor & Committee Reports
 - a. 1W1P Policy Committee for St. Louis River – February 24 – Chuck reported the committee reviewed some of the priorities. Others are being drafted. No action was taken.
 - b. Minnesota Association of Resource Conservation & Development – 2/11/22 – See Chuck's email.
 - c. Legislative Briefing via Zoom – 2/10/22 10:30-noon – Mark reported on the legislative briefing hosted by Area 3.
 - d. Legislative Meetings – March various dates – Mark, Gary and Anita attended meetings with legislators as available.
 - e. Other - none

CLOSING

20. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting was set for Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. Location to be announced.
21. Adjourn – Moved by Gary Rantala/Frank Modich to adjourn the meeting at 11:54 a.m. Motion carried



Mark Peterson, Secretary
April 13, 2022



North St. Louis
Soil and Water Conservation District
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Virginia MN 55792
(218) 749-2000
www.nslswcd.org

Resolution to Approve Application for Minnesota GreenCorps Member

WHEREAS, the Minnesota GreenCorps is requesting applications to become a host site for a full-time member, working 1700 hours from September 2022-August 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota GreenCorps is an AmeriCorps program with funding provided by ServeMinnesota, the Corporation for National Community Service and the MN Pollution Control Agency; and

WHEREAS, the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District's 2018 Strategic Plan identified the goal of "Spread the Message" by identifying target groups, increasing awareness of the SWCD & conservation and expanding community outreach; and

WHEREAS, a Minnesota GreenCorps member focused on community readiness and outreach would facilitate this goal;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors supports an application for a Minnesota GreenCorps, would enter into an agreement with the MPCA if selected, and authorizes the District Administrator or Board Chair to sign all documents related to such.

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

Affirmative: *Bainter, Modra, 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 held on the 9th day of March 2022 and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.

Mark Peterson

Mark Peterson, Board Secretary

3/9/22

Date