



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

Regular Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2022

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; and Natalya Walker, District Forester, were present in-person. Phil Norvitch, Resource Conservationist joined via Zoom.

Others Present: Kurt Beckstrom, Area 3 SWCD; and Gail Bong, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service joined via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 10:33 a.m. by Chair Peggy Pearson.

1. Agenda - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
2. Minutes of April 13, 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 Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to approve the accounts payable and accounts receivable updated 5/10/22. Motion carried
5. Guest Introductions and Comments – Kurt Beckstrom spoke of the historic funding opportunities for SWCDs, encouraged attendance at the resolutions meeting in Carlton on June 10 and indicated that legislative candidates have been invited to attend that meeting which is especially important given redistricting. He also expects there will be new supervisors present given supervisor changes at several SWCDs. He reviewed the status of pending legislation affecting SWCDs. Anita indicated that Kurt has been appointed to the BWSR board. Kurt encouraged supervisors to let their voices be heard and to contact him or others with questions. He left the meeting when done.

OLD BUSINESS

6. AIS – Sturgeon Chain Lake Association – Subcontract – Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve the agreement with Sturgeon Chain of Lakes Association to provide watercraft inspection services for them. Motion carried.
7. Strategic Plan/Financial Forecast Consultant Contract (BWSR PRAP) & Board Resolution 2022-12 – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to approve Board Resolution 2022-12 to enter into an agreement with unTapped LLC to conduct strategic planning and financial forecasting. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

8. Koochiching SWCD Subcontract for MPCA Public Participation grant for Little Fork River & Board Resolution 2022-10 – Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve Board Resolution 2022-10 approve a working agreement with Koochiching SWCD. Motion carried.
9. COVID-19 Post Pandemic Policy
 - a. Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to rescind the following policies:
 - 9.a.i. Public Health Emergency Sick Leave Advance notice Policy, March 2020
 - 9.a.ii. Families First Coronavirus Response Act COVID-19 Emergency Family Medical Leave Policy, May 2020

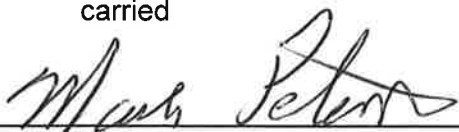
- 9.a.iii. COVID-19 Preparedness Plan dated July 14, 2020, and
- 9.a.iv. Field Work Safety Guidelines Under Social Distancing, dated May 13, 2020
Motion carried.
- b. Moved by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to approve the Post-COVID 19 Pandemic Policy. Motion carried.
- 10. Resolutions to Present to MASWCD
 - a. SWCD Exemption from MDA Nursery Dealer Certification – Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to support the Mille Lacs SWCD's resolution requesting SWCDs be exempt from being a nursery dealer. Motion carried.
 - b. Other – None presently. For 2023 it is recommended to research a resolution removing time tracking from state grants.
- 11. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings
 - a. Area 3 Resolutions Meeting – June 10 – Carlton – Chuck, Gary and Anita may be able to attend.
 - b. Rainy/Vermilion 1W1P Policy Committee – May 16 - Ely
 - c. Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development – May 23 - Duluth
 - d. SWCD Forestry Association – May 19 – McGregor
 - e. SWCD Supervisor filing period - May 17-31
 - f. Other
- 12. USDA NRCS Grant Renewal & Board Resolution 2022-11– Moved by Mark Peterson/Chuck Bainter to approve Board Resolution 2022-11 for a new \$400,000 grant over 3 years for continued forestry deliverables for the Arrowhead Forest Partnership. Motion carried.

REPORTS

- 13. District Administrator Report – See report on file
- 14. Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator/Forester Report – See report on file. Advised board that one of the decon units caught on fire while being repaired for a diesel leak. We do not yet know the cost or timeline.
- 15. Community Conservationist Report – See report on file
Chuck Bainter left the meeting from 11:28-11:31
- 16. Forester Report – See Report on file
- 17. Regional Farm Bill Forester – See report on file
- 18. Resource Conservationist Report – See report on file Mark requested Phil add groundwater numbers to his monthly report.
- 19. NRCS District Conservationist Report - See report on file. Gail Bong indicated she is retiring from NRCS on May 31st. She was thanked for her work and congratulated on her retirement.
- 20. Supervisor & Committee Reports - none

CLOSING

- 21. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. at the District's office
- 22. Adjourn – Moved by Mark Peterson/Chuck Bainter to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m. Motion carried



Mark Peterson, Secretary
June 8, 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 received a Performance Review and Assistance Program grant from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources and will match that grant with County funds, and

WHEREAS, the North St. Louis SWCD’s solicited Requests for Qualifications for strategic planning/financial forecasting and received 3 proposals; and

WHEREAS, interviews were conducted with representatives from each of the 3 agencies, and

WHEREAS, the ad-hoc committee feels that unTapped LLC. will best meet the needs of the District, and

WHEREAS, the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board desires to utilize these funds to award a contract not to exceed \$13,200 for these services to unTapped LLC.

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

Motion Made by: *Bainter*
Seconded by: *Rantala*

Affirmative: *Bainter, Madich, 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 11th day of May, 2022; and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.

Mark Peterson

Mark Peterson, Board Secretary



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www.nslswcd.org

**Resolution to Approve a Working Agreement with Koochiching SWCD for
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Public Participation Contract for the Little Fork River Watershed**

WHEREAS, the Little Fork River Watershed encompasses parts of Koochiching SWCD, Itasca SWCD and North St. Louis SWCD; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Koochiching Soil & Water Conservation District have negotiated a public participation contract for ongoing work in the Little Fork River Watershed, and

WHEREAS, the three SWCDs have successfully worked together on similar contracts and will work cooperatively together to complete work outlined in SWIFT Contract 208500 in the watershed between April 1, 2022 and June 15, 2024, and

WHEREAS, the North St. Louis SWCDs total reimbursement for services provided will not exceed \$24,852 for staff time and \$3840 for mileage, and

WHEREAS, the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board desires to approve this working agreement to provide these services, related to its mission.

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

Motion Made by: *Rantala*

Seconded by: *Peterson*

Affirmative: *Barter Modick Pearson Peterson Rantala*

Opposed: *None*

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Mark Peterson

Mark Peterson, Board Secretary



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WHEREAS, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District is eligible and has applied for a renewal of its USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Collaboration Grant for the Arrowhead Forest Partnership in the amount of \$400,000, and

WHEREAS, the Carlton, Cook, Lake, and North St. Louis SWCD's will collaborate on the Arrowhead Forest Partnership to provide forestry services to landowners applying for USDA NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and

WHEREAS, the SWCDs are compensated on each of four forestry-related deliverables as specified in the grant renewal documents and,

WHEREAS, the renewal is anticipated to be effective from August 1, 2022 through July 31, 2025, 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

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Mark Peterson, Board Secretary