



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

Regular Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2022

The meeting was held in person at the SWCD offices. 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 and Natalya Walker, District Forester were present in-person. Zach Evans, Regional Farm Bill Forester joined via Zoom.

Others Present: none

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

1. Agenda - Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
2. Minutes of March 9, 2022 Special Meeting – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
3. Financial Reports & Program Summary – Not available
4. Accounts Payable & Accounts Receivable – Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve the accounts payable and accounts receivable dated 6/7/22 plus a payment to Tree World for \$287.71. Motion carried
5. Guest Introductions and Comments – None

NEW BUSINESS

6. Aquatic Invasive Species Resort Survey Agreement - Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve an agreement with the new owners of Gruben's Marina. Motion carried.
7. COVID-19 Post Pandemic Policy Update – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to modify the policy as presented. Motion carried.
8. Data Access Policy for Data Subjects – annual update – Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve the policy as presented. Motion carried.
9. Data Access Policy for the Public – annual update – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to approve the policy as presented. Motion carried.
10. DNR Groundwater Monitoring Contract & Board Resolution 2022-13 – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the policy as presented. Motion carried.
11. Forest Stewardship Plan Rate Increase – Moved by Mark Peterson/Frank Modich to increase forest stewardship plan rates, matching the DNR rates, as of July 1, 2022 allowing current customers who commit to a stewardship plan before that date to pay the current rates (\$275 plus \$7 per acre). New rates will be \$300 plus \$9 per acre. Motion carried.
12. GIS contract for RRHW/VR & Board Resolution 2022-14 – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve Board Resolution 2022-14 contracting with Brinks Wetland Services for partial mapping in the RRHW/VR, utilizing BWSR 1W1P funding for same. Motion carried.
13. Staffing
 - a. Accounting Assistance – approval to hire – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to authorize hiring/contracting for up to 15 hours per month of accounting assistance. Motion carried.
 - b. AIS Program Coordinator – approval to hire – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve hiring either of top two candidates for this role. Motion carried.
 - c. Annual Salary Adjustment – Zach Evans – 1 year – Moved by Gary Rantala/Frank Modich to approve a \$2.00 hourly increase effective after a successful performance review and

upon one year of service (7/5/2022) to fulfill understanding of wage increase made at time of hire. Motion carried.

14. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings
 - a. Area 3 Resolutions Meeting – June 10 - Carlton
 - b. Rainy/Vermilion 1W1P Policy Committee – July 1
 - c. St Louis River 1W1P Policy Committee – June 23
 - d. Technical Service Area 3 – June 22 - Duluth
 - e. Other
15. USDA NRCS Local Work Group Meeting – Due to current staffing demands and vacancy, it was felt the SWCD could not coordinate the Local Work Group Meeting this year. Staff and board committee members will attend if available.

REPORTS

16. District Administrator Report – See report on file
17. Community Conservationist Report – See report on file
18. Forester Report – Natalya indicated she has site visits or forest stewardship plans to write for 3 neighbors on Lake Vermilion, Camp du Nord, and 2 other people. No tree sale report is available yet. She has been very active with AIS again, in absence of a coordinator. She was thanked for her willingness to assist.
19. Regional Farm Bill Forester – See report on file Zach also indicated he was present for filming forestry practices that will be featured in an NRCS video. Once available, it is anticipated it will be able to be linked on our website.
20. Resource Conservationist Report – See report on file. Supervisors thanked Phil for the groundwater level graphs.
21. NRCS District Conservationist Report - See report on file.
22. Supervisor & Committee Reports
 - a. Rainy/Vermilion 1W1P Policy Committee – May 16 – see prior email
 - b. Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development – May 23 - Duluth – materials will be emailed.
 - c. SWCD Forestry Association – May 19 – McGregor – see prior email
 - d. SWCD Supervisor filing period - May 17-31 – Both Peggy and Frank have filed for re-election.

CLOSING

23. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. at the District office
24. Adjourn – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to adjourn the meeting at 11:51 a.m. Motion carried.



Mark Peterson, Secretary
July 13, 2022



North St. Louis
Soil and Water Conservation District
505 3rd St N, Ste A
Virginia MN 55792
(218) 749-2000
www.nslswcd.org

Resolution to Authorize FY23 DNR Groundwater Contract

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has four observation wells they desire to be monitored within the District boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District's Strategic Plan identified Provide Services: Improve Water Quality as a priority; and

WHEREAS, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors recognizes the \$30 reimbursement rate per reading does not cover costs if staff were to take readings; and

WHEREAS, Chuck Bainter, Frank Modich, and Mark Peterson volunteer to take the measurements and may use district vehicles to do so; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota DNR has authorized Board Supervisors to take the readings eight times per year at \$30 per reading;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors supports DNR Groundwater measurements and authorizes the District Administrator or Board Chair to sign all documents related to such funding.

Motion Made by: *Bainter*

Seconded by: *Peterson*

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

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 8th day of June 2022 and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.

Mark Peterson

Mark Peterson, Board Secretary

6/8/22

Date



**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 1W1P planning grant for the Rainy River Headwaters/Vermilion River Watersheds planning area from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, and

WHEREAS, that grant includes funds to match an expected \$12,500 contribution from the Department of Natural Resources to complete a Landscape Stewardship Plan for the same area, and

WHEREAS, Brinks Wetland Services, LLC is has worked with BWSR and the DNR to provide GIS analysis of watersheds in other parts of the state, and

WHEREAS, the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board desires to utilize these funds to award a contract not to exceed \$10,000 for these services to Brinks Wetland Services, 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: *Bainier*
Seconded by: *Peterson*

Affirmative: *Bainier, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala, Modick*

Opposed: *None*

Certification of Recording Officer

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Mark Peterson, Board Secretary