



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

Special Meeting Minutes
December 20, 2022

The meeting was held in person at the District office. 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; Zach Evans, Regional Farm Bill Forester; Phil Norvitch; Resource Conservationist; and Becca Reiss, Community Conservationist; were present in-person. Jon Utecht, AIS Program Coordinator joined via zoom.

Others Present: Melanie Bomier, Carlton SWCD and Erin Loeffler, Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources were present via zoom. The following people from Ely Community Resource came in to the meeting during the St. Louis River 1W1P presentation: Julie Hignell, Jill Swanson plus students Abbie and Lauren.

The meeting was called to order at 10:31 a.m. by Chair, Peggy Pearson.

1. Agenda - Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
2. Minutes of November 9, 2022 Regular Meeting – Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
3. Financial Reports & Program Summary – Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to accept the financial reports and program summary. Motion carried.
4. Accounts Payable & Accounts Receivable – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to approve accounts payable and accounts receivable as updated 12/19/22. Motion carried.
5. Guest Introductions and Comments – Melanie Bomier was introduced. Erin Loeffler spoke about BWSR's Clean Water Legacy Partners Grant Pilot Program for non-profits and tribal entities. She suggested the SWCD reach out to agencies to encourage them to apply.

NEW BUSINESS

6. BWSR –
 - a. 20 BWSR Capacity Closeout – The All Details report covering the entire grant period was reviewed. The grant was fully used and is now closed.
 - b. St. Louis River One Watershed One Plan Draft Plan Presentation by Melanie Bomier, Carlton SWCD Water Resources Manager – Melanie presented on the priorities identified in the north part of the watershed and answered questions.
 - 6.b.i. Board Resolution 2022-22 to Submit, Adopt and Implement the Plan – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve Board Resolution 2022-22. Motion carried.
 - c. Professional Services Contract Amendment with Brinks Wetland Services LLC – Moved by Frank Modich/Gary Rantala to amend the contract as presented. Motion carried.
 - d. Professional Services Contract with Bethany Chaplin for writing the RRHW/VR Landscape Stewardship Plan & Board Resolution 2022-23 – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to approve Board Resolution 2022-23. Motion carried.
7. 2023 Budget & Board Resolution 2022-24 – Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to approve Board Resolution 2022-24. Motion carried.

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.

8. 2023 County Funding & Board Resolution 2022-25 – Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve Board Resolution 2022-25. Motion carried.
9. 2023-2025 Strategic Plan and Workplan – Moved by Frank Modich/Mark Peterson to approve the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan and Workplan as presented. Motion carried.
10. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings
 - a. Open House for Elected Officials – December 20 – This event followed the meeting from 1 to 4 p.m.
11. Other – Becca Reiss presented Ely Community Resource with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts 2022 Community Conservationist Award. The award was received by student participants Abbie and Lauren along with staff members Jill and Julie. The SWCD was pleased to nominate them for the award and thrilled they won it! They were thanked for the conservation work they do in the Ely area.

REPORTS

12. District Administrator Report – See report on file
 - a. MASWCD Sponsored Franklin Covey Training – The 4 Disciplines of Execution – Anita reported on this training and the first morning of the MASWCD conference.
 - b. MASWCD Legislative Priority – SWCD Aid – Anita indicated this is the top priority for the 2023 legislative session.
 - c. MASWCD Resolution - Thank You – See note on file.

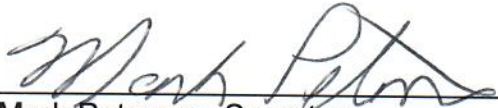
Gary Rantala left meeting at 11:53 a.m.

13. AIS Program Coordinator Report – See report on file.
 14. Community Conservationist Report – See report on file.
- Gary Rantala returned to meeting at 11:56 a.m.
15. Forester 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 – See report on file.
 19. Supervisor & Committee Reports

- a. Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development – November 21 – Duluth – Peggy reported that applications for the carbon credit project were due on December 1. There is \$101,000 available. She indicated Paul would be willing to make a presentation to the board on the Climate Forward project. There is an underground carbon dioxide pipeline that goes to North Dakota. The annual meeting of RC&D Councils will be March 2nd and 3rd.
- b. St. Louis River Public Hearing and 1W1P Policy Committee meeting – November 15 - Cotton – Chuck and Anita reported on the public hearing for the draft comprehensive watershed plan for the St. Louis River watershed and subsequent approval by the policy committee meeting. The next step is for each entity to approve a resolution to submit, adopt and implement the plan. It will then go to the BWSR board for approval in March 2023.
- c. SWCD Forestry Association – November 17 – McGregor – See report on file.
- d. Technical Service Area III – Anita reported that Area 3 management staff met to assist with a write-up and prepare guidelines for emergency TSA funding requests. The past situation with Lake SWCD has resolved itself. Given the 1W1P implementation projects coming to the Area, this type of request could occur again and the TSA should have a policy in place for how to address them.
- e. Other

CLOSING

20. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. It will be the annual business meeting.
21. Adjourn – Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to adjourn the meeting at 12:19 p.m. Motion carried.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark Peterson", is written over a horizontal line.

Mark Peterson, Secretary
January 11, 2023



**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 Submit, Adopt and Implement
the St. Louis River
Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan**

Whereas, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District is a member of the St. Louis River Watershed One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee; and

Whereas, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District has been an active participant in the development of the St. Louis River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan); and

Whereas, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District recommended the St. Louis Watershed One Watershed One Plan Policy Committee submit the Plan for 60 day comment; and

Whereas, no major changes were requested by state agencies or during the public hearing; and

Whereas, all members must also adopt the Plan to serve as a substitute for either the SWCD comprehensive plan or county local water management plan as per 103C or 103B respectively for the duration of the state approved Plan.

Now; Therefore, Be it Resolved, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District approves submission of the plan to the Board of Water and Soil Resources Board. Contingent on recommendation of plan approval by the BWSR Northern Committee and subsequent BWSR approval, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District hereby adopts and will begin implementation of the Plan for the area of the St. Louis River watershed within the District.

Motion Made by: *Rantala*

Seconded by: *Bainter*

Affirmative: *Bainter, Modsch, 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 20th day of December 2022 and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.

Mark Peterson, Board Secretary

Resolution 2022-23



**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 a One Watershed, One Plan planning grant for the Rainy River Headwaters/Vermilion River watershed planning area from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), and

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

WHEREAS, Bethany Chaplin has worked with BWSR and the DNR to write landscape stewardship plans for watersheds in other parts of the state, and

WHEREAS, the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board desires to utilize DNR funds to award a contract not to exceed \$7,500 for plan writing services to Bethany Chaplin.

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 enter into and sign all documents related to said contract.

Motion Made by: *Baister*
Seconded by: *Modich*

Affirmative: *Baister, Modich, Pearson, Peterson, Rentalen*

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 20th day of December, 2022; and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.

Mark Peterson, Board Secretary

Resolution 2022-24



**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 Board of Supervisors is responsible to set the annual budget for the District; and

WHEREAS, the District Administrator prepared a draft budget for the 2023 calendar year; and

WHEREAS, the ad-hoc budget committee met with the District Administrator to review the proposed budget, and

WHEREAS, the District Administrator has updated the budget according to the committee's recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the board has reviewed it and believes it to be a reasonable budget.

NOW THERE BE IT RESOLVED, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the proposed budget for 2023.

Motion Made by:

Seconded by:

Affirmative:

Opposed:

Modich
Banter
Banter, Modich, Pearson, Peterson, Rontala
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 20th day of December, 2022 and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.

Mark Peterson, Board Secretary



**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 2023 from St. Louis County:

\$80,000	General Services
\$9,003	Wetland Conservation Act
<u>\$9,000</u>	Natural Resources Block Grant
\$98,003	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: *Rantala*
Seconded by: *Modich*

Affirmative: *Beaulier, 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 20th day of December 2022; and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.

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

Mark Peterson, Board Secretary