



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

Regular Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2023

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: Becca Reiss, Community Conservationist was present in-person; Anita Provinzino, District Administrator, Zach Evans, Regional Farm Bill Forester; Phil Norvitch, Resource Conservationist; Jon Utecht, AIS Program Coordinator; and Natalya Walker, Forester joined via zoom.

Others Present: Paul Sandstrom, Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development was present in person. Erin Loeffler, Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources and Allison Praet, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service joined via zoom.

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

1. Agenda - Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
2. Minutes of January 11, 2023 Regular Meeting – Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
3. Accounts Receivable and Payable – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to approve accounts payable and accounts receivable as updated 2/08/23. Motion carried.
4. Guest Introductions and Comments –
Paul Sandstrom gave a presentation on the carbon credits pilot program offered by the Laurentian Resource Conservation and Development. Forest carbon markets would be voluntarily available on parcels 30 acres or larger. Eligible lands have either been unforested for 10 years or have had a natural disturbance within 10 years that needs intervention. Landowners would receive a one-time payment in exchange for an easement. The annual RC& D meeting will be held on March 3rd in Walker.

Erin indicated there is increased funding for certain programs in the governor's budget: \$30 million would be available for Soil Health, Natural Resource Block Grant funding is doubled, There is also funding for habitat enhancement landscape pilot, peatland easements and SWCD Aid.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Auditor Contract for 2022 Audit – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve a contract with Peterson CPA Ltd for the 2022 audit.
6. Certificate of Deposit \$50,000 – Reinvest for 9 months at 3.5% - Moved by Frank Modich/Gary Rantala to reinvest the current certificate of deposit of \$50,000 plus interest into a 9-month certificate at 3.5% interest.
7. Board of Water & Soil Resources
 - a. Cost Share Contract Amendment – McIntire – Moved by Mark Peterson/Chuck Bainter to approve amendment #1 to the \$6,840 contract which allows another landowner to join. Motion carried.

- b. Rainy River–Rainy Lake/Lower Rainy River Watershed Planning Area Memorandum of Agreement & Policy Committee Appointment – Moved by Mark Peterson/Frank Modich to not join the memorandum of agreement or policy committee for the Rainy River-Rainy Lake/Lower Rainy River watershed planning area, at this time. Motion carried.
- 8. Department of Natural Resources Grant Applications
 - a. Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Application(s) & Board Resolution 2023-03 –
 - 8.a.i. Wildlife Management Areas Terrestrial Invasive Species Removal - \$50,000 –
 - 8.a.ii. Ely Municipal Golf Course Terrestrial Invasive Species Removal - \$20,000 –

Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve Board Resolution 2023-03. Motion carried.
 - b. Emerald Ash Borer Grant Application and Board Resolution 2023-04 - Moved by Frank Modich/Mark Peterson to approve Board Resolution 2023-04. Motion carried.
- 9. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency GreenCorps Application & Board Resolution 2023-05 – Moved by Mark Peterson/Chuck Bainter to approve Board Resolution 2023-05. Motion carried.
- 10. National Association of Conservation District Urban and Community Conservation Grant Application and Board Resolution 2023-06 – Moved by Frank Modich/Mark Peterson to approve Board Resolution 2023-06. Motion carried.
- 11. Staffing
 - a. Accounting and Human Resources Specialist – Approval to Hire – Motion by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to allow Anita to offer the top 2 candidates up to \$27.00 per hour. Motion carried.
 - b. AIS Interns - Approval to Hire 2, pending SLC grant award - Motion by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to authorize hiring two interns pending the St. Louis County Aquatic Invasive Species grant award. Motion carried.
 - c. Phil Norvitch - Annual Salary Adjustment effective 2/22/23 – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to authorize a 5% salary adjustment effect 2/22/23 for Phil Norvitch. Motion carried. Phil was thanked for 7 years of service to the District.
- 12. Truck Purchase – Authorization to Purchase a Pickup & Board Resolution 2023-07 – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve Board Resolution 2023-07. Motion carried.
- 13. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings
 - a. BWSR North Region Committee (SLR 1W1P) – March 1
 - b. MASWCD Legislative Days – March 7 & 8
 - c. Other – Chuck stated there is a policy committee meeting for the Rainy River-Headwaters/Vermilion River 1W1P planning area on March 3.

REPORTS

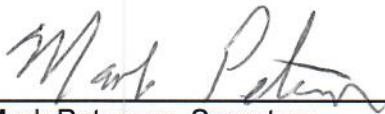
Alison Praet joined

- 14. District Administrator Report – See report on file
 - a. TSA Hours for 4Q22
- 15. AIS Program Coordinator Report – See report on file.
- 16. Community Conservationist Report – See report on file.
- 17. Forester Report – See report on file.
- 18. Regional Farm Bill Forester – See report on file.

19. Resource Conservationist Report – See report on file.
20. NRCS District Conservationist Report – See report on file.
21. Supervisor & Committee Reports
 - a. Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development – January 23 – Peggy indicated there are new commissioners appointed to the LRCD. Also, the DNR is offering a vegetative mapping layer on Lidar now.
 - b. MASWCD Legislative Briefing – January 25 – Mark and Anita reported on the Legislative briefing. MASWCD is lobbying for \$22 million of SWCD Aid from the tax division. This is an increase from \$12 million in local capacity funding SWCD's have received out of Clean Water Funds.
 - c. SWCD Forestry Association – January 19 – emailed separately.
 - d. Technical Service Area III – February 1 – Gary indicated all officers remain the same, Gary is chair. The TSA ordered equipment.

CLOSING

12. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting was set for Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. due to the MASWCD Legislative Day on March 8.
13. Adjourn – Moved by Frank Modich/Mark Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 12:47 p.m. Motion carried.



Mark Peterson, Secretary
March 15, 2023



Resolution 2023-03

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 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is requesting applications for expedited conservation projects of up to \$50,000 that restore or enhance forests, wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game, and wildlife on public lands/waters in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the District staff may develop and submit two proposals for terrestrial invasive species removal at the Ely Municipal Golf Course and on DNR Wildlife Management Areas that would meet those requirements; and

WHEREAS, this supports the District's goals to 1) Improve and strengthen community partnerships and 2) Prioritize targeted programming; and

WHEREAS, a 10% non-state match is required. It is anticipated the Ely Area Invasives Team will volunteer time at the golf course for match. Match for the wildlife management area project would likely be county funds.

WHEREAS, the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board authorizes application to and desires to accept this funding, if awarded.

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

Motion Made by: *Rantala*
Seconded by: *Peterson*
Affirmative: *Bunker, Madril, 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 8th day of February 2023 and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.

Mark Peterson

Mark Peterson, Board Secretary

2/8/23

February 8, 2023



Resolution 2023-04

North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District

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(218) 749-2000
www.nslswcd.org

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announced a grant round to assist communities in managing ash trees for emerald ash borer (EAB) on public land, and

WHEREAS, the District staff may develop and submit a proposal that would meet those requirements; and

WHEREAS, this supports the District's goals to 1) Improve and strengthen community partnerships and 2) Prioritize targeted programming; and

WHEREAS, the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board authorizes application to and desires to accept this funding, if awarded.

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

Motion Made by: *Modich*
Seconded by: *Peterson*

Affirmative: *Banter, 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 8th day of February 2023 and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.

Mark Peterson

Mark Peterson, Board Secretary

2/8/23

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**North St. Louis
Soil and Water Conservation District**
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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 2023-August 2024; and

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

WHEREAS, the purpose of the program is to help communities increase resilience to climate change by:

- Reducing solid waste and increasing recycling
- Reducing greenhouse gases and other air pollutants
- Reducing water runoff and improving water quality
- Encouraging eco-friendly behavior
- Reducing disproportionate negative impacts from pollution

AND WHEREAS, the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District's 2023-2025 Strategic Plan identified the goals to 1) Improve and strengthen community partnerships, 2) Develop and grow staff capacity, 3) Increase community awareness of the SWCD and 4) Prioritize targeted programming; and

WHEREAS, a Minnesota GreenCorps member, if awarded, would facilitate these goals;

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 any such award.

Motion Made by: *Peterson*
Seconded by: *Bainter*
Affirmative: *Bainter, Modrich, Pearson, Peterson, Ratala*
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 February 2023 and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Peterson".

Mark Peterson, Board Secretary

A handwritten date in blue ink that reads "2/8/23".

February 8, 2023



Resolution 2023-06

North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District

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WHEREAS, the National Association of Conservation Districts announced a grant round to enhance districts' urban agriculture conservation technical assistance activities in developed and developing areas of both urban and rural communities, and

WHEREAS, the District staff may develop and submit a proposal that would meet those requirements; and

WHEREAS, this supports the District's goals to 1) Improve and strengthen community partnerships and 2) Prioritize targeted programming; and

WHEREAS, the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board authorizes application to and desires to accept this funding, if awarded.

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

Motion Made by: *Modich*

Seconded by: *Peterson*

Affirmative: *Barker, Modich, Pearson, Peterson, Rautala*

Opposed: *none*

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Mark Peterson, Board Secretary

February 8, 2023



Resolution 2023-07

North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District

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WHEREAS, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District has a need for a new light duty pickup to replace the 1996 Ford Ranger; and

WHEREAS, there is funding set aside from Local Capacity Funds and included in the 2023 budget for such a purchase; and

WHEREAS, this purchase supports the District staff's ability to accomplish its goals; and

WHEREAS, the staff will solicit quotes under the State Purchasing Pool or other methods and will select the pickup with the best value up to \$50,000; and

WHEREAS, the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board authorizes application to and desires to accept this funding, if awarded.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors authorizes the staff to solicit pickup quotes and the District Administrator or Board Chair to sign all documents related to the purchase.

Motion Made by: *Rantala*
Seconded by: *Baister*

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

Opposed: *none*

Certification of Recording Officer

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Mark Peterson, Board Secretary

2/8/23

February 8, 2023