



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

Special Meeting Minutes
March 15, 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: Anita Provinzino, District Administrator; and Becca Reiss, Community Conservationist was present in-person; Zach Evans, Regional Farm Bill Forester; Phil Norvitch, Resource Conservationist; and Natalya Walker, Forester joined via zoom.

Others Present: Beth Kleinke, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service joined in person.

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

1. Agenda - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to add spring purchase as item 7C and approve the agenda. Motion carried.
2. Minutes of February 8, 2023, Regular Meeting – Moved by Gary Rantala/Frank Modich to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
3. Financial Reports & Program Summary for January & February - Moved by Gary Rantala/Frank Modich to approve the financial reports and program summaries. Motion carried.
4. Accounts Receivable and Payable – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to approve accounts payable and accounts receivable adding a \$6625.50 bill from Houston Engineering to the list. Motion carried.
5. Guest Introductions and Comments – None

NEW BUSINESS

6. Accounting & Human Resource Specialist permissions – Moved by Frank Modich/Gary Rantala to approve Board Resolution 2023-08. Motion carried.
7. Aquatic Invasive Species
 - a. Intern or Seasonal Staff – Moved by Frank Modich/Mark Peterson to approve hiring a seasonal full-time staff person at \$17/hour for less than 6 months if a second intern cannot be hired. Motion carried.
 - b. Lake County SWCD Agreement – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to approve the agreement and authorize Anita to sign. Motion carried.
 - c. Spring Purchase – Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve a bulk purchase of up to \$10,000 for the AIS season. Motion carried.
8. Board of Water & Soil Resources
 - a. Billable Rate for 2023 – Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to approve the BWSR Billable rate for 2023 to be used on all grants and contracts without their own rate. Motion carried.
 - b. 1W1P – Memorandum of Agreement for St. Louis River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Partnership – Moved by Gary Rantala/Frank Modich to approve signing the agreement pending satisfactory review by MCIT and the county attorney. Motion carried.
9. Deferred Compensation – Minnesota State Retirement System – Moved by Gary Rantala/Frank Modich to approve this benefit and authorize Anita and Victoria as contacts. Motion carried.

10. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings
 - a. BWSR Board Meeting (SLR 1W1P) – March 22 – zoom available
 - b. Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development – March 27
 - c. Rainy River – Headwaters/Vermilion River Policy Committee – April 7
 - d. SWCD Forestry Association – March 16
 - e. Technical Service Area III – March 22
 - f. Other – St. Louis River Implementation Policy Committee – March 23

REPORTS

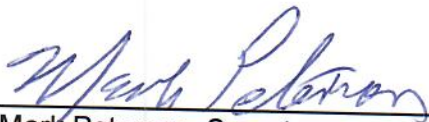
11. District Administrator Report – See report on file
 - a. Compliment on Natalya Walker
12. AIS Program Coordinator Report – See report on file.
13. Community Conservationist Report – See report on file.
14. Forester Report – See report on file.
15. Regional Farm Bill Forester – See report on file.
16. Resource Conservationist Report – See report on file.
17. NRCS District Conservationist Report – See report on file.
18. Supervisor & Committee Reports
 - a. Education Committee – Frank reported the committee reviewed the impressive education catalog that Becca developed and spoke of the future direction for educational programs offered by the staff. The board was asked to provide feedback to Becca by 3/20 so she can get the catalog distributed to area educators. Upon its finalization, Becca will send an electronic version to the board for their distribution and use.
 - b. BWSR North Region Committee (SLR 1W1P) – March 1 – Chuck spoke about the committee meeting and advised the board that the draft watershed management plan for the St. Louis River will be on the agenda for the BWSR Board approval on March 22.
 - c. MASWCD Legislative Days – Mark and Anita reported on the Legislative briefing and their subsequent visits with area legislators. MASWCD is lobbying for \$22 million of SWCD Aid from the tax division. This is an increase from the \$12 million in local capacity funding SWCD's have received out of Clean Water Funds.

Frank left the meeting at 11:56

Gary Rantala left the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

CLOSING

11. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.
12. Adjourn – Moved by Mark Peterson/Chuck Bainter to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 p.m. Motion carried.



Mark Peterson, Secretary
April 12, 2023