



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

Regular Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2023

The meeting was held in person at the District office. 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 was present via zoom.

Staff Present: Anita Provinzino, District Administrator; Becca Reiss, Community Conservationist, Jon Utecht, AIS Program Coordinator and Victoria Ranua were present in-person;

Others Present: None

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

1. Agenda - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
2. Minutes of March 15, 2023, Special Meeting – Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
3. Financial Reports & Program Summary for March - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to approve the financial report and program summary. Motion carried.
4. Accounts Receivable and Payable – Moved by Frank Modich/Chuck Bainter to approve accounts payable and accounts receivable as updated on 4/12/2023. Motion carried.
5. Guest Introductions and Comments – Victoria Ranua introduced herself and shared her prior experience. She was welcomed to the District by Chair Peggy Pearson. Victoria indicated she could only stay briefly today.

NEW BUSINESS

6. AIS Agreements
 - a. Koochiching County – Inspecting on Kabetogama and Ash River and Board Resolution 2023-009 – Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve Board Resolution 2023-009. Motion carried.
 - b. WICOLA – Bait Bin Servicing – Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve the agreement with White Iron Chain of Lakes Association and authorize Anita Provinzino to sign it. Motion carried.
7. Board Supervisor Candidate Development – Discussion was held on potential candidates for the elected board supervisor positions. Staff and board members are encouraged to let Anita know the names of people they think may be interested in learning more about the role.
8. Resolution Development – Gary suggested a resolution be developed that would have MASWCD produce a training video for potential supervisor candidates regarding the roles and responsibilities of an SWCD supervisor.
9. Staffing
 - a. Becca Reiss – Annual Salary Adjustment effective 5/7/23 - Becca was recognized for the fantastic work she has done in the nearly 5 years she has been with the District. Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve a 5% wage increase effective 5/7/23 for Becca. Motion carried.
 - b. Forester – Approval to Hire – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to hire either of the top two candidates from the recent forester interviews. Motion carried.
10. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings
 - a. Area 3 Resolutions Meeting – Save the Date – June 9
 - b. Envirothon – May 1
 - c. Rainy Headwaters/Vermilion Planning Policy Committee – May 5

- d. St. Louis River Implementation Policy Committee – April 20
- e. Tree Sale Assistance – May 9-12
- f. Other

REPORTS

- 11. District Administrator Report – See report on file
 - a. Technical Service Area 3 Engineering Hours 1Q23
- 12. AIS Program Coordinator Report – See report on file. Jon also provided an update on what he has learned regarding water passage between Ely and St. Mary's lakes.
- 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. Supervisors chose June 14th at 1:00 as the time for the Local Work Group meeting.
- 18. Supervisor & Committee Reports
 - a. Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development – March 27 – Peggy provided a handout on Climate Forward. She indicated the winter meeting had a good turnout. Paul Sandstrom's contract was renewed at \$50/hour, and they have seen an increase in insurance costs.
 - b. Legislative Update – Gary and Peggy each reported they contacted their legislators.
 - c. St. Louis River 1W1P
 - i. BWSR Board Meeting – March 22 - The St. Louis River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan was approved by BWSR on March 22.
 - ii. Implementation Policy Committee Meeting – March 23 – Chuck and Anita reported on the first policy committee meeting, several changes were recommended to both the bylaws and the memorandum of agreement. Another meeting was set for April 6, if documents are available for review.
 - d. SWCD Forestry Association – March 16 – Mark reported on the forestry meeting. Materials were distributed via email.
 - e. Technical Service Area III – April 5 – Gary reported the meeting has been rescheduled for April 20 due to snow on the 5th.

CLOSING

- 11. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.
- 12. Adjourn – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to adjourn the meeting at 12:03 p.m. Motion carried.



Mark Peterson, Secretary
May 10, 2023



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

Resolution to Approve an Agreement with Koochiching County Environmental Services

WHEREAS, the North St. Louis SWCD receives Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention funding from St. Louis County; and

WHEREAS, the proximity of Lake Kabetogama and Ash River are closer to International Falls population base, and

WHEREAS, the Koochiching County Environmental Services is willing to provide watercraft inspection services in those locations in St. Louis County, and

WHEREAS, the Koochiching County Environmental Services utilizes Koochiching SWCD for those services, 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 agreement and hereby authorizes the District Administrator or Board Chair to sign all documents related to said agreement.

Motion Made by: *Rantala*

Seconded by: *Peterson*

Affirmative: *Banter, Malich, 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 12th day of April 2023; and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.

Mark Peterson

Mark Peterson, Board Secretary