



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

Regular Meeting Minutes
May 10, 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 was present in-person; Zach Evans, Regional Farm Bill Forester was present via Zoom

Others Present: None at time of roll call

The meeting was called to order at 10:37 a.m. by Chair, Peggy Pearson.

1. Agenda - Moved by Frank Modich/Gary Rantala to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
2. Minutes of April 12, 2023, Meeting – Moved by Mark Peterson/Frank Bainter to approve the minutes with the correction adding Chuck Bainter as the person who seconded the motion in Item 9a. Motion carried.
3. Financial Reports & Program Summary for April - Moved by Frank Modich/Gary Rantala to approve the financial report and program summary. Motion carried.
4. Accounts Receivable and Payable – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve accounts payable and accounts receivable as updated on 5/10/2023. 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. Credit Card Authorizations – Moved by Gary Rantala/Frank Modich to authorize credit cards for the following employees and limits. Motion carried.
 - a. Jack Lien, AIS Intern \$500 limit
 - b. Tristan Nelson, Forester, \$1,500 limit
 - c. Victoria Ranua, Acct/HR, \$1,500 limit
7. Financial Review – Anita reviewed the financial statements presented.
 - a. 10-year Dashboard
 - b. First Quarter Performance
8. Memorandum of Cooperative Agreement for Implementation of the St. Louis River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan & Board Resolution 2023-10 – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Frank Modich to replace the agreement approved in April with the current agreement and approve Board Resolution 2023-10. Motion carried.
9. Resolutions for MASWCD
 - a. SWCD Supervisor Roles Video Production – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve the resolution and send to Area 3 Resolutions meeting. Motion carried.
 - b. Advocating Federal Funding for Forestland Protection – Moved by Gary Rantala/Frank Modich to approve the resolution and send to Area 3 Resolutions meeting. Motion carried.

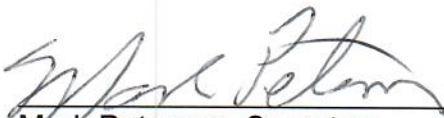
10. Savings Bond Investment and/or Operating Reserve Assignment
 - Moved by Frank Modich/Mark Peterson to invest \$50,000 in 10-month savings bond at 5% at Frandsen Bank. Motion carried.
 - Motion by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to assign \$50,000 to the operating reserve fund balance. Motion carried.
11. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings
 - a. Area 3 Resolutions Meeting – Save the Date – June 9 – Chuck will attend.
 - b. Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development – May 22
 - c. Rainy Headwaters/Vermilion Planning Policy Committee – June 2
 - d. SWCD Forestry Association – May 18
 - e. Tree Sale Assistance – May 23-30
 - f. Other - none

REPORTS

12. District Administrator Report – See report on file
 - a. Legislative Update – The tax bill is still in conference committee. We won't know if SWCD Aid is included and at what amount until the bill is passed and signed into law. I was asked to send letters to legislators again last week.
13. AIS Program Coordinator Report – See report on file.
14. Community Conservationist Report – See report on file.
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. Supervisors chose June 14th at 1:00 as the time for the Local Work Group meeting.
19. Supervisor & Committee Reports
 - a. Envirothon – May 1- Chuck indicated he judged presentations. Teams from Cook County and Two Harbors schools moved on to the state competition.
 - b. St. Louis River Implementation Policy Committee – April 27 – The April 20 meeting was cancelled due to snow. Chuck and Anita reported the bylaws and MOCA were approved. Next meeting is set for late June.
 - b. Technical Service Area III – April 26 – Gary reported TSA recently had a person pass the engineering test, so they now have two engineers. They have also hired another technical staff person. The board is considering applying for a PRAP grant to undergo strategic planning.

CLOSING

20. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.
21. Adjourn – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. Motion carried.



Mark Peterson, Secretary

June 14, 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 for Joining the Memorandum of
Cooperative Agreement Implementation of the St. Louis River
Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan**

Whereas, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District actively participated in the development of the St. Louis River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan); and

Whereas, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District anticipates receiving funding to complete priority work in the watershed; and

Whereas, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District has appointed a supervisor and an alternate to be a member of the St. Louis River Comprehensive Watershed Plan Implementation Policy Committee; and

Whereas, the Implementation Policy Committee approved at their April 20, 2023 meeting the memorandum of cooperative agreement for parties to join; and

Whereas, the next step is for all parties to sign the agreement.

Now; Therefore, Be it Resolved, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District approves signing the Memorandum of Cooperative Agreement for implementation of the St. Louis River Comprehensive Management Plan.

Motion Made by: *Bainter*
Seconded by: *Modrich*
Affirmative: *Bainter, Modrich, 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 10th day of May 2023 and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.



Mark Peterson, Board Secretary