



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

Regular Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2023

The meeting was held in person at the District office. A virtual 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; Tristan Nelson, District Forester; Phil Norvitch, Resource Conservationist; and Jon Utecht, AIS Program Coordinator were present in-person; Victoria Ranua, Accounting & Human Resources Specialist and Becca Reiss, Community Conservationist were present online.

Others Present: Erin Loeffler, Board of Water & Soil Resources and Peter Greiner, Natural Resources Conservation Service were present in person.

The meeting was called to order at 10:39 a.m. by Chair, Peggy Pearson.

1. Agenda - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Gary Rantala to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
2. Minutes of Last Meeting – Moved by Frank Modich/Gary Rantala to approve the minutes from July 12, 2023. Motion carried.
3. Financial Reports & Program Summary for Last Month - Moved by Gary Rantala/Frank Modich to approve the financial report and program summary for July. Motion carried.
4. Accounts Receivable and Payable – Moved by Frank Modich/Gary Rantala to approve accounts payable and accounts receivable. Motion carried.
5. Guest Introductions and Comments – Peter Greiner is a forester based in the Virginia office of NRCS.

NEW BUSINESS:

6. Certificate of Deposit – Retroactive approval for additional \$16,000 – Moved by Frank Modich/Gary Rantala to retroactively approve an additional \$16,000 investment in certificates of deposit due to bank error. Motion carried.
7. Position Openings and Organizational Chart – Moved by Frank Modich/Gary Rantala to approve the policy on position openings and the organizational chart. Motion carried.
8. Rainy Headwaters/Vermilion 1W1P Implementation Structure – Erin Loeffler presented on the types of joint powers structures available and their implications for the pending 1W1P implementation funding.
9. Staffing
 - a. Approval to hire Accounting & Human Resources Specialist – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve hiring the first or second choice candidates for the position. Motion carried.
10. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings
 - a. Area 3 Annual Fall Meeting – September 21 & 22 - Cloquet
 - b. Rainy Headwaters-Vermilion Planning Policy Committee – September 1
 - c. St. Louis River Implementation Policy Committee – Chuck indicates this will be on 8/31/23.

- d. SWCD Forestry – September 14 - McGregor
- e. Other -- none

REPORTS

- 11. District Administrator Report – See reports on file
 - a. TSA 3 Quarterly Hours Contribution
 - b. This SWCD's Early History
- 12. Accounting & Human Resources Specialist Report – See reports on file – The board thanked Victoria for her service and wished her well.
- 13. AIS Program Coordinator Report – See report on file.
- 14. Community Conservationist Report – See reports on file.

Gary Rantala left the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

- a. Tree Sale final report

Frank Modich left the meeting at 12:17 p.m.

- 15. District Forester – 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 – July 24 – Peggy reported on the expenses, the carbon credit program has one landowner in Hubbard County with 25.5 acres considering enrollment; and a wildfire reduction program.
 - b. MN SWCD Forestry Association – July 20 – Mark reported on the last meeting. He indicated the presentation on the Arrowhead Forest Partnership given by Anita Provinzino, Zach Evans and Allison Praet was very well received. He reported on the Talon Mining Tour and some common misconceptions.
 - c. Rainy Headwaters-Vermilion Planning Policy Committee – August 4 – See report on file.
 - d. Other – Mark asked if the SWCD would consider selling silver maple trees and have a forester become able to certify tree farms. He also indicated people are interested in pollinators.

CLOSING

- 20. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.
- 21. Adjourn – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Peggy Pearson to adjourn the meeting at 12:43 p.m. Motion carried.



Mark Peterson, Secretary
September 13, 2023