



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

Regular Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2023

The meeting was held in person at the District office. A virtual link was available.

Supervisors Present at Roll Call: Peggy Pearson, Mark Peterson and Gary Rantala were present in-person.

Staff Present: Anita Provinzino, District Administrator; Kelsey Cooke, Conservation Corps Member; Miranda Frenning, Accounting & Human Resources Specialist; John McCormick, Regional Farm Bill Forester; Tristan Nelson, District Forester; Becca Reiss, Community Conservationist; and Jon Utecht, AIS Program Coordinator were present in-person; Zach Evans, Regional Farm Bill Forester and Phil Norvitch, Resource Conservationist were present online.

Others Present: Allison Praet, Natural Resources Conservation Service, was present online.

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

1. Agenda - Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to add DNR No Child Left Inside and approve the agenda. Motion carried.
2. Minutes of Last Meeting – Moved by Mark Peterson/Gary Rantala to approve the minutes from October 18, 2023. Motion carried.

Chuck Bainter arrived at 10:32

3. Financial Reports & Program Summary for Last Month - Moved by Mark Peterson/Gary Rantala to approve the financial report and program summary. Motion carried.
4. Accounts Receivable and Payable – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve accounts payable and accounts receivable as updated 11/08/23. Motion carried.
5. Guest Introductions and Comments – None present

NEW BUSINESS:

6. AIS Grant Request for 2024 & Board Resolution 2023-17 – Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve Board Resolution 2023-17. Motion carried.
7. Cost Share Contract Amendment with landowner – Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to approve contract amendment with Llyod McIntire et.al. allowing a maximum of 75% of project cost or \$13,680, whichever is less and extending contract to November 30, 2024. Motion carried.
 - a. DNR No Child Left Inside – Moved by Mark Peterson/Gary Rantala to approve applying for a large
8. Financial
 - a. 2022 Audit – Final – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the final audit for 2022. Motion carried.
 - b. 2023 Budget Revision - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the budget revision for 2023. Motion carried.
 - c. Ad-hoc committee for 2024 budget review – Chuck volunteered. Frank will be asked. If he is unable to meet, Peggy will do so.
 - d. Dashboard – Anita presented the dashboard with the audited 2022 numbers.

The mission of the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District is to encourage sustainable use of our natural resources by engaging people in soil and water conservation in northern St. Louis County.

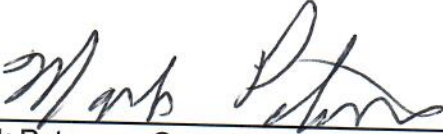
- e. Open new checking accounts
 - 8.e.i. RH-V 1W1P & transfer 10/31/23 balance
 - 8.e.ii. Flex plan – open with \$1000
- Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to open two new checking accounts for the above purposes. Motion carried.
9. Human Resources
 - a. Credit Card Authorization for John McCormick - \$1,500 limit – Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to authorize as indicated above. Motion carried.
 - b. Employee Survey Results – Anita reviewed the results of the recent employee survey.
 - c. St. Louis River Watershed Conservationist
 - 9.c.i. Approve job description – Moved by Gary Rantala/Chuck Bainter to approve the job description.
 - 9.c.ii. Approve adding new position & wage rate – Moved by Mark Peterson/Gary Rantala to approve a salary range of \$60,000-\$70,000. Motion carried.
 10. Services Agreement with South St. Louis SWCD for 1W1P SLR Implementation – This was not available.
 11. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings
 - a. Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development – November 27
 - b. MASWCD Annual Convention – Dec 11-13
 - c. MN SWCD Forestry Association – November 16
 - d. Elected Official Open House – TBD – This will likely be held on the afternoon of the 13th of December.
 - e. Other

REPORTS

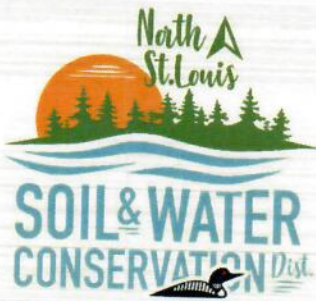
12. District Administrator Report – See report on file.
13. Accounting & Human Resources Specialist Report – See reports on file.
14. AIS Program Coordinator Report – See report on file.
15. Community Conservationist Report – See report on file.
16. Conservation Corps Member – Kelsey Cooke gave an update on the education and outreach work she is doing. She attended the outreach tract at BWSR Academy.
17. District Forester – See report on file.
 - a. Job Approval Authority – See report on file.
 - b. NRCS 3Q23 Reimbursement - \$16,600 earned!
18. Regional Farm Bill Forester – John - See report on file.
19. Regional Farm Bill Forester – Zach - See report on file.
20. Resource Conservationist Report – See report on file.
21. NRCS District Conservationist Report – See report on file.
22. Supervisor & Committee Reports
 - a. Rainy Headwaters-Vermilion Planning Policy Committee – November 3 – Chuck reported the draft plan was approved to go out for public comments from November 7 – January 6. A public hearing will be held on January 26. He complimented Becca on her leadership throughout this process.
 - b. Technical Service Area III – September 27 – Gary reported on the TSA meeting. He indicated there was a great presentation of the work SSL SWCD has done to re-meander Miller Creek.
 - c. Other

CLOSING

21. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.
22. Adjourn – Moved by Gary Rantala/Mark Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 12:14 p.m.
Motion carried.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Peterson", written over a horizontal line.

Mark Peterson, Secretary
December 13, 2023



Resolution 2023-17

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

Resolution to Approve Aquatic Invasive Species Funding Application

WHEREAS, the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners has approved an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Plan and authorized St. Louis County Planning and Zoning to seek proposals to prevent or limit AIS; and

WHEREAS, the Burntside Lake Association, Fayal Township, Pelican Lakeshore Owners Association, Sturgeon Chain Lake Association, Vermilion Lake Association, Voyageurs National Park and White Iron Chain of Lakes Association have each approached the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District about continuing to partner to operate watercraft inspection and decontamination services at their lakes, and

WHEREAS, the North St. Louis Soil & Water Conservation District's Board of Supervisors supports this partnership; and

WHEREAS, the AIS prevention program is consistent with the District's goal of Providing Services, Spreading the Message, and Strengthening Our Capacity.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors supports this funding request and authorizes its staff to submit an application for watercraft inspection and decontamination program to the St. Louis County Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program.

Motion on November 8, 2023 by: *Rantala / Peterson*
Affirmative: *Bainter, Pearson, Peterson, Rantala*
Opposed: *none*
Motion Carried


Anita Provinzino, District Administrator

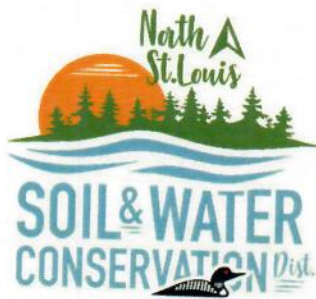
November 8, 2023
Date

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 November 2023 and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.


Mark Peterson, Secretary

November 8, 2023
Date



Resolution 2023-18

North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District

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WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announced a round of No Child Left Inside grants to provide funding to outdoor environmental, ecological, and other natural-resource-based education and recreation programs serving youth get students into the outdoors; and

WHEREAS, the District staff would partner with other agencies to coordinate youth camps that focus on outdoor education of water quality, watershed science, and recreation. Our goal is to provide unique educational experiences that can catalyze a passion for science, nature, and a lifetime of environmental stewardship.

WHEREAS, this supports the District's three goals 1) Provide Services, 2) Spread the Message Join us this Saturday night for spit-roasted venison dinner about 5, if you can. No need to bring anything other than yourselves.

WHEREAS, this supports the District's three goals 1) Provide Services, 2) Spread the Message and 3) Strengthen our Capacity

WHEREAS, the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District Board 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 District Administrator or Board Chair to submit the grant and sign all documents related to such award.

Motion Made by: *Peterson*

Seconded by: *Rantala*

Affirmative: *Baister, 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 November, 2023 and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.

Mark Peterson, Board Secretary

The mission of the North St Louis Soil & Water Conservation District is to encourage sustainable use of our natural resources by engaging people in soil and water conservation in northern St. Louis County.