



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

Regular Meeting Minutes  
May 14, 2025

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

**Supervisors Present at Roll Call:** Chuck Bainter, Jerry Hovi, Frank Modich, Peggy Pearson, and Mark Peterson were present in-person.

**Staff Present:** Anita Provinzino, District Administrator was present in-person. Jake Bendel, Watershed Conservationist; Tristan Nelson, Forester; Phil, Norvitch, Conservation Manager; and Jon Utecht, Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator were present online.

**Others Present:** Blake Bartz and Caryn Dawson from Natural Resources Conservation Service were present in person. Melanie Bomier, MN Board of Water & Soil Resources was present online.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Chair, Peggy Pearson.

1. Agenda - Moved by Chuck Bainter/Mark Peterson to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Minutes of Last Meeting – Moved by Jerry Hovi/Frank Modich to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Financial Reports & Program Summary – Moved by Mark Peterson/Jerry Hovi to accept the financial reports and program summary. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Accounts Receivable and Payable – Moved by Jerry Hovi/Frank Modich to approve the accounts payable and accounts receivable as updated 05/14/25. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Guest Introductions and Comments – none

NEW BUSINESS:

6. Aquatic Invasive Species Inspection Agreement with Vermilion Lake Association – Moved by Frank Modich/Mark Peterson to approve a \$20,000 agreement for watercraft inspections on Lake Vermilion given the county's reduction in funding. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Cost Share Policy for Woodland Stewardship Plans – Moved by Mark Peterson/Chuck Bainter to approve the new cost share policy for woodland stewardship plans throughout the District. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Financial
  - a. Credit Card for Treasurer to allow more employee credit cards – Moved by Frank Modich/Mark Peterson to approve a credit card for the Board Treasurer which will allow 10 additional employee credit cards (each will need separate authorization). Motion carried unanimously.
  - b. Membership to National Associate of Conservation Districts – Moved by Frank Modich/Mark Peterson to contribute \$150 to the National Association of Conservation Districts. Motion carried unanimously.
9. Human Resources Policy Additions – Moved by Chuck Bainter, Jerry Hovi to approve the policies as written. Motion carried unanimously. Miranda and Anita were thanked for their work updating the handbook.
10. Upcoming Supervisor Meetings and/or Trainings
  - a. Area 3 Resolutions Meeting – June 6 in Cloquet – 5 staff and Chuck will attend.
  - b. Laurentian Resource Conservation & Development – June 2 in Duluth

- c. Local Work Group Meeting – May 14 at 1:00 – This meeting was postponed and reset to June 11 at 1:00.
  - d. SWCD Forestry Association – May 15 in McGregor
  - e. Other
11. Other – none.

REPORTS:

- 12. Monthly Progress Report – See report on file
- 13. Tree Sale Report– See report on file
- 14. 1Q25 TSA Report– See report on file
- 15. Natural Resources Conservation Service Report– See report on file. Blake also indicated they are now able to fund approximately 70 contracts that were pre-approved with Inflation Reduction Act funds. They will host group signing events to accommodate the large number.
- 16. Supervisor & Committee Reports – None

CLOSING:

- 17. Confirm Next Meeting – June 11, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.
- 18. Adjourn - Moved by Frank Modich/Jerry Hovi to adjourn the meeting at 11:26 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

*Certification of Recording Officer*

*I, the undersigned, hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the meeting minutes approved by the North St Louis SWCD Board and that I am duly authorized to make this certification.*



Mark Peterson, Secretary

June 11, 2025